

Open day crowds for Library at the Docks



Raphaëlle Race

Docklands has had its fair share of flack over the last few years. Initially pegged as a new upmarket shopping, restaurant and party district, the district has been plagued by disinterest from both tourists and locals.

Melbourne City Council's latest response to the issue has been the unveiling of a new community-oriented Library at the Docks, which opened doors on a surprisingly warm Saturday at the end of May.

The open day, presided over by Victorian Premier Denis Napthine, Planning Minister Matthew Guy, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, and Rockwiz master-of-ceremonies Brian Nankervis, attracted an enthusiastic crowd—a

good omen for the future of the Docklands area.

The audience ranged widely in age. Parents with excited tots and nonchalant teens, inner-city professionals, artists and elderly citizens all raced enthusiastically through the doors as the library was declared open.

The library, more a luxurious professional art space, boasts a performance space, a recording studio, a gaming zone, sound and video editing suites, children's lounge, gallery, upstairs ping-pong table, and café. All the comforts an inner-city library-goer could possibly need.

In fact, the brand new books are just part of the entertaining, educational and professional attractions on-hand.

There were open-day activities for everyone, with a social history exhibition of the Docklands in the gallery; cabaret and classical

music, songs and storytelling in the children's lounge; and demonstrations for the latest computers and software.

There were even demos of the latest in fantastical gadgets: the Oculus Rift (a tantalising prototype headset for virtual reality 3D gaming), and a demonstration of 3D printing technology.

The library has been touted as Australia's most sustainable community building. The building was constructed using eco-friendly cross-laminated timber and recycled hardwood. It also has rain water collection and recycling facilities, and 85kw solar panels that will supply approximately 30% of the library's power.

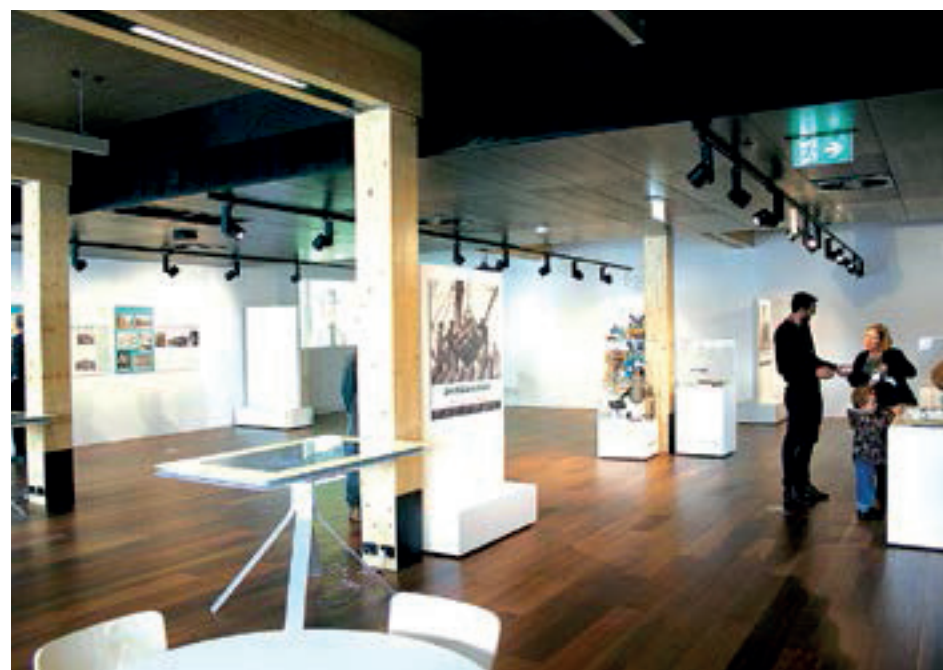
The building has achieved the enviable six-star rating from Green Star, a rating system run by the Green Building Council of Australia,

which aims to promote the adoption of green building practices across Australia.

Kerry Clare, director of Clare Designs, the firm that undertook the Library's design, said that she wanted to create a new form of community hub. One that encompasses the range of popular technology and which could adapt to changing technological situations.

The Library at the Docks has teamed up with the Docklands Hub—where the Centre Connecting People in North and West Melbourne also has a presence—in order to provide classes, exhibitions and events, the details of which can be found in the What's On section of this issue of the *News*.

Discover North and West Melbourne community impressions of the new library on page 5.



Crowds gather at open day for Library at the Docks

Photos: Adam Falloon

NOTICEBOARD



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Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group

The MOSG offers support and information to assist people with osteoporosis and their families or carers. It is a member of Arthritis and Osteoporosis Victoria and also has links with international osteoporosis organisations, from which it receives research updates.

The group meets at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, at 1.30pm on the third Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Members hail from all around the city, including North and West Melbourne, as well as from country Victoria.

Interesting guest speakers attend meetings and present on a variety of health and fitness topics related to osteoporosis. On Tuesday 17 June Professor Andrew Briggs will discuss the latest developments in osteoporosis research.

MOSG will be conducting an Osteoporosis Self-Management Course on 29 July, 5 August and 12 August. The annual seminar is scheduled for Saturday 11 October.

For further information about any of these events or about joining the group, please ring Beryl on 9885 2839, email melbosg@gmail.com or visit www.melbosg.org.au

Talks, workshops and boot camps at your North Melbourne Library!

Fiona Baranowski

North Melbourne Library reopened in January after a makeover, and most library patrons are loving the space.

The kids' area is abuzz with activities that include the usual preschooler programs but with new programs and special events for older kids too.

Ben is our new kids' team member and he has just run a very successful World Comic Day and has plans for World Gaming Day. Joining Ben in the kids' team is Michelle. Michelle comes to us from the City Library and is on loan to us for six months. Michelle is one amazing storyteller.

Heather has taken off to see some fascinating sights across Europe, and replacing her are Alex, Melissa and Kathleen.

On Thursday 24 July at 6.00pm for 6.30 we have a special author event featuring former *Age* journalist Julie Szego. She will be sharing her intriguing book *The Tainted Trial of Farah Jama*.



Author
Julie Szego

In August (date to be confirmed) we will host Suzanne McCourt talking about her exquisite debut novel, *The Lost Child*. In September, Melinda Houston (TV critic) will join us to talk about her novel *Kat Jumps the Shark*.

These talks are free and include a glass of wine and nibbles.

And if all that isn't enough to whet your appetite we've got some wonderful writing workshops on the boil. Marie Alafaci will be offering a four-part series on writing family stories. It's a boot camp, so come prepared to achieve results. These workshops will be on Saturday afternoons - a lovely way to spend a winter afternoon.

Next term Barry Dickins will tutor a weekly writing group, and it's especially for people who are keen to write but don't know where to begin or lack confidence in their writing ability. We will also be sharing a cup of tea and some biscuits.

So happy reading and check our website for details: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/MelbourneLibraryService/WhatsOn1/Pages/SpecialEvents.aspx

North Melbourne Book Group

Meets third Wednesday of every month at 6.45pm at North Melbourne Library
All welcome - no bookings required

18 June	<i>Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls</i>	David Sedaris
16 July	<i>Eyrie</i>	Tim Winton
20 Aug	<i>The Lowland</i>	Jhumpa Lahiri
17 Sept	<i>Burial Rites</i>	Hannah Kent
15 Oct	<i>The Testament of Mary</i>	Colm Tóibín
19 Nov	<i>The Narrow Road to the Deep North</i>	Richard Flanagan
17 Dec	<i>The Sense of an Ending</i>	Julian Barnes

For enquiries phone 9658 9700
North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne

A small reminder about used stamps!

Don't forget to drop your used postage stamps into The Centre at 58 Errol Street. This is another way to recycle and also provides much-needed funds for charities.

If you don't have time to tear them off the envelopes, just bag them up and I'll tear them off for you.

Marian Mooney



COMMUNITY

For students and patients—Tina celebrates her people skills

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Throughout schooling (from prep to PhD), students' foundational skills of readin', writin' and 'rithmetic are crucial to achieving any semblance of an education. Yet it is just as important to attain their life skills of humanity, planning and personal care.

The Centre's burgeoning Global Homework Program delivers a combination of these critical skills to recently arrived and refugee students living or attending school in the North and West Melbourne regions. And it does so with a coterie of dedicated tutors drawn from wide social and work parameters. These include engineering, hospitality, horticulture, media, nursing and a smattering of formal educators from all levels of the teaching system.

Several honours tertiary students also tutor their younger cohorts, helping them relate to a predominantly new society, even if they've been here since birth.

One of the most dedicated and readily understandable tutors was only 15 years old when she first began volunteering for the GHP. Tina Zhou began tutoring primary school students when she was just a Year 10 highschool student.

"I found I enjoyed dealing with younger kids, so I came to the homework club to speak with those enrolled here. I had an interest in teaching back then, although I knew I wanted a little more from my work-life so enrolled in medicine," she says quietly, her vibrant eyes always diagnosing the world.

Born in Melbourne with parents from Shanghai, Tina is now just 19, yet already two-thirds through her second year of Monash University's medicine degree at Clayton campus. Even with an already substantial study-load, Tina is loath to miss any Tuesday afternoon GHP sessions at North Melbourne Library.

"At Monash we're certainly taught people skills through patient-centred care (PCC) where the themes are health promotion and doctors' behaviour and ethical practice. But there are only six days per year at a disability centre, so not nearly enough time on site to effectively enact those skills.

"Before these PCC sessions I never thought disability was such a serious situation. Most of the people I'm seeing are blind and many were born with intellectual disabilities like autism, as well as several other medical concerns so they need an incredible amount of support.

"And the tags we as a society put on these people are grossly dehumanising. Words like s-l-o-w or spastic are so painful to them and, whether or not they acknowledge those insults, they definitely feel them. Yeah, it's grossly

dehumanising behaviour," she laments.

Tina brings that empathy and adept sensitivity to the GHP, where Tuesday's class is sectioned into single table-sized groups with varying specific needs.

"But the kids who most deserve a friend - be it educational or social - are the last to open up, so I try to truly exercise those notions of care and compassion to give them a real chance."

GHP coordinator Frances McMillan is also substantially proud of her tutor's skills.

"From the outset I was very impressed with Tina as she took it on her own initiative to approach the program to become a volunteer when she was just in Year 10.

"She was bright and funny yet very serious about the role. She was just what we were looking for!"

Frances' praise goes further. "As a tutor, Tina was expected to support the children, encourage their problem solving skills and their independent learning skills, at the same time addressing their specific literacy and numeracy needs. She carried out this role with patience, understanding and gentle, cheeky, youthful good humour.

"She saw the children as a group but also as unique individuals. In one instance I recall she was keenly aware of and empathetic to a

young boy who was under so much pressure from his parents about his homework that he would burst into tears or panic if something went wrong with his tasks.

"Tina went out of her way to address his needs and allay his panic and anxiety.

"The children grew very attached to Tina and saved her a place at their table each week. There was a fuss of excitement whenever she entered the space.

"She became a positive team player. Adding Tina's vibrant presence and academic ability made her a great role model for the children and demonstrated her strong qualities of generosity, compassion and concern for others", Frances concludes.

Tina's study attitudes are reflected in her community oriented vision.

"I've never done any of those intense exam preparation courses—many are a devastating waste of time and money, especially the English language ones for ESL students. There is a deal of exploitation, especially of new residents not familiar with local agendas."

Tina says that arguing effectively and becoming easy with basic communication is fundamental to success in all of life's challenges. She warns that preparing for exams doesn't necessarily build on students' character.

"You see that when their maths classes ALL

automatically use calculators, rather than their own arithmetic awareness.

"When they get to uni, a lot of these students then find it very difficult to develop their true knowledge level, rather than their exam prep consciousness. They study for the exam rather than the subject matter itself, so fail to truly appreciate the worth of their literature, their math, biological marvels, or architecture, anything in fact that's not on their list of exam questions!" Tina frowns.

She notes that even though her father has a PhD in science, rather than zeroing in on her grades, he has always taken more of a morality-based approach to her education, focusing on developing a wise and resilient person. Thus the grades that most parents care about simply came naturally as a product of a persistent personality.

Our young lady grins, noting hassles with her name. "I've always been at the end of the roll at school and uni, way down at the bottom... everywhere I've been registered throughout my entire life... Zhou, agh!"

Given her plans to practice trauma surgery—and true care for others—Tina's certainly headed for the top.



Medical student, Tina Zhou, shows today's Global homework kids how to help their study goals Photo: Adam Falloon



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Legion and Centre join forces to mark Anzac Day



Local member Jennifer Kanis and Legion president Barry Slocombe at the Anzac Day ceremony

Photo: Jim Weatherill

Emma McCashney

Friday 25 April marked the 99th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. In North Melbourne we are lucky to have the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women within our community, located at 16 Little Errol Street, just behind the town hall. Legion members gathered at their headquarters this Anzac Day, before walking down Errol Street together for a ceremony at the North and West Melbourne War Memorial. This year the Legion joined with The Centre to make the ceremony a community event that everyone in North and West Melbourne


was encouraged to attend. As Centre director Michael Halls spoke about the Unknown Australian Soldier and his burial in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in 1993, passers-by looked on respectfully. Many attendees wore the medals of courageous family members to whom they dedicate this day each year. Others stood close together with bowed heads, reflecting on any personal experience of war, or counting their blessings if this was slight. Legion president, Barry Slocombe, recited the Prayer of Remembrance before wreaths were laid at the foot of the memorial. Karl Hessian, chairperson of The Centre's management committee, read the 1915 poem *In Flanders Fields* by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. At the conclusion of the ceremony, following a thoughtful speech from local member Jennifer Kanis, attendees were invited to return to the Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women's headquarters, where they would enjoy the remainder of the afternoon. When you walk into the Legion's building, it's like taking a step back in time. The walls are lined with photos, memorabilia, medals and banners. It would be easy to spend a whole day just looking at the collection of history in this much-loved space. At the bar there were discussions about the old seven-ounce beer glasses brought out for the occasion, with one generation trying to explain to another that they are bigger than a pony but smaller than a pot.



The Legion and The Centre laid wreaths at the memorial Photo: Jim Weatherill

Catering was provided by The Centre, with platters of sandwiches, scones and cinnamon buns enjoyed by all. At 4.00pm the Legion drew their customary raffle and a few lucky people went home with an extra \$25 in their pocket. As the day drew to a close there was much discussion about the success of this year's ceremony and plans for 2015, the centenary of

the landing at Gallipoli. The Legion and The Centre hope the community will join them again on Anzac Day next year to remember all those who have died in the cause of freedom. *The Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women is open every Sunday from 11.00am to 6.00pm. All members of the community are welcome to pop in for a drink and a chat.*




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North Melbourne’s man man for all seasons

Robbie Cottrill

Bill Hannan is an unusual man who has held an awe-inspiring variety of successful roles. Pages are needed to do justice to his achievements. He has been teacher, unionist, editor, art critic, bureaucrat, and writer — a true ‘man for all seasons’.

For 55 years Bill has been married to Lorna Hannan, another unusual and wonderful person. Together they have created a rich story of political activism, social experimentation, and loving, creative family life.



Bill Hannan Photo: source supplied

Bill spent his early life in Prahran. A clever boy, he won educational scholarships and took

his final year 12 at St Kevin’s before studying Arts at Melbourne University.

A studentship meant he was obliged to teach for three years after his degree, which he did at Koo Wee Rup Higher Elementary School. Travel followed, to “everywhere but England”. His Irish heritage ensured his dislike of England, the automatic destination of Australians.

Bill was granted a scholarship to visit Italy where he studied Italian and Etruscology (the study of Italic Antiquities). He became an Italian translator in Europe and even studied at the Sorbonne in Paris — a wonderful achievement for an Aussie boy from working-class origins. He returned to Australia in 1959.

At home, Bill reconnected with his friend Lorna, and the relationship deepened. They married and had four daughters, moving into Shiel Street, North Melbourne and living there for forty-nine years.

From 1960 to 1972, Bill taught at Moreland High School, after which he and friend Gil Freeman created the Sydney Road Community School. Some of the Sydney Road classes were taught in his backyard.

Bill feels he has always had modern and radical teaching ideas and been a strong advocate of open tertiary entrance. He was considered, in his words, “a troublemaker in the field of assessment and certification”. Always a political activist, he was once blacklisted from teaching.

In 1963 Bill became editor of *The Secondary Teacher*, the VSTA magazine, and executive member of the Victorian Secondary Teachers’ Association, where he advocated for better working conditions and the employment of properly trained, qualified teachers. He was also instrumental in getting

rid of-school inspectors. Bill did not survive the Kennett government, but has since held highly responsible positions in government departments.

Around 1960, Bill and Lorna started to pursue their interest in theatre at Emerald Hill, South Melbourne. From 1972 to 1976 Bill was involved with the Pram Factory, working with actors like Max Gillies, Evelyn Krape and Bruce Spence. He directed Barry Oakley’s play about Menzies, *Beware of Imitations*, and the very successful *Hills Family Show*.

A play and film about smoking, *Dags with Fags*, was written in conjunction with the Anti-Cancer Council. Bill and Lorna also wrote short vignettes on the topic of women not seeking medical attention when worried about breast cancer.

Bill has published many books in a variety of fields, mainly education. He and Lorna have written on the art of Greece and France, where they lived for several years. At one time he worked as art critic for *The Observer* and *The Bulletin*, and he once translated Moliere’s play *The Reluctant Doctor*. He co-authored a text for teaching French and one of his books, *The Best of Times*, is the history of the expansion of secondary teaching in Victoria. It makes fascinating reading, especially for those who were teaching at that time.

Books written in later life — *Schooldays*, *Days of 2012* and *These Ithakas* (all written in one sentence) — are tender tributes to his family. He and Lorna went overseas in the 1970s to give their daughters an enduring experience of different cultures and family life.

Following his teaching career, Bill worked in education policy and curriculum development as chair of the Victorian State Board of Education (1986–90), director of

curriculum in Victoria (1990–93), chair and deputy chair of committees appointed to devise an Australian national curriculum.

Nowadays Bill feels disappointed in the education system. He says good things are happening in practice but they are not supported by government, and no-one seems to have any power or inclination to change things.

Bill has many sides to him. He passionately believes in equal opportunity, is a strong advocate for state education, and reads Shakespeare’s sonnets and Homer’s *The Iliad* for pleasure. Asked about his greatest achievements, he is most proud of his writing, his contribution to the teaching profession, and his family.

He and Lorna sponsored the very successful chef and restaurateur Stefano to come to Australia as a teenager to attend Sydney Road Community School. They walked the Camino de Santiago twice in the 1990s before it became fashionable.

Bill and Lorna have experimented with different living styles, practising income sharing, and communal living. The former involved several families pooling their incomes and taking what was needed from the communal purse.

Bill’s other interests are cooking (especially Cretan cuisine) and contributing to the Hotham History Project. His publication *Pride of Hotham* profiles George Raymond Johnson, the designer of North Melbourne Town Hall.

Bill has a large star-studded cast of friends from all walks of life and is a much loved and admired member of the local community and beyond.

Many people helped me in the writing of this article, and I thank them very much.

Community responds to new Docklands Library



Adam
What do you think of the new library?
It seems like a cool space. I love libraries so I will definitely go and check it out at least. I already have a card for Melbourne Libraries so I don’t even need to sign up!



What effect do you think the new library will have on the community?
I think will encourage people to read more and get involved in different initiatives. Things like the performance areas sound great because they bring people in.

Thanapat and Mark
How did you hear about the library?
Thanapat: We share a place next door, it’s pretty easy.
Do you think it will generate a community in the area?
Mark: Yeah I came on the first day and it was pretty packed, I thought there’d be nobody here but there were actually a lot of people.



Iolanthe and mum
How did you hear about this library?
We heard about the library through the documentary on the sustainability of the building.
The library was built to encourage a community atmosphere in Docklands, do you

think it will work?
Well I hope so; it’s certainly why I came. I can really see how it will all work. I hope people come.

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The heart and soul of North Melbourne

Daniel Doody

North Melbourne is a suburb rich in diversity and culture. In a building in a quiet street, the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre mirrors this kaleidoscope of citizens, bringing people from all walks of life together.

Named after the recipient of the 2008 Premier’s Award for Victorian Senior of the Year, it is a place for elderly groups to socialise and meet new people as well as attending classes such as art and tai chi.

Ms McKendry has been a driving force bringing the elderly community together since the neighbourhood centre was founded in 1971.

The neighbourhood centre caters particularly for seniors in the area, offering the interaction needed to tackle the loneliness that can be an issue for many seniors.

While people may find physical activity more difficult with advancing years, their minds are often as active as they ever were. Fortunately, for seniors in the North Melbourne area, there is no shortage of social

stimulation at the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre.

Though the building itself dates back to 1971, the origins of the group go back to the late 40s early 50s, when men needed a place to socialise and gather. They started off at the North Melbourne Library, stayed for a few years and then moved to North Melbourne Town Hall before finding their permanent place in Melrose Street. The building was officially opened by Melbourne’s lord mayor, Alwynne Rowlands, in September 1971.

The neighbourhood house is a magnet for many cultures: the all-male Horn of Africa Elderly Association, consisting of 60 members, come to socialise and enjoy light recreational activities such as playing pool and card games.

Committee member Adem Osman said it’s a place of “tranquillity”. There is a sense of calm and peace among the group; politics and deep discussions are firmly off the agenda. As Mr Osman says, “they are too old to worry about such nonsense”.

The centre’s kitchen is used by St Vincent de Paul to prepare meals for the homeless, which are taken out every night in soup vans around Melbourne’s suburbs.



Jean McKendry with Daniel Doody Photo: Daniel Doody

John, one of the helpers, says they usually serve between 200 and 300 people on just one evening, with the food donated by a company called Tasty Trucks. They serve soup, sandwiches and hot and cold drinks, and sometimes supply blankets as well. For many of the clients, this evening visit is their first meal of the day.

On Mondays, the Melrose Art Group meets at the Elderly Citizens Club. Their artworks are displayed at exhibitions around Melbourne throughout the year.

Change of face for Inner Melbourne Community Legal Service

Adam Falloon

Since 1978 the North Melbourne Legal Service has provided free legal services, advice and referrals for people who live, work or study in the inner Melbourne suburbs.

Despite having always offered services to these areas, the name North Melbourne Legal Service has meant that people in other locations are not aware that they had access to those services.

In December 2013, the organization underwent significant rebranding and became the Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL).

The IMCL has also relocated to a new location on Queensberry Street because the old upstairs office on Victoria Street had limited accessibility. A large part of the move was to address this issue and the new location affords the organisation improved accessibility with a disability ramp and improved facilities.

“We rebranded to more accurately reflect the clients that we serve,” says acting principal Tanja Golding about the need for the change and what it means for the organisation.

“We provide legal advice or assistance to clients who live, work, study or access partner services within a geographical catchment. That catchment includes North Melbourne but it also includes West Melbourne, Parkville,

Carlton, Docklands and the CBD.”

As a generalist legal service IMCL offers advice and assistance on a wide range of legal matters, including, but not limited to, family law, criminal law and civil matters such as debts and infringements.

The organisation continues to offer the same services it has provided for 36 years, namely legal service to financially disadvantaged people.

Ms. Golding was keen to stress that “people should always remember to contact us even if they are not eligible. We can help in a range of matters. We can offer general advice, or if we can’t do it we can try and find someone who can. Even if we can’t provide legal assistance we can provide information.”

The Queensberry Street location is a short walk from the 57 tram line and improves accessibility to clientele with disabilities. The new central location opposite the town hall and library is a welcome change for many people.

Ms. Golding spoke about the recent changes and the opportunity it’s given them to reorganise and restructure the organisation.

“It’s been an exciting time. I think the staff have really been excited about the change and the move.”

“The staff are very approachable and caring and we encourage everyone who is experiencing a legal problem and financial or social dis-

advantage to call up or drop in and see us.”

The IMCL receives Commonwealth and State funding and also grants from the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Law Foundation and the Legal Services Board. It comprises 5 full-time staff and 2 part-time staff along with a raft of volunteers.

Pro bono support is provided by a number of private legal partners and independent lawyers who volunteer their time. Each week they also have up to 20 student volunteers who assist with administration and services support.

The IMCL also provides community support through a number of partnerships and outreach programs.

The Royal Women’s Hospital Outreach Program allows patients of the hospital to seek legal assistance through their social work department.

Other outreach programs include work with CASA house (Centre Against Sexual Assault), Ozanam Community Centre, and WIRE (Women’s Information and Referral Exchange).

Apart from their main legal service and outreach program, IMCL offers continuing community education on legal matters on a range of topics such as legal rights and responsibilities, as well as other issues that affect teenagers such as sexting or family violence.

“We don’t just offer advice but we also

come out and give education to the community” says Ms. Golding. These educational programs open regularly, and sessions are run through local organisations, such as North Melbourne Language and Learning and University High.

*Inner Melbourne Community Legal is located at 2/508 Queensberry Street.
T: (03) 9328 1885
Website: www.imcl.org.au*

Office hours:
Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

Clinic Times

General drop-in clinic
Tuesdays 9:30am

Criminal drop-in clinic
Tuesdays 6:00pm (fortnightly)

Family Law drop in clinic
Wednesdays 6:00pm (fortnightly)


Debt and Infringement Clinic
Friday 12:30pm (by appointment only)



The (very) new front desk at IMCL Photo: Adam Falloon

North Melbourne Rotary Club

For membership and Friends of Rotary
call George Zindilis on 0418 398 255



Start your day as our guest for breakfast
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Corner Flemington Road and Harker Street, North Melbourne
Fridays @ 7.30am for 7.45

Local Rotary Club's Agua Pura has drinking water flowing in the remote high Andes

Pauline Nunan

On a sunny April morning in 2013, Ted Dziadkiewicz, a member of the Rotary Club of North Melbourne, stood in front of a small audience in a Peruvian school located near the village of Pisac, in the high Andes.

He was excited and anxious to see the teachers' and children's faces. Finally, the day had arrived and it was time to deliver Agua Pura's first water filters.

After setting up the simple device and demonstrating the procedure to the curious students, the reaction was not the expected one at all.

Ted remembers, "we had the dirty water coming through and the clean water coming out, and none of the children would take it!"

Happily, it only took one "cheeky little boy" to put his cup out and drink it.

"Then it was like flies to a honeypot situation. The kids just pushed and shoved to get their turn to push on the tap, and they did taste the difference."

Since then, similar situations have followed, as Ted and Agua Pura volunteers have delivered over 50 filters to other schools in Peru.

For almost a year now, the Agua Pura Project has been growing steadily.

Agua Pura is the outcome of Contours Travel (Ted's tour operator agency in West Melbourne) teaming up with the Rotary Club of North Melbourne and the Rotary Club of Cusco. Agua Pura aims to provide safe drinking water to schools in very remote places around the Sacred Valley and Cusco.

Even though these areas are surrounded by streams, their water is very dirty, as it flows down from the mountains, carrying lots of bacteria as it goes along.

As a result, many locals suffer from cholera and other diseases.

"The water filters provide easy access to clean drinking water", Ted explains.

The Agua Pura project (through the Rotary Club of North Melbourne) is asking for donations of \$50 per filter, certificates are issued and large donations (10 or more filters) are acknowledged with special certificates.



Clean water at last for Sacred Valley community, Peru

Photo: Heather Buchanan

There is still a long way to go, as the aim is to reach 500 water filters. More information can be seen, and donations may be made

online at www.aguapuracommunityproject.com/ or visit Ted at his business premises at 287 Victoria Street, West Melbourne.

A world of difference

Carole Lander

Most people have heard of Peter Dinklage—Golden Globe winner and star of HBO's series *Game of Thrones*. He is also a dwarf.

The World Health Organization's definition of a dwarf is someone who will never grow taller than 1.45 metres. Parents who give birth to a child like this understandably experience great concern. How will they cope in a world that is designed for taller people? Will they gain employment?

The most common form of dwarfism is *achondroplasia*, and an estimated one in 20,000 children is born with it. One of these is Angelo Olmi, who works in the organic section of the Queen Victoria Market where he has no trouble reaching the counter or till because he has undergone surgery to extend the length of his limbs. He is now 1.54-metres tall.

"When I was 14, I decided I wanted to have the surgery for a better quality of life and to make things easier for me—like driving a car, having the possibility to do almost any job", Olmi, now 27, says.

Born and raised in Italy, his average-size parents brought him up to do all the things other kids do. It was a brave decision to undergo the surgery because it took five years to lengthen his legs and arms.

Olmi's parents did not have to pay for any of it, thanks to the Italian healthcare system.

To do this, each bone is dissected and an iron rod is screwed into both ends to hold it in place. Gradually, new bone grows in the dissected area, and muscles and tendons follow suit. Olmi took a lot of medication to overcome the pain, but doesn't regret it at all.

At the Royal Children's Hospital, a team of geneticists and social workers are on hand to advise and treat people born with dwarfism. Departmental head, Professor Ravi Savarirayan MD, is a skeletal dysplasia specialist.

Professor Savarirayan says that, "a child born with dwarfism will be short and look a bit different but there may be no medical

issues. In my team we are doing research into the medical aspects, but our main aim is to normalise short stature for the family and their relatives."

This is the only place in Melbourne that specialises in bone dysplasia and although it is based in a children's hospital, adults with dwarfism also attend for treatment.

With regard to limb lengthening, Professor Savarirayan explains that "techniques for leg lengthening were originally developed for correction of limb length discrepancy. Recently, similar surgical techniques have been modified for use in symmetric lengthening of limbs for people with dwarfism."

"This new application has generated both widespread interest and controversy among healthcare providers, persons of short stature and their families. It is not an operation offered to people living with dwarfism in Australia."

This controversy extends to other medical proposals related to dwarfism. For instance, an American company has developed a new investigational drug that may decrease some of the complications seen in children with *achondroplasia*. This new medication acts on growing children and may be useful in decreasing or stopping the abnormal signals that cause their bone growth problems.

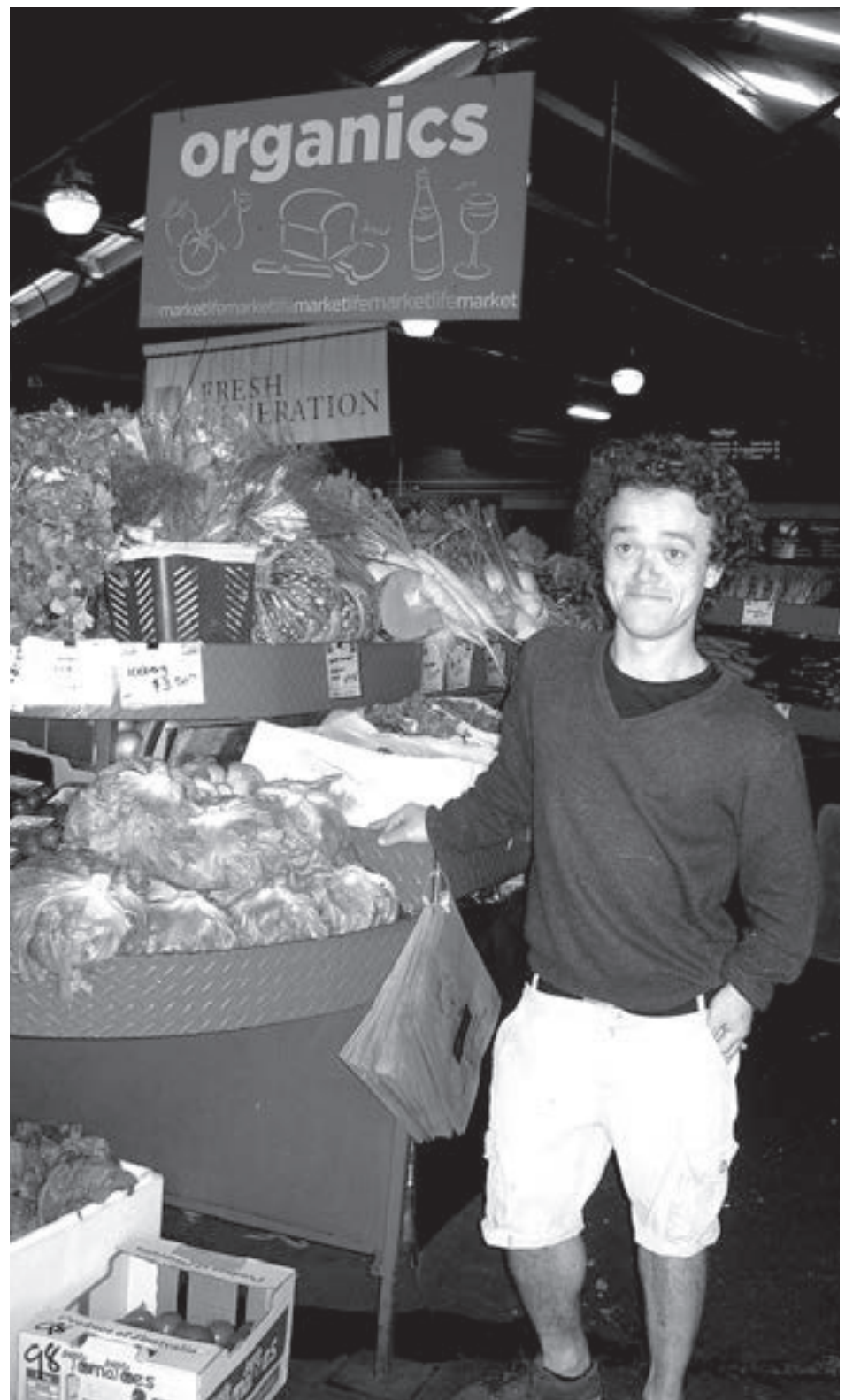
The Royal Children's Hospital has been selected as one of the eight centres worldwide to trial the six-month growth study.

There has been speculation in the media that this drug is going to be used as a 'cure' for *achondroplasia*. This is not the case. It may, rather, become another option to decrease pain and discomfort in children and possibly decrease the need for surgical procedures.

Olmi wishes them well in their research, happy that his own decision has enabled him to do almost everything without waiting for someone else or something else to do it for him.

"I have travelled widely for study and work [he has a languages degree] and I am more independent, I am free-standing!"

Little People Big Lives is Carole Lander's book about dwarfism. Information and purchase details at www.checkword.com.au



Angelo Olmi has undergone limb-extension surgery

Photo: Carole Lander

From Sicily to Melbourne, with much love

Brett Quine

A deeply devoted daughter who still speaks of her mother as a very real and vocal physical entity, despite her passing several weeks before, can offer only two words to best summarise a truly remarkable woman's life: "very sad".

After weeks of reflection on an obituary in the local press for Vincenza Manenti, 87—a close friend, confidante and matriarch to almost every World War 2 era migrant female Italian in North and West Melbourne—her only child, Joanne, gives a succinct appraisal of her mother's life.

"She had a very sad life," Joanne says straight faced as we sit at the family dining table, then soon explains she was the only one of several children to survive birth.

Yet several stillborn babies were not the first or perhaps even most gut-wrenching tragedies to befall Vincenza.

Despite a series of personal blows which would render most other women crippled with grief, Vincenza set aside self pity as she struggled on to enrich and offer kind counsel to all those who knew her. Only her devotion to God; to her daughter Joanne, and perhaps the North Melbourne Football Club, could ever sidetrack her life's seeming purpose as a constant comforter.

As a neighbour to her home, the most immaculate and best presented residence on the block, for several weeks I witnessed a daily stream of Vincenza's female peers visit Joanne to offer condolences and tributes to a woman who had obviously given them a great deal. A tradition familiar but almost entirely lost to earlier Australian migrants of Irish and Anglo-

Saxon stock, the visits alone spoke volumes about the sincere respect felt toward Vincenza.

From her birth on 11 November 1926 in the village of Vizzini, in Sicily, Italy, Vincenza was toughened by the iron fisted rule of fascist dictator Benito 'Il Duce' (the leader) Mussolini.

Aside from a few months out of power, Mussolini ruled from 1922 until his death in 1943 and believed that all boys should know fighting was a part of life and all girls should grow to give birth as often as possible. He started the Opera Nazionale Balilla, an Italian Fascist youth organisation, the same year Vincenza was born.

Wearing black shirts from the age of four and other uniforms as they aged, the Balilla were also organised outside of Italy, as instructed by Mussolini, and held regular meetings in one of the two countries they were given the option to migrate to as tensions grew in pre-war Europe: Australia or America.

And so it was that Vincenza came to be pictured on the Port Melbourne docks where they arrived in Australia, in 1936, wearing a uniform, as did her brother Libero, seen to her left, and friend John Napoli (whose father ran a pharmacy on the corner of Howard and Victoria Sts).

Vincenza's brother Libero had drowned in a boating accident on the Maribyrnong River, unable to swim, when a dinghy capsized and when the police came to the family home to pass on the bad news, her mother Giovanna Riggio, unable to speak English, could not understand them. It was up to Vincenza to tell her.

"She said that when she told her mother, it just took something from her mother's spirit," Joanne said. "The look on her mother's face was just sheer terror and from then on my mother felt a sense of guilt about telling her that awful news."

The family at first lived in Peel St, and had to

endure the ignorant racist comments of American and Australian soldiers in Melbourne during World War 2, yet Vincenza gave them as much in return, then sometimes hurling a few rocks at them.

Perhaps it was this strength of character as much as her beauty which caught the attention of the man she married, John, soon after leaving St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic school in about Year 10, to be wed at St Mary's. But their bliss was shattered by a series of still

births, and when Joanne did finally arrive in 1955, it was too late for her father to witness. He died only three weeks before, aged only 29.

Yet while many religious souls of lesser substance may easily have thought God had abandoned them, Vincenza remained staunch in her conviction to the church and to her community in the place she came to call her own village, North Melbourne.

Vincenza volunteered much of her time to



Vincenza and her brother Libero (left), and their friend John Napoli at Port Melbourne Docks
Photo: Joanne Manenti



Vincenza and John on their wedding day

Photo: Joanne Manenti

help other Italian migrants while also readily taking up committed fan status for what must have at first seemed a peculiar sport: footy. She would sit before the television to watch a game with a North Melbourne shawl across her knees and shout: "Chewy on ya boot!"

For many years from the 1980s, Vincenza was a pillar of strength for the North Melbourne Italian Club, at times the president but always available to assist others with language and financial barriers, and loved to walk along Errol Street, where her funeral cortege took her for one final salute.

"She basically never moved out of North Melbourne," Joanne said.

Joanne herself can still almost hear Vincenza's voice telling her off.

"If I could hear her from the grave, she would be up there right now telling me off because the front garden is a bit of a mess at the moment," Joanne says with an upward glance. The next day a gardener was hard at work, doing just as Vincenza had instructed.

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Lessons in Life - unravelling the mysteries

Carole Lander

Melbourne has a new school—The School of Life—dedicated to exploring life's big issues: How can we fulfil our potential? Can work be inspiring? Why does community matter? Should relationships last a lifetime?

Alain de Botton, founder of the School of Life in London, has recently opened a new branch of the school at 669 Bourke Street (the Spencer Street end).

The venue is, to all intents and purposes, a café and bookshop with a welcoming ambience. There are two rooms, one used for classes and the other as a quiet area. Salads and cakes are prepared by Sreat, a nearby social enterprise that provides homeless youth with hospitality training.

De Botton, who has visited Melbourne six times to promote his books, is a philosopher with a difference; some have labelled him a 'popularised philosopher'. If this is a criticism, it has never stopped him producing many best-sellers that explore aspects of daily life.

With his enquiring mind and easy commu-

nication style, he has invited readers to look more closely at status anxiety, religion, travel, architecture, sex and work.

De Botton's most recent books, *The News: a User's Manual* and *Art as Therapy*, were launched in Melbourne at the end of March. The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) now has its own 'Art as Therapy' tour.

John Armstrong, philosopher and art theorist at Melbourne University, collaborated with de Botton to produce both Art as Therapy and the information labels for certain artworks in the NGV that make up this special tour.

Armstrong and de Botton have recategorised certain works in the NGV and prepared labels that appear beside the normal ones listing details of the work (artist's name, acquisition date etc). The Art as Therapy label re-examines the artwork in relation to some of the concerns and assumptions experienced in everyday life.

As an example, David Hockney's *The Second Marriage* (1963) portrays an unhappy married couple. Its label does not invite us to become gloomy like the couple; rather, it reminds us that tension and difficulty are par for the course in life. If we were to look at this painting at a time when we were feeling sad,

we would be reassured by the fact that everyone has these experiences at some time in life.

The motivation for the special labels at the NGV is to make art relevant for people who tend to come out of galleries and museums asking, "what was all that about?"

De Botton recalls a time when, as a young man, he read an interview with American artist Mark Rothko. Having stood in front of Rothko's paintings in the Tate Gallery and pondered their meaning, de Botton was delighted to read an explanation.

Rothko had said: "My paintings allow the sadness inside me to meet the sadness inside you." Since then he has been on a mission to unravel the mysteries of art, travel, work, and so on to the general public.

Like his compatriots, Stephen Fry and Jamie Oliver, Alain de Botton is constantly reinventing himself and not just for money; he seems to genuinely want to improve people's lives.

We are lucky that he chose Melbourne for this new School of Life and, until 28 September, that we can take the Art as Therapy tour at the NGV. And of course, all of Alain de Botton's books are available in our city's bookstores.



The School of Life

669 Bourke Street, Melbourne
Phone (03) 9077 8724
www.theschooloflife.com.au

Art as Therapy

NGV International
Free

Closes 28 September 2014

This is a self-guided tour but The School of Life also run tours

Visit www.theschooloflife.com.au

North Melbourne Learning Champions

Michael Roche

North Melbourne Language and Learning (NMLL) has found a new way to tap into the needs of our community.

NMLL launched the Community Learning Champions Project early this year, based on a community development model in the United Kingdom. According to social worker and coordinator, Georgia Jacobs, the project is the first of its kind in Australia.

For over 25 years the NMLL has supported the learning needs of a diverse population who mostly live in the local area's public housing estates. Those who learn have come from 26 different language backgrounds. NMLL offers courses in English and digital literacy.

The Community Learning Champions Project is based on a simple philosophy:

If you're interested in the needs of your community, go out and talk to people. Most importantly, you need to listen to them.

It sounds easy, but how does an organisation go about such a task?

NMLL has recruited 10 volunteers who do exactly that—they go out to the community to listen and talk to its members. They are seven

women and three men and they come from Somalia, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. NMLL calls them its Learning Champions.

NMLL is currently offering the Learning Champions a series of workshops and seminars on local employment and training services, consultation methods and community development.

NMLL has been aware for some time that many local residents do not even know about the courses, what they are for, or that such training is available.

"They are starting from zero," says Learning Champion Amel Digge, from Eritrea. The traditional ways of advertising through brochures and flyers do not work either. Amel explains: "Those who can read often don't have time and others can't read, so word of mouth is better."

Tehiya talks more about the barriers to learning. "It is difficult for women," she says, "they can't go out during the day, they are child-rearing or working, they can't stop to learn." Having acquired this information, NMLL is now offering English and computer courses on a Monday night.

The Learning Champions provide advice on education and employment. Many newly-ar-

rived residents understandably want to rush into employment to make ends meet.

Learning Champion Awil Hussein, from Somalia, says people need direction in how to prepare for employment.

"Some people need encouragement to take on a course and think about getting a job later on."

According to Georgia, it's about encouraging people to see the long-term benefits of learning for employment and career advancement.

The Learning Champions will meet community members in formal settings such as a weekly mothers' group. Other times it's more subtle, such as a casual conversation with someone in a park or at the swimming pool.

The project is about more than just education and employment. The Learning Champions have also played a role in linking community members together with some unexpected social dividends.

"A walking group has started on a Sunday afternoon," says Awil. People go for a walk, have a chit-chat, and get out of the high-rise buildings for an hour or so. They socialise and it's also good for health and fitness."

The benefits of the project are felt by every-

one. For the Learning Champions, it has been a positive experience.

"We learn as well," says Amel, "and every day is a new challenge, how to talk to people. Some people are very isolated so it's wonderful to connect with the community."



Learning Champions Tehiya Umer and Amel Suliman stand next to Georgia Jacobs, the Community Learning Champions Project Coordinator

Photo: Jim Weatherill

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Authorised by J. Kanis, 146-148 Peel St, North Melbourne

The Centre's Munashe Zishiri on the Simukai Trust

Munashe Zishiri

Simukai Trust is a small Zimbabwe-based charity that provides remote communities with access to water resources as a means of stimulating enterprise and investment.

The Simukai Trust is the inaugural project of the Tsungai Women's Burial Society, a village-based organisation formed eleven years ago by women living in the Save River Basin in Mashonaland East.

The burial society's main purpose is to support the bereaved, and organise the burial of victims of HIV and AIDS. Through severe hardship, the Tsungai Burial Society has provided hope and a sense of empowerment, keeping families together and preserving the dignity of the community overall. Now, the Tsungai Burial Society is at the heart of a social and economic revival in the area.

Through donations from the Australian embassy in Zimbabwe, as well as Melbournians based locally, the Simukai Trust has managed to change the lives of those in the community by installing boreholes to give access to clean drinking water and for irrigation purposes for the community garden.

One such project called the Nyati Project, funded by the Australian embassy, has allowed local villagers to properly irrigate their crops, rather than depending on rainfall. This provides not only economic but social momentum for the community.



Members of the Tsungai Women's Burial Society walk to the site of a new borehole

Photo: Sekai Nzenza -Shand

Other projects include the refurbishment of a run-down local primary school, and a plan to build a high school. This reduces the risk faced by children who often face long treks to get to school, treks which become even more dangerous during the rainy season with the Save river flooding.

The Simukai Trust developed as a result of the local female-only burial society. These women for the most part are not formally educated, with most having grown up in colonial times, but this does not hinder their progress

at all. Their achievements have shown our younger generation what happens when a community is brought together to work towards a common goal. From simple beginnings, helping families in just times of grief, the Tsungai Burial Society has become involved in all aspects of the community.

As a volunteer at the Simukai Trust, I value the wisdom of elders from our community. One of my aims is to learn from everyone during my work in the Morning Tea program. The experience I gained from volunteering

with the Simukai Trust will aid me in my goal to be useful during my placement with The Centre.

Munashe Zishiri is currently studying at Victoria University where he is completing a Masters in International Community Development. Munashe will be working with The Centre for the next 2 months. If you wish to contact him you can do so by calling The Centre on 03 9328 1126 or by dropping in to 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne.

Residents About Integrated Development — RAiD@3051

Marg Leser

RAiD is an incorporated association comprising a group of North Melbourne residents who focus on integrating new developments so that they work to enhance the North Melbourne streetscape and community infrastructure.

Residents need to work together and lobby all levels of government to ensure North Melbourne does not become another Docklands.

We know that change will occur in building stock as development occurs. We have therefore devised a set of key principles that encourage good planning that takes into account streetscapes, building density, environmental impacts, traffic management, transport and social planning for community infrastructure to meet changing demographics.

RAiD@3051 was formed in 2011 when local residents came together to respond to a

proposal by Woolworths to build a large-scale supermarket, bottle shop and two residential towers (16 and 10 storeys) on the corner of Canning Street, Vaughan Terrace and Macaulay Road.

The scale and impact of this proposed development were unsuccessfully appealed last year at VCAT by the City of Melbourne, RAiD and other concerned groups and individuals.

Woolworths has since put the site up for sale with building specifications identical to those approved by VCAT. Sale conditions include a 20-year lease to Woolworths for its large supermarket and bottle shop. Expressions of interest closed on 16 April and we await the outcome.

East-West Link

RAiD presented at the East-West Link panel hearing in April. We were particularly concerned about the negative cost-benefit analysis, the inadequate urban design

framework, inconsistencies in air-quality predictions, the impact on ecosystems including Moonee Ponds Creek and increases in local traffic.

1 Shiel Street

Last year RAiD lodged an objection to an application for a six-storey development at 1 Shiel Street. The council approved this but the applicant recently applied for a revised 10-storey proposal. RAiD has again objected.

New residential zones

In response to the new residential zones introduced by the Planning Minister, RAiD attended meetings with council planners and lodged a submission outlining the importance of zoning much of North Melbourne as a Neighbourhood Residential Zone, which imposes limits on height and density.

This zoning would preserve our historic landmarks and streetscapes while allowing the integration of limited compatible new development.

RAiD strongly opposes the initial recommendation by council officers to apply an across-the-board General Residential Zone. This zoning has the potential to increase building heights and density, which would severely impact on built form and community infrastructure.

North Melbourne is currently zoned Residential 1, whose purpose most closely resembles that of the new Neighbourhood Residential Zone.

IMPA

RAiD@3051 is a founding member of the Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance (IMPA), a non-partisan, not-for-profit association that brings together community and professional bodies and committed individuals from across inner Melbourne, to engage with government and developers on proposed changes that will radically transform the shape of the city.

When completed, the new urban renewal areas alone will increase the size of the current

CBD by over 300 per cent.

Annual general meeting

On 26 March RAiD held its second AGM, at which comprehensive chair and financial reports were presented.

Membership fees and donations to the VCAT appeal totalled just under \$10,000, a fantastic amount that is wholly thanks to our generous members and donors. RAiD commenced the financial year post-AGM with approximately \$300 in the bank.

The committee members elected at the AGM were: Tess Demediuk (secretary), Lorna Hannan, Peter Hogg (chair), Peter Keogh (treasurer), Marg Leser and Peter Topping.

The RAiD annual membership remains \$1 (and the initial joining fee is also \$1).

RAiD objectives for 2014

- continue to monitor the Woolworths development
- assess the implications of Future Melbourne and actions by the City of Melbourne with respect to the Municipal Strategic Statement and related structure plans
- monitor how the City of Melbourne deals with other large-scale developments
- liaise with other community action groups
- continue to work constructively with the City of Melbourne on planning and development matters.

Keep up to date on the Woolworths proposal and other planning issues by becoming a RAiD@3051 member.

Forward your contact details to raid3051@gmail.com

Access the RAiD website at www.3051-integrated.com

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/3051-RAID or Twitter @RAiD3051

Marg Leser is a committee member of RAiD@3051.



Location of planned six-storey development at 1 Shiel Street

Photo: Marg Leser



North and West Melbourne Association

North and West Melbourne Association

The Association’s annual general meeting was held on 20 May (after deadline). While planning issues still dominate, NWMA members are active in many other endeavours that have a lower profile. Excerpts from the 2013 annual report describing two of these follow.

Carlton Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

The PCCC continues to meet every two months, attended by representatives of organisations from Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington and Parkville. Individual councillors and members of parliament also attend.

All participants have an opportunity to report on their issues at each meeting. Another regular agenda item is the crime and traffic report. Bicycle thefts are increasing, in part because of the poor-quality locks some owners use. Bicycles that are not claimed are eventually given to charitable groups who carry out repairs and pass them on to those who cannot afford a new bike.

Crime has also increased around the use of credit cards. The introduction of Pay Wave is a significant and growing contributor.

An ongoing problem is the use of skateboards. This is where the PCCC shows its worth, because input can be received and considered from youth groups, the council and other interested parties, all around the one table.

Another problem more intractable is noise. The police can issue infringement notices on behalf of the EPA, but enforcement is complex and individual cases can take up much police time without a satisfactory resolution.

Homelessness Action Group

The Homelessness Action Group (HAG) is a North and West Melbourne-based group of diverse participants comprising service providers and residents. The HAG’s aim is to present a human face to homelessness and increase community acceptance and awareness of its complexities.

HAG Forum 2013

On 1 May a third HAG Forum was held at the North Melbourne Town Hall Arts House on Health and Homelessness, discussing the many complex health issues, both mental and physical, that arise from the lack of a safe, secure place to call home. Discussion points included:

- the key barriers affecting access to health services for the most disadvantaged in our community
- how homelessness is ‘bad for your health’
- research on the health of ‘rough sleepers’
- local health solutions in the community.

The six keynote speakers, chaired by Beth Wilson AM, former health services commissioner, were: Adam Bandt, Federal MP for Melbourne; Jennifer Kanis, State MP for Melbourne; Spike Chippalone, Council to Homeless Persons consumer; Guy Johnson, RMIT University; Theresa Swanborough, RDNS Homeless Persons Program; and John Blewonski, VincentCare Victoria.

Street Count

The forum followed earlier meetings of the HAG committee where a City of Melbourne officer discussed the findings of their Street Count of the previous five years. Always held on a night in the first week of June, an average of 100–110 ‘rough sleepers’ proved to be fairly consistent. A proportion of this homeless population had been homeless for over eight years.

The City of Melbourne intended to complete their ‘rough sleeping’ study with emphasis on a qualitative approach. That is, 26 council representatives would engage with 40 homeless people every week for three months, documenting what was happening for them.

St Vincent de Paul Soup Vans

A representative of St Vincent de Paul’s Soup Vans attended another meeting and reported on the logistics and numbers of people being supported by soup vans across Melbourne.

In the North Melbourne/Fitzroy area, the Matthew Talbot soup vans operate seven nights a week with 300 people being fed

each night. Food is prepared at the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre in Melrose Street. Three vans visit rooming houses and make street stops at the corner of Macaulay and Boundary roads (Clayton Reserve), Hanover, Flinders Street Station and Queen Victoria Market.

The food consists of soup, sandwiches, fruit, tea, coffee and cordial and is donated by Foodbank, SecondBite, FareShare, Tasty Trucks, Brumby’s Bakeries and Bakers Delight; food is also purchased. The entire program is volunteer based and school groups are also involved. Blankets have been donated by 300blankets.com.

Spring Fling Festival

The HAG stall at the 2013 Spring Fling included promotional bags with materials from various organisations involved and a set of multiple-answer quiz questions to engage the public and promote awareness.

Updates on recent events

New residential zones

The Planning Minister has introduced three new residential zones to replace the existing residential zones across Victoria. Councils can choose among the three new zones. The zone that currently most affects us in North and West Melbourne is Residential 1 Zone. The new zones are:

1. Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) *A zone creating tight mandatory height limits, most likely to apply in heritage residential areas.*
2. General Residential Zone (GRZ) *A zone allowing some development but with discretionary height limits.*
3. Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) *A zone allowing significant development, also with discretionary height limits.*

All councils must replace the existing residential zones with the new ones by 30 June, otherwise the General Residential Zone will apply to all residential land by default.

City of Melbourne (CoM) personnel gave a presentation on the proposed application of the new zones at the NWMA meeting on 15 April. Submissions were due on 25 April. The Association’s response, in summary, made the following points:

- CoM’s original proposal to rezone all Residential 1 zones (R1Z) to GRZ under the new scheme was unacceptable.
- The default CoM rezoning should be NRZ for all current R1Z areas with a Heritage Overlay (HO), NRZ being the closest match to R1Z + HO.
- All R1Z + HO areas in North Melbourne identified as stable in the MSS should be rezoned NRZ.
- NRZ should also include R1Z + HO areas not identified as stable in the new MSS but identified as such in the previous MSS,

because their later removal was never agreed to and, in the Association’s opinion, was incorrect. These conditions apply mainly in the R1Z areas of West Melbourne and the southern parts of North Melbourne.

- The NRZ’s purpose “to limit opportunities” equates to the MSS objective to “support limited residential development” in North and West Melbourne’s R1Z areas.
- Mandatory controls bring certainty to planning and protect stable and heritage areas. NRZ has a default mandatory height limit of 8 metres and subdivision controls that can vary this to suit specific areas, to 9 metres for example. GRZ has discretionary controls, which have consistently proved ineffective at restricting inappropriate development.
- Other inner-city councils have overwhelmingly adopted NRZ for the majority of their R1Z areas, notably Port Phillip, Yarra and Moonee Valley.
- North and West Melbourne have already supported among the highest population growth rates in Victoria, without commensurate increases in infrastructure.
- The six-week consultation period was inadequate, especially given that the new zones had been known about for at least a year. By presenting its recommendations as a fait accompli, rather than inviting community input from the start, CoM compelled residents to respond in an adversarial rather than consultative way.

Regional Rail Link (RRL)

Work continues on the noise barrier along Railway Place, with foundation works and installation of post extensions and Corten steel panels.

On 6 May residents had a very productive site meeting with CoM’s Urban Landscapes tree planning team. The team has responded to residents’ concerns by identifying trees that impede and absorb diesel emissions.

As part of CoM’s urban greening strategy, and to beautify this neglected part of the city, they plan to supplement the greenery contained in the RRL’s wall design by planting as many trees and as much vegetation as possible in this challenging location. This will mitigate the visual and health impacts of the RRL.

NWMA meetings and contact

Association meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Dewey Common Room, Bastow Institute, 601 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne (enter off Union Street). Submissions and minutes are on the website at www.nwma.org.au.

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Incorporating UnitingCare Hotham Mission

Sunday Worship 10am in the church hall, 4 Elm St, North Melbourne

Some highlights for 2014

Blessed: the Beatitudes of Jesus, Sunday Worship June–September
A Festival of Psalms with Eucharist, Sunday 17 August

Reading Groups

May–July: “Theopolitical imagination: the liturgy as a political act in an age of global consumerism”
Later in the year: “Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire”

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

THE CENTRE



The Centre Courses
Term 3, 2014

www.centre.org.au
admin@centre.org.au
Office Hours:
Monday 10.00am to 6.00pm
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm
Classes follow school term dates
unless otherwise stated
Term 3: 14 July to 19 September 2014



The Centre
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Tel: (03) 9328 1126
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Tel: (03) 9658 9700
Meat Market
5 Blackwood Street, North Melb VIC 3051
Tel: (03) 9329 9966



Docklands Hub
80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands
(near the corner of Bourke Street – look for the giant rabbit)



DOCKLANDS PROGRAMS

Photoshop and Your Photography
Time: Thursday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$125 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

Art, Craft, Create
Time: Thursday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$85 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

Art Warriors (Preschool – Grade 4)
Time: Thursday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

Pilates:
Introduction to Pilates
Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm
Intermediate
Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm
Cost: \$185 / \$135 concession*
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

Feldenkrais
Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm
Cost: \$75
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

Beginners Singing NEW
Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm
Membership: \$140 / \$90 concession*
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

Introduction to Health Studies
Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 80 Harbour Esp, Docklands

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Centre’s Volunteer Program
We have a wide range of opportunities for everyone, for example:
• **Spring Fling 19 October 2014**
• **Writing and editing NWM News**
• **Tutoring**
• **Business administration**
Time: Must enter into a regular commitment
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in Morning Teas
Time: First Tuesday monthly
10.30am – 12pm
Cost: \$3 per session
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Centre Adventures (Bus Trips)
July–September
Time: Third Tuesday monthly
9.30am – 4pm
Cost: \$33 / \$23 concession*
Meeting Point: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Discovery Walks – Art, Architecture and History Walking Group NEW
Time: Wednesday 10am – 11am
Cost: Free
Meeting Point: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Errol’s Angels Community Choir
Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm
Membership: \$140 / \$90 concession*
Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre,
505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne

Global Homework Program
Primary (Grades 4 and 5)
Time: Wednesday 3.30 – 5.30pm
Transition (Grade 6)
Time: Monday 3.30 – 5.30pm
Secondary (Grades 7–12)
Time: Tuesday 4pm – 6pm
Cost: \$33 / \$23 concession*
Venue: North Melbourne Library

Sociable: problem-solving studio and social skill development level 1 for children 5–8
Time: Wednesday 4.15 – 5.15pm
(6 sessions)
Cost: \$115 / \$100 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Curious Club: problem-solving studio and social skill development level 2 for children 9–14
Time: Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm
(6 sessions)
Cost: \$115 / \$100 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

PLIESEing Drama: arts-inspired workshop for children 4–5
Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm
(6 sessions)
Cost: \$115 / \$100 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Food Handling
Time: Monday 9am – 4pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Date: 22 September
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Project Management for Beginners
Addresses the management of projects: includes developing, administering, monitoring, finalising and reviewing the project.
Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$184 / \$100 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Job Readiness Program
The Workout Program (Job Readiness) provides skills in resume and letter writing and preparation for job interviews. A computer component covers creating and

editing job search documents, and using email and the internet for job seeking.
Time: Thursday 9.30am – 3pm
Cost: \$125 / \$100 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Certificate IV in Frontline Management (BSB40812) / Diploma of Management (BSB51107)
Time: Wednesday 6pm – 9pm
Cost: \$1220 / \$350 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE40110)
Time: Monday 6pm – 9pm
Cost: \$1500 / \$350 concession*
Dates: 21 July to 27 October
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Upgrade to TAE40110 from old BSZ40198 and TAA40104
One-day workshop
Time: Wednesday 9am – 4pm
Cost: \$450
Date: 24 September
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Certificate III in Education Support (CHC30213)
Time: Wednesday 9.30am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$1225 / \$250 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Teachers Aide Work
Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Special Needs: for pre-service educators, teachers, parents and allied health professionals
Time: Wednesday 8.30am – 1pm
(one session)
Cost: \$105
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Thinking Outside the Box: for pre-service educators, teachers, parents and allied health professionals
Time: Wednesday 4pm – 7pm
(one session)
Cost: \$105
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Mental Health NEW
Introduces the knowledge and skills required by support workers and case workers who work with people with mental illness.
Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$237 / \$188 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Special Needs NEW
Explores the policy and processes for accommodating the needs of people with disabilities in an inclusive environment.
Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
(one session)
Cost: \$250
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

COMPUTER CLASSES

Computer: First Steps
Introduction to basic computer skills. Class includes email, word processing and internet.
Time: Friday 9am – 11am
Cost: \$115 / \$85 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Computer: One Step Further
Improve your skills to make the best use of your computer. This class will take you one step closer to understanding and managing your computer.
Time: Friday 11am – 1pm
Cost: \$115 / \$85 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Computer: INTEL Easy Steps
Improve your skills in using Microsoft Office and other services online.
Time: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$115 / \$85 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Photoshop and Your Photography
Gain new skills in taking, editing and uploading photographs using Photoshop

Elements.
Time: Tuesday 10am – 12pm
Cost: \$125 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

International Computer Drivers Licence (ICDL)
Time: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: Online

I-Gadgets for the E-Challenged
Bring your own iPad or iPhone to class to learn what all these apps and downloads mean.
Time: Wednesday 6pm – 7.30pm
(4 sessions)
Cost: \$85 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Yoga
Time: Monday 6pm – 7.30pm
Cost: \$165 / \$125 concession*
Venue: 5 Blackwood St, North Melb

Introduction to Health Studies
Time: Thursday 7pm – 8.30pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Pilates:
Introduction to Pilates
For those new to Pilates
Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm

Beginners Plus
A basic class for those with a little experience
Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm

General Class
Time: Tuesday 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday 7pm – 8pm
Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm

Intermediate
Time: Thursday 7.30 – 8.30pm

Intermediate Plus
A more challenging class
Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm

Antenatal Pilates
A class specifically designed to strengthen and stretch muscles you will use to support your baby as it grows and to cope with labour
Time: Thursday 7.30 – 8.30pm
Cost: \$185 / \$135 concession*
Venue: 5 Blackwood St, North Melb

ART AND CRAFT

Exploring Calligraphy
Time: Tuesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
(8 sessions)
Cost: \$115 / \$100 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Craft, Create and Communicate
Time: Tuesday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$85 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Art Heroes (Primary – Grades 4–6)
Time: Monday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Art Warriors (Preschool – Grade 4)
Times: Monday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Tuesday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

ACCREDITED PROGRAMS
Certificate II in General Education for Adults
Certificate II in Printing and Graphic Arts (Desktop Publishing)
Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology
Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance
Certificate IV in Project Management Practice
* subject to conditions

Spring Fling 2014 — the countdown begins!

Emma McCashney

Eight months on from the last Spring Fling Street Festival and the planning begins again for this year’s event on Sunday 19 October.

Over the past two years we have seen huge progress with the festival’s program and its ability to draw large crowds to Errol Street in North Melbourne. Spring Fling encourages involvement from all residents and business owners within the North and West Melbourne precinct and we appreciate how important this iconic festival has become to our community.

When the annual tradition began 37 years ago, it was a small gathering of 30 people for a community fair at the North Melbourne Town Hall. Now, looking at the statistics from the 2013 Spring Fling, we can proudly report that this once-small gathering had grown to a crowd of approximately 16,000.

It is important to note that the festival’s success is a result of the strong community support it receives.

A challenge for The Centre in producing Spring Fling is being a not-for-profit organisation that runs many additional activities throughout the year. The Centre’s primary role in the community is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all residents, newcomers and those seeking assistance.

We are fortunate that we are also able to provide opportunities for skills development, education and wellbeing through a long list of courses that take place in various North Melbourne and Docklands locations.

The Centre has also been producing this community newspaper for over 35 years, which its volunteers deliver to the letterboxes of more than 5500 local residents and businesses each quarter.

The Centre is, however, committed to its much-loved Spring Fling Festival and delivering this to the community every year on the third Sunday in October. The positive impact of the festival on so many community members is remarkable.

Spring Fling is different from many other festivals in that it focuses most of its resources on delivering interactive and educational activities. We’ve had everything from cooking demonstrations and circus performances to DIY bike basket decorating and pottery workshops.

The aspect of Spring Fling that makes it unique among street festivals is that all attendees can be actively involved and potentially learn something, regardless of age, culture or economic status.

With the success of the past two years in particular, we are set for a bigger and better Spring Fling in 2014. The interactive

workshops, stalls and street food that we’ve seen in the past will still be a big feature; however, the festival site is developing and will probably look quite different this year.

There is also going to be a stronger focus on local music on the stages and involvement from a greater variety of community groups to make the day vibrant and exciting.

The Centre and the Spring Fling team are really looking forward to the next few months as we get to the busiest stage of the planning process. We’re open to suggestions and input from all members of the community, so if you have a great idea for an activity or something you would like to see at the festival we encourage you to get in touch.

The countdown to October begins!

Emma McCashney is Spring Fling Festival coordinator. You can contact the Spring Fling team at The Centre by calling 9328 1126 or emailing emmam@centre.org.au



Emma McCashney
Festival Coordinator



Phil Bodey
Operations and Logistics
Coordinator



Jeanine Howton
Volunteer Coordinator



Sam Jackson
Marketing and Sponsorships
Coordinator



Ruby Spokes
Artistic Coordinator



Christian Mangantulao
Design Coordinator

The Global Homework Program

These stories were written by students in The Global Homework Program as challenges and activities for when they have completed their homework tasks. The stories and other challenges are put into a box and at the end of each term a raffle is drawn. We have had lots of happy winners.

Life in the Future
By Alec

Life in the future will be amazing!

There will be flying cars, magic wands
Flying broomsticks and so much more!

The way you will get around will be
with flying cars, jetpacks, UFO’s and
more!

You can play with EVERYTHING and
you will have a robot butler.

And that’s what it will be like in the
future.

The Most Dangerous Thing I Have Ever Done
By Bakri

The most dangerous thing I have ever done was when I was a baby. One day when I was in Egypt I saw an ant on the floor and I ate it but my dad came and took it out of my mouth.

That was a close call.



The Ant Disaster

Adam Falloon

A Day in the Life of my Pet.
By Noah

I have two cats called Jackson and Sanza. Jackson is 1 ½ years old and he is a domestic short hair cat.

Sanza is 10 months old and she is a short/ long hair cross.

In the morning the 2 cats purr but only

early in the morning.

Sometimes they get crazy, like really crazy playful.

In the afternoon I’m not too sure what the cats do but they definitely sleep.

In the evening they nag and nag for food. They also get cheeky. They jump on the bench and eat the food.

The Thunderstorm of the End of the World
By Dylan

The fearsome frightening dark clouds roam the sky.

No planes are allowed to fly.

The scorching bright light of the buildings dropping...lightning.

The sound cracks so loud that you go deaf and the lightning strikes.

The sound sounds like the biggest atom bomb mankind has ever heard.

In the end all there is, is rubble and destruction.

A Day in the Life of my Pet
By Callum

What my cats do in the day is they have a couple of adventures or they just sleep or chase mice.

My cats are very happy with what they do.

At night my cats go in their cat run and see lots of foxes and try to chase them (but they always get away before the cats get them)

My cats are awesome and they are nocturnal.

They always have fun at night because all they do in the day is SLEEP.

My cats always jump on the table when we are eating.

COMMUNITY

Anniversary of infamous diamond jewellery heist North Melbourne, 1934



Peter B. McMaster

Photo: Photographer unknown

Raphaëlle Race

Eighty years and one week ago (give or take some small change) a daring heist rattled North Melbourne's otherwise peaceful Errol Street.

The theft of three trays of diamond jewellery from P. B. McMaster and Son was the talk of the town, and was reported as far away as the *Adelaide Advertiser*.

The theft is remembered to this day, as long-time local and McMaster's watch and jewellery shop owner, Lucy Figliuzzi finds

herself regularly regaled by customers about the exciting incident.

The stories have been told ever since she bought the shop from the McMaster family in 1986.

"I've had this shop on my own for ten years now, so I know it has a long history. I know about that incident through customers whose parents had told them about that story."

"There must have been a thousand people in Errol St that afternoon!" She remarked wryly.

"Leslie McMaster [Peter B. McMaster's son] was the shop attendant that day, he was born with a club foot. He was still here up until he passed."

The man had asked McMaster to show him three trays of diamond rings. As Mr McMaster turned around to his assistant to ask her to retrieve a fourth tray, the thief grabbed the three trays and ran out onto the street.

The trays consisted of mostly cluster-type diamond rings, a ladies' ring that boasts a large central gemstone that is surrounded by a ring of tiny stones.

The three trays together were valued at around £1000 in 1934, during one of the worse economic depressions of the 20th century. Unemployment was high, and earnings were plunging. It was no wonder the theft was a news splash, with £1000 being the equivalent of approximately \$82,000 in 2014.

The thief was reported to be a well-dressed gentleman, according to the *Adelaide Advertiser*, who wore a grey overcoat and hat, and brown woollen gloves.

The thief was closely followed by Mr McMaster, who was hindered by his club foot.



Leslie McMaster outside shop

Photo: Photographer unknown

Mr McMaster pulled out the pistol he carried, shooting four bullets down the street after the fleeing thief.

Clutching the tray, and dropping a number of rings as he ran, the thief then jumped into a getaway car with two other men already inside.

According to *The Advertiser*, the shots fired had apparently only 'narrowly missed' Mr C. Binks, a business broker, and a Mr L. A. Roach, an Errol Street newsagent.

No bystanders were hurt however, and a number of them even picked up the stray rings and returned them to Leslie McMaster.

"The incident happened when there wasn't an alarm system. There weren't any silent alarms so people like jewellers, bankers, they all carried guns. And I think that continued up until the early '70s.

"We have had snatch and grabs and just even February they smashed the window. Naturally now we're alarmed and it's a little bit different.... But back then having a revolver was the way of protecting what you had."

Mr McMaster returned to his shop after the thieves had disappeared and called the police. The police arrived a few minutes later, but by then the men had escaped.

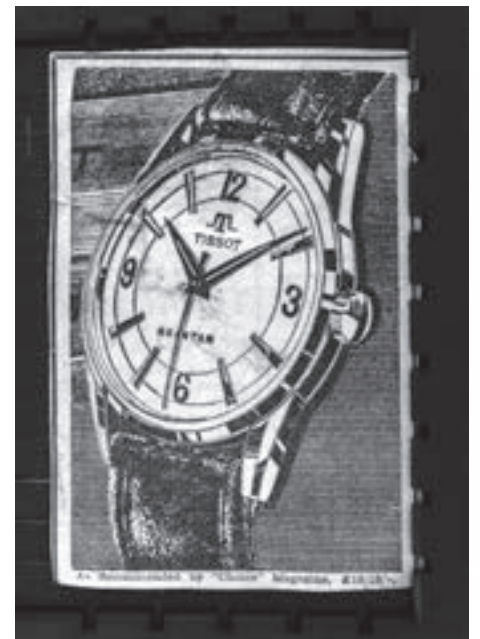
"My parents used to have a milk bar in North Melbourne in the 60s" Lucy says proudly. "I'm really proud of having the business. Although it's not in my family, I did take it... still wanting it to be like a family jeweller.

"We've had people from three or four generations coming to get their jewellery repaired. And even if they've left the area, they'll still

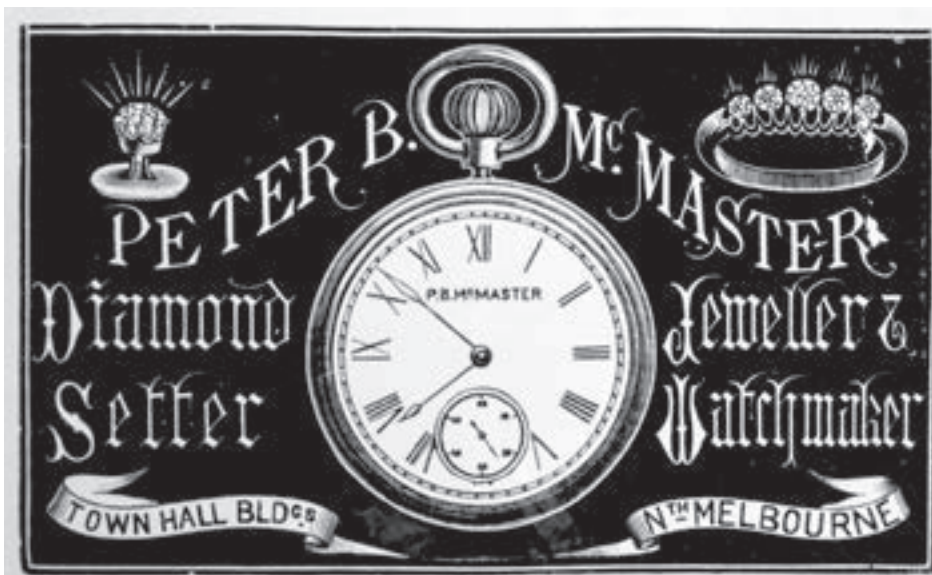
come back. So we get a lot of modelling and restoration, for people coming in and they've often still got the little McMaster's box!

"So we still have modern jewellery but we try and have as much of the old-fashioned services as possible. It's a passion and it's such a good feeling that everyone who comes through here leaves happy. It's always a special occasion."

Does anyone know if the felons were ever apprehended? Send a letter into the News if you know!



P. B. McMaster and Son made watches as well as jewellery



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The Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women North and West Melbourne sub branch

Michael Roche

A small dwelling hiding in Little Errol Street behind the Town Hall is a storehouse of information on North and West Melbourne's military history. It's the local branch of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women. On a Sunday afternoon it's also a comfortable and relaxing venue for a beverage or two. The smiling sub-branch President Barry Slocombe will be happy to take your order.

The Australian Legion's origins began in New South Wales in 1942 and two years later was firmly established in Victoria. Although the Returned Services League (RSL) had been representing returned soldiers since 1916, the Australian Legion differed in two important respects.

Unlike the RSL, The Australian Legion included women. This distinction between the two organisations continued for several decades, as the RSL did not welcome female members until 1982.

The Australian Legion also included anyone who had served in the military forces, whether based here or overseas. So for instance, military personnel at home who had provided training and instruction to soldiers could become members. The RSL, however, only represented returned soldiers who had served in overseas war zones.

Ted Lynes's history of the Australian Legion's Victorian Branch, *For All Who Serve*, highlights the importance of Legion in supporting ex-service personnel, a service which continues to this day. These organisations give members an opportunity to mix with people of similar experience and background. They offer social entertainment and interaction. They also help those who served overseas re-integrate into civilian life.

For All Who Serve notes how actively the North and West Melbourne branch has engaged members in social entertainment. Its first ever social event was a dance at the North Melbourne Town Hall on 25 September 1946.

Margaret Richards, secretary of the sub branch between 1995 and 2005, remembers the dances well. According to Margaret, they continued once a month and were put on well into the 1990s.

"I remember years ago ladies travelling in taxis as far away as Frankston to come to our dances" says Margaret.

The *Legion Journal* of August 1952 described the Sunday night concerts held by the sub branch in the North Melbourne Town Hall as "excellent". The program included commu-

nity singing, talent quests and performances by popular radio and vaudeville artists.

The first Cabaret Ball of the sub branch was held in the 6th Battalion Drill Hall, City of Melbourne Regiment, on 23 October 1959. At the next ball to be held, the *Legion Journal* reported that "The Belle of the Ball was Mrs. Iris O'Neill and Mrs. Mary Nicholls was judged Matron of the Ball. Several of the ladies dancing, who wore beautiful frocks, were ineligible for judging because they were not wearing gloves."

For All Who Serve shows the North and West sub branch dealing with the issues of the day. In November 1950 the sub branch discussed what its response should be to a letter from the Victorian Council Against Nazi Immigration. The inclination of the sub branch was to support the movement.

In April 1953 the state council of the Australian Legion expelled a North and West Melbourne sub branch member, Vic Little, for being a Communist. The sub branch protested against this decision, stating Little had always enhanced and promoted the aims and objectives of the Australian Legion.

The North and West sub branch supported its members and provided them with what we would call today a social network. Margaret remembers members travelling together in furniture vans to country picnics, and regular Australia Day weekends in Mortlake near Waramboul.

Margaret's husband Bobby Richards has fond memories too. He was the sub branch president for 25 years (1980-2005). Bobby is turning 80 this year and the Anzac Day March is now a little out of reach.

"My old legs won't carry me anymore," says Bobby.

According to Bobby, the construction of Legion's headquarters in Little Errol Street began in 1947, and it was largely constructed by volunteers.

In the 1980s the headquarters were renovated and installed with new floors, air conditioning and internal timber cladding.

The main bar area is like a museum of our military past with photographs and memorabilia covering every wall. These days it is used as a meeting place for a group of retired railway employees on the first Thursday of the month.

The Legion space is also open to the general public on a Sunday, although it is not quite as busy as days gone by. Membership had begun to decline in the 1990s.

"The kids don't want to join," says Bobby.

The members of our local Kensington RSL have also noticed a similar decline in memberships over recent years.



Sub-branch President Barry Slocomb standing with the North and West Melbourne Legion Banner
Photo: Jim Weatherill

On a grey and wet Sunday afternoon, Barry is serving beers.

There is easy listening music on the radio and football on the big screen. There is a platter of cheese, cold meats and biscuits to share. Three members stand by the bar.

"This is as busy as it gets" laughs Barry.

By late afternoon more people have filed through the doors, including a group of three locals, who dropped by after lunching at the Lithuanian Club.

They had heard about the bar through word

of mouth and wanted to check it out. They felt welcomed and were genuinely impressed.

Although its dancing days may be over, on a Sunday afternoon you can still soak up a slice of local history over a cool beverage, and chat with members of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women.

The Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women is located at 16 Little Errol Street North Melbourne. It is open to the general public on Sunday 11 am - 5 pm.

North & West Melbourne Association Inc.

Working together for the future of our community



Email: info@nwma.org.au
Post: PO Box 102
North Melbourne Vic 3051
Web: www.nwma.org.au

Who are we?

We are a group of people who live or work in North and West Melbourne, a community that is very much part of the inner-city life of Melbourne.

What are our aims?

They include:

- promoting a sense of community in our eclectic, culturally diverse neighbourhood
- protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment of the area
- enabling community contacts.

What do we do?

The NWMA represents its members by canvassing their views, concerns and proposals on issues of community interest to local, state and federal governments.

We cordially invite you to join the Association and:

- share your community concerns with us
- attend meetings
- join an interest-based group
- attend our quarterly social functions
- expand your community contacts

and, if you wish, help us to:

- monitor City of Melbourne Council agendas and minutes
- represent the Association on committees and delegations
- prepare submissions on strategic issues
- monitor planning permit applications
- promote sustainable transport and manage traffic issues
- support our internal processes, including website management.

An active community is a progressive community

Whether you have lived or worked here for many years or have just moved to North or West Melbourne, one thing you probably enjoy is the livable quality of the built environment.

The North & West Melbourne Association has worked for more than 30 years to maintain the amenity and enhance the wellbeing of residents, workers and visitors.

Please contact us if you would like to share your skills. You don't need to be an expert, just keen to be involved and be part of the team!

Supported by the City of Melbourne Community Services Grants Program



YOUTH & EDUCATION

Ordinary men, extraordinary gift

Claudio Palmeri

We live in the lucky country, a place where we all accept and respect each other’s beliefs and values, but this Anzac Day it dawned on me that this is not the case for many nations in the world.

This was definitely not the case in 1914 and 1935 in Europe.

My great-grandfather’s war medals hang with pride on my maternal grandfather’s wall. My paternal great-grandfather’s sword and medals hang on the wall as well. There are so many times I have walked past them without really thinking of the sacrifices they made for a better world.

How many times have I seen my father’s navy uniform and noticed how small it was, but never thought about what it had experienced?

How do you thank them, honor them, two men I never met, yet have heard so much about?

How do I thank my father? How do I thank my grandfathers, who told me of their experiences as children in a war without their father?

My way of honoring them is by telling you some of their story.

My great-grandfathers on both sides, Fillipo and Giorgio, both fought in the early 1900s, one in Ethiopia the other in Eritrea. They were the typical boys of their time: young and looking for adventure. They would only find death and sadness, memories that would haunt them for many years to come.

Now you would think that one such experi-

ence would be enough, but no, once again they took off to World War II, they left their young families to help those that were being invaded.

I think of the kids left behind: my grandfather, watching his teacher get shot and seeing his friend being blown up by a grenade.

There was the fear that every car that back-fired could be gunshots. There was a stench in the air of gunpowder and dead people and still people went out every day for food and water, not knowing if they, or someone they knew, was going to be shot or killed.

What makes people like this? Is it their sense of adventure or their sense of obligation? Was it a particular generation?

I think of my father, who put his life on hold to go to the Gulf war, only to come back and have to begin a new life. Unlike the war games we play today, he was living the game. Only this game had no pause button.

But let’s not forget the children, my grandparents who, at the very tender ages of 4 and 8, had their lives ripped from under them. School stopped, friends died, the smell of death surrounded them and in all of this misery they went on to love their fellow men and women, and contribute to their country in different ways.

To say I am proud of the people in my family is an understatement, to say I am proud of the strangers who went to war, that I never got to meet, is an understatement.

Young men and women put their lives on the line, and continue to do so, for the free country we live in today. For this I say we should never forget, always remember and pass their stories down through the generations to ensure they are appreciated forever.

Sudoku

The players are required to fill in the 9 x 9 square grid by using the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number.

		4		6	7		5	
		6				3		
								6
3				1				
				7	3			
				5				3
4							7	1
		3				4		
			4	9		6		

Toddler Years

Shetu Mitra

My experience as a mother when my son was two years old is summed up in this ABC poem:

ABC poetry is a short form of poetry that is normally written to show feelings. It contains five lines. You may begin your poem with any letter of the alphabet. The next three lines must follow sequence. The last line can begin with any letter of the alphabet.

Toddler Years
Pampered by all
Questions galore
Rebelling against rules
Sudden mood swings
Toddler years are a learning experience.

The Flex: new building for modern learning

Robyn Phelan

The Flex is North Melbourne Primary School’s most recent building addition.

How we teach must reflect how our students learn. It must also reflect the world our students will move into. This is a world that is rapidly changing, connecting, adapting and evolving.

The 21st century is an age of collaboration. If we look at UNESCO’s publication *Learning: The Treasure Within*, ‘The four pillars of education’, collaboration is a key element of each of the four pillars. These are: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, and learning to be (www.unesco.org/delors/fourpil.htm).

To meet these educational aims, North Melbourne Primary School utilised the federal government’s Building the Education Revolution funds to establish a flexible learning centre. *The Flex* was completed in 2012.

This two-storey building features various working areas, affectionately known as *the triangle*, *wet space*, *theatrette*, *the corner* and *the tutorial room*. These flexible spaces facilitate traditional teaching alongside open, collaborative and project-based learning for teachers and students in a stimulating shared environment.

This year, the ground floor is populated by grades 4 and 5, whilst upstairs is home to all grade 3 classes. Two articulate grade 4 students, Mija and Dusty, adore being in *The Flex* and have written convincingly of the benefits of this collaborative learning space.

The Flex or a classroom?
by Mija and Dusty
The building on the south side of North Melbourne Primary School definitely catches one’s eye. This wonder of a building is not for a lonely single class, it’s for a variety of

classes. Some spaces are open, others are closed. This is *The Flex*, first opened in 2012.

The Flex is an excellent place to work. You get to work with students and teachers who are not just in your own class. Therefore, you get to learn from different teachers and students who have different skills. With a variety of completely different workspaces, you change classroom each term as well as having the colossal open space in the middle of *The Flex*.

Hang on. We know what you’re thinking. Too many children in one space is way too noisy. Well, that’s not exactly true, so let’s get this straight. If you came in during any session except for inquiry (that’s always a bit loud because kids are collaborating, sharing ideas and working together), you could hear a needle drop. It really is that quiet.

Yet another reason why *The Flex* is a good learning space is that you can have groups at the right learning level with a range of different teachers. So, for example, say your reading was well above average, then you would go to an extension group. If your numeracy was below average you would work in a group that provided you with help where you needed it.

Now you can see why *The Flex* is an outstanding working space and why we students love to learn and work in *The Flex*.



Mija and Dusty in front of The Flex

Photo: Robyn Phelan

Top Arts 2014

Carol Lander

Selection for Top Arts at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is considered a great honour among Victoria’s Year 12 students. This year is the twentieth anniversary and the exhibition has a new title – StArt Up – to recognize the role it’s had starting career of many of Victoria’s artists.

It was refreshing to see the works displayed in a new venue this year – the Studio at the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia in Federation Square. *Top Arts* always contains excellent examples of work in many genres and media.

The Studio is on the ground floor, behind the gallery shop, and this year its sweeping entrance is filled with a sculptural work made from paper.

Once through this, Claire Kopietz’s short video, reminiscent of William Kentridge’s work, greets you with its quirky animations, inspired by the death of both her grandfathers last year.

Around the corner in the first of the two gallery spaces is Tess Saunders’s pyramid of cans, which makes reference to Andy Warhol’s paintings of Campbell’s soup tins.

The works in this gallery provide a comprehensive display of multimedia, including painting, printmaking, photography, drawing, installation, 3D imaging and a digitally-produced graphic novel.

Self-images and works exploring identity have always been common in Top Arts and this year is no exception. Given the ages of the artists, it is not surprising to find them questioning their place in the contemporary world and its preoccupation with social media.

Several of the works draw from Asian cultures, such as Aaron Orellana who produced some exquisite drawings while on holiday in Cambodia, and Darcy Whitworth whose work was inspired by her six-month exchange in Japan.

Not surprisingly for our times, there are many digital works and fewer paintings. However, it was delightful to see the large number of students demonstrating a high level of craftsmanship.

Linocuts are labour-intensive, yet Taylah Ransome’s *animal print* and Liam Barr’s *self-portrait* both show a great level of skill.

June Uili’s *Sina and the tuna* draws on Samoan mythology and is a prime example of the time and commitment required throughout the VCE year. Her delicate method involved covering sheets of paper with plaster before incising her intricate patterns to create an orange and white serpent.

One of my favourite pieces was *A sense of unity* by Suzy Saylak. From a distance the work looked like it was made of tiny pieces of wood arranged in an abstract design, but on

closer inspection I found she had used teabags, all slightly different in their shade of brown. Rosalie Gascoyne would have been delighted.

There are no students in the exhibition from the North or West of Melbourne this year but the range of schools represented is broad and from all three sectors – government, Catholic and independent.

While I have referred to several famous artists who could have inspired and informed these students in their art, each of them deserve high praise for their individuality and for being selected for StArt Up: Top Arts 2014.

StArt Up: Top Arts 2014 will be on display at the NGV Studio, Flinders Street, Federation Square from 11 April – 20 July 2014. StArt Up: Top Arts 2014 is open daily 10am – 5 pm. Admission is free.



SPORT & HEALTH

Winter yoga poses

Janine Barron & Chris Addison

We are always affected by the changes in our environment, including the seasonal ones. In winter, our health is affected but we can balance our bodies and minds with exercise, food, sleep and daily routines. Yoga is not meant to hurt or strain you, so act out these exercises carefully on carpet or a mat.

Bridge Pose
Bridge is an effective way to open your chest and calm your mind, sending fresh blood to your head and leaving you feeling revitalized and refreshed.

To begin, lie on your back with your knees bent and your feet hip-distance apart on the floor. Check the distance between your shoulders and feet by reaching for your heels, your fingertips should just touch the back of your feet.

Now begin to push your pelvis up and forward, your knees should be directly over your heels. Keep your arms extended on either side of your body with palms facing down.

There should be no serious tension or strain in your glutes when you’re lifting up your hips toward the ceiling. Be sure to keep your thighs strong and engaged in order to get those hips even higher.

Make sure you don’t look around when you’re in bridge. Your chin should be slightly lifted away from your chest while keeping your gaze forward and slightly up toward the ceiling. Hold the pose for 10 slow deep breaths.

To come down gracefully from bridge pose,

release your clasped hands and slowly bring your body back to the earth. Also, be sure keep your head facing forward until you’re all the way down.

Then grasp your knees in toward your chest for a squeeze, and roll your knees slowly from side to side for a mini-massage of your lower spine. It’s the perfect counter-pose to give your lower back some love. Do this for 30 seconds to a minute, and then release on an exhalation while rolling your spine, one vertebra at a time, onto the floor.

Plow Pose
Plow is considered therapeutic for sinusitis, but this pose might feel uncomfortable if your back or hamstrings are really tight. If so, you can always bend your knees and place them next to your ears for an easier variation.

Begin lying flat on your back on a mat or rug. Place your arms by your sides, palms facing down. Press firmly into your palms, bend your knees, and bring both legs over your head.

If you can, straighten your knees and touch your toes to the ground. Interlace your fingers and then gently rock your weight side-to-side a little, so you can bring your shoulder blades closer together.

Keep your head and neck still. Think about bringing your hips over your shoulders, and lengthening your spine as much as possible.

Stay here for 10 slow and deep breaths, then slowly bend your knees and shift your hips back down to the floor, hugging your knees into your chest. Stay here for a minute or so, letting your neck and spine adjust.



Janine Barron, studio owner and yoga teacher in ‘bridge pose’ Photo: Chris Addison



Hugh Lee, yoga teacher in ‘plow pose’ Photo: Chris Addison

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Tips and tricks: your winter survival guide

Yvette Vigor

In winter do you find you need more hours in the day to get out of bed, to dry your washing, to slow cook dinner and just to move? Fortunately we can not only reduce our anxieties about the cold winter weather, we can help prevent the dreaded flu and winter blues.

Stress
Stress in any form can significantly weaken our immune system. It is vital for you discover what helps you reduce/manage your stress levels and include it in your everyday routine. Loneliness can be very stressful, however just a few close friends can help cushion the stress of negative events. If need be, try joining a local community group to meet new friends. Sugar and caffeine can suppress and stress the immune system. Avoid sweets and alcohol, and cut out all sugar when recovering from the flu. Caffeine also causes you to excrete many nutrients that fight off illness.

Physical Activity
As the sky darkens earlier each day, it's harder to do exercise. Actually this is the best time to keep active. Not only does physical activity increase our circulation and keep us warm, it helps promote happy hormones. However, you should choose bed over strenuous activity if you are experiencing any signs of a cold or flu, as your body requires all the energy it can get to fight off the virus.

Boost your immune system
Fortunately, if your immune system is strong, you can reduce the chances of your body succumbing to the flu. Increase immune-boosting nutrients such as protein, pre and pro-biotics, essential fatty acids (such as good quality oils and nuts), vitamins A, Bs, C, D, E, and minerals (selenium, zinc, iron and copper).

Vitamin D
Vitamin D is not only essential for bone

health, it is vital for a healthy immune system, and plays a role in preventing seasonal affective disorders (SAD). Unfortunately for the southern part of Australia, the UV is at its lowest during winter, and vitamin D levels in fish and eggs aren't enough to help. You need sun exposure 2-3 hours a week on your face, hands and arms, and 3-6 times this amount is required if you have naturally dark skin.

Rest
Sleep is the most important activity you can undertake when we are sick. At the first sign of fatigue, aching muscles, swollen glands, sinus headache/congestion or a sore throat – stay home, keep warm and hydrated for at least 2-3 days. When we feel prepared, we feel like we can take on the world, or in this case survive winter. Prepare yourself and you no longer have to survive winter, but can enjoy it.

Seasonal foods high in immune-boosting nutrients			
Green vegetables	Vegetables	Animal products	Pre & probiotics
Brussel Sprouts	Carrot	Eggs	Fermented foods
Kale	Beetroot	Sardines	Miso
Spinach	Sweet potato	Salmon	Sauerkraut
Silver beet	Capsicum		Kim chi
	Fennel		Kefir
Fruit	Parsnip	Other	Unsweetened yogurt
Kiwi Fruit	Avocado	Almonds	Onion
Pineapple	Horseradish	Ginger	Garlic
Strawberries		Herbs	Bananas

POLITICS & ENVIRONMENT

June gardening tips for a winter wonderland

Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman

For me, winter in my garden is all about cleaning and clearing, which means pulling out vegetables that have died, and pruning things into shape. Since a lot of my garden is in pots, it's also the time of year to pull everything out, reassess and then re-design the garden for spring. At this time of year, my potted hydrangeas need to be clipped back and re-potted. I find that some of my potted plants have become aquaphobic (the soil repels water) over summer, so I like to get a new bag of potting mix and combine with it the old, incorporating a little bit of the worm castings from my worm farm, and re-pot them. Winter is also the time for your orchids to start blooming. Make sure to bring them out of the shade and into the winter sun. This way their bulbous bases get some direct sunlight, which encourages them to produce more flower spikes in the future. Orchids are a newfound interest for me, having been a florist in the past I have always loved them as cut flowers, but my interest grew during my time as a writer on ABC TV's Gardening Australia where I interviewed a passionate young orchid grower called Daniel. Daniel's enthusiasm for orchids was contagious, and while I find it tricky to get orchids to flower, I love a gardening challenge! Here are a few tips for growing orchids and encouraging them to flower:

- Make sure to keep the snails away
- Incorporate some shells into the orchid mix, as the calcium from the shells helps produce strong flower stems



Orchids are difficult to grow, but are beautifully colourful in winter Photo: Wikipedia Commons

- Feed them now with good quality orchid food
- Keep your fingers crossed!

I also have a few climbing roses which are best pruned in June/July, and a lovely crimson Bougainvillea. Bougainvilleas flower on new wood, so now is a great time to clip them back so you get a flood of flowers in spring and summer. In the past I have had the odd intruder jump the fence, so instead of stringing up razor wire, which has some legality issues, I planted prickly plants along my fences. It is also a great time to check your front boundary and clip everything back to your fence line so that your plants aren't inhibiting pedestrian access on the footpath. Note: when pruning things that have grown over your fence, it is the law that you only prune to 'your own' fence line. You may not like the same plants as your neighbours, but you're not allowed to prune inside their fence line. In my last article, I spoke of the vegetable disasters in my garden over summer. Well things didn't really improve over autumn. We didn't get a single tomato, but we did get some lovely eggplants, a few radishes and lots of coriander and parsley. The parsley has self-seeded, which is nice, but what should you plant now?

Things to prune and plant in winter:

- Garlic, broad beans, shallots, onions, spinach and leeks
- Herbs such as dill, mint, rosemary, thyme and coriander
- Prune your roses
- Winter is a great time to replant and re-pot plants that are dormant (leafless) over winter, it's also the best time to transplant trees and shrubs

TRAVEL & FOOD

Canadians Lawn Bowling Down Under Tour

Rosemary Walsh

On Sunday 9 March 2014, the City of Melbourne Bowls Club hosted a group of fourteen bowlers and their tour coordinator from Vancouver to a fun-filled day of bowls, excellent Aussie ‘tucker’ and some musical entertainment by local group Brave that had toes tapping in no time and the majority up on to the dance floor.

The visitors arrived at around 12.30pm in their colourful red Canadian uniforms specially designed for the tour, and the event kicked off at 1.00pm with local City of Melbourne Councillor Richard Foster officially welcoming the guests and rolling the first bowl of the day.

Two ten-end matches were played during the afternoon, with City bowlers filling in numbers for the visitors’ teams. Many had difficulty adjusting to the quirks of the City’s artificial green (the grass green having recently been replanted), but all were good sports and

joined in with enthusiasm.

When bowling finished, the socialising commenced, and both the Canadians and the City bowlers soon learned that they shared the same concept of what constitutes ‘a good time.’ Plentiful drinks, a lovely dinner (Australian lamb cooked with bush herbs and spices, and the meal finished off with Aussie lamingtons), and then the music and dancing.

The visitors even instructed their waiting bus driver to return to their accommodation without them, choosing to stay a little longer to enjoy the fun, eventually walking back. Everyone from both groups felt a little sad when the day was over and they had to say goodbye to newly made friends.

An email note received at the end of the day from tour coordinator Maryalice Golinksy said, “Thank you so very much for making today, Sunday March 9th, such a wonderful fun day packed full of laughter and memories.”

“The group was blown away that your club of 60+ people would knock themselves out to make us feel like honoured guests. The invita-



City of Melbourne Councillor, Richard Foster, officially welcoming the guests and rolling the first bowl of the day
Photo: Maryalice Golinksy

tion is open to make this happen for you when you come to Canada.”

“Maybe I’ll organize a group to come next year. What do you think? ... just know that you touched a lot of hearts today who felt your hospitality and how it reflects on our Melbourne experience ... You welcomed us with smiles, but touched our hearts!”

Enjoying market day: Port Vila to Victoria

Nancy Lane

For those of us who truly enjoy our weekly shopping excursions to the Queen Victoria Markets, we can’t imagine any place better. But here in Vanuatu, where I am working for two months as an Australian business volunteer, it’s been easy to acclimate to the Port Vila central market.

As they say in Thailand, ‘Same same, but different.’

The Queen Vic and Port Vila markets have much that is the same: open air sheds, piles of fresh fruits and vegetables and colourful vendors. The same food court; the same piles of garbage out the back.

But there are some wonderful differences that make the Port Vila market unusual.

One difference is the opening hours: not quite 24/7, but rather 24/5.5. The markets open very early Monday morning when the vendors and their products come in on local buses from their villages around the island.

They stay until Saturday lunchtime, or until their fruit and vegies are sold out, whichever comes first, and sleep at night on mats behind their market stalls.

If you need a coconut to drink at midnight, or peanuts to nibble at 3.00am, you can leave the money for your purchase or wake the vendor if you need change.

When not in use as a market on the weekend, the building doubles as a church for local religious services.

A second difference is that the vendors are not migrants – neither Greeks nor Italians, Chinese nor Vietnamese – but natives of Vanuatu, or ni-Van. They are almost all women.

The ‘mamas’, as they are called, all grow the fresh fruits, vegetables and greens near their homes. They bring to market whatever is in season and in excess of their family needs. They are all dressed in bright, colourful island dresses, similar to Hawaiian muumuus, which add an indefinable charm to the market.

A third difference is that you never quite know what fruits and vegetables you’ll find or at which stall you’ll find them. It all depends on what’s in season, and who has brought what.

There is usually no problem finding oranges, island cabbage (more like a green than a cabbage), bok choy, paw paw, bananas, taro, yam and manioc (cassava), but you have to play detective and search stall by stall for other

fruits and vegetables.

There are constantly new foods to discover. These include several types of nuts not available in Australia, such as namambe (Pacific chestnut), nangai (cannarium) and navelle.

The naus (June plum) can be eaten either ripe or green, with flesh similar to guava, and the pomelo or pamplemousse tastes like a large sweet grapefruit. Some of the other fruits only seem to have local names.

This leads to the fourth difference, the food court. Several mamas sell lunch or dinner meals at very reasonable prices (under \$5) and have a table where you can sit with other customers to eat.

Other mamas sell take away food: fried fish, chicken wings, simboro (manioc, banana, taro or yam cooked in island cabbage leaves with coconut milk), laplap (the same varieties of vegetable grated, mixed with coconut milk, wrapped in banana leaf and baked in an underground oven) and tuluk (the Vanuatu version of the Mexican tamale: flavoured mince enclosed in laplap). All are wrapped in a banana leaf to take away.

And this leads to the fifth difference, the packaging. Root vegetables are packed and sold in woven palm leaf bags. Nuts come threaded on thin stalks. Peanuts are always sold in their shells – those in small plastic bags are roasted; those in net bags are sun dried, and those still on their stalks bound with twine are fresh. If you want a plastic bag to put things in, mamas sell these as well.

I will always like the Queen Vic market best, but the Port Vila central market comes a very, very close second.

Nancy Lane teaches introductory health courses at The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne.



Exotic foods on display at Port Vila central markets, Vanuatu
Photo: Nancy Lane

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Soup of the Evening

Kashka Lantis

*‘Beautiful Soup, so rich and green,
Waiting in a hot tureen!
Who for such dainties would not stoop?
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!’
(The Mock Turtle’s song ‘Soup of the Evening’
from Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll)*

Chilly winter nights are not very popular with Australia’s sun-loving residents, however they *do* bring something that almost makes up for the cold – the opportunity to enjoy a big bowl of steaming hot soup.

The old wives’ tale that chicken soup helps a cold actually holds some truth. Studies have shown that soup not only rehydrates you, but also has the potential to ‘accelerate mucosal clearance’ (it helps reduce the sniffles).

The history of soup is probably as old as the history of cooking. The act of combining various ingredients in a large pot in order to create a filling and easily digested warming meal was an inevitable cooking technique.

We can eat soup canned, dehydrated and more recently microwave-ready, but the best version is the one made at home.

There is simply nothing better in the dead of winter than tucking into a hearty homemade soup accompanied by a thick slice of crusty bread. It’s reassuring; it’s comfort food and has been heralded for its curative properties since ancient times.

So arm yourself with a home-made stock:

Next time you finish a roast chicken, take time to simmer the carcass in a pan of water. Add a chopped carrot and onion, a stick of celery (optional), a bay leaf and other seasoning to taste. After bringing this to the boil, skim the top and then let it gently simmer for up to 5 hours.

The longer you simmer any home-made stock, the richer the final flavour will be. Stock freezes too, for future delicious soups.

Why not make a soup this winter for family or friends? Remember this winter not because of the long chilly nights but because of your warm and hearty soups. A Middle Eastern favourite called shorbat adas is a tasty red lentil soup:

- Ingredients:**
- 6 cups chicken stock
 - 1 ½ cups small red lentils
 - 3 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1 tablespoon minced garlic
 - 1 large onion, chopped
 - 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 - ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
 - ½ cup chopped cilantro (coriander, optional)
 - Squeezed lemon juice to taste
- Method:**
1. Bring chicken stock and lentils to a boil in a large saucepan over high heat, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer gently for 20 minutes.
 2. Heat olive oil in a fry pan over medium heat and stir in garlic and onion. Cook until the onion until it has softened and turned translucent, which takes about 3 minutes.
 3. Remove onion from heat and add it to the lentils. Season with cumin and cayenne and continue simmering until the lentils are tender, about 10 minutes
 4. Carefully puree the soup in a standing blender or with a stick blender until smooth. Stir in cilantro and lemon juice before serving.

A visit to old word family style

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Amiconi Hatton Restaurant’s image reflects traditional North and West Melbourne: It’s a quiet reputation, one of peace and serenity operating on old world, family style – and it feeds that family/client base well with good, bloody good food.

Sited in double-storey, solid rick at 359 Victoria Street a few doors east of Errol, it wears the name of the original owners Guy and Paula Amiconi, who sold it to their chef Michele Cardamone some 30 years ago.

And what a three-decade anniversary its owners are now celebrating: currently staffed with seven chefs under the masterful eyes of partners Joe Musso, Vincenzo Alfonso and Cardamone, their cucina Italiana is prima di qualita, or superbly fine quality, to local patrons.

Yes there are premises of permanence: staff have worked together for extensive periods, with Vince even training as Joe’s apprentice. These three know each other’s style, selectivity of meats and fish, and demanding seasonal attitudes to vegetables and fruit.

Seating 65 dinners for lunch Monday to Friday and dinner Monday to Saturday, the average cost per person for a two-course meal is also \$65, but that always includes the freshest vegetables with mains. It may also include the five-course da Vinci banquet at \$59 per person, or (almost!) a wider menu from Michelangelo’s banquet at \$69 per person.

As an admitted fan of their tastes, one recommends fasting before tackling a banquet, because two courses definitely need quiet consumption time.

Late of Republica di Pesa, these operators are proud of their heritage. They will excite your tastebuds to varying styles of bread, ciabatta, bruschetta, minestoni and/or antipasta del Giorno for starters, followed by the softest, most mouth-watering pasta. These include linguini con gamberi e pistachio – linguini tossed with tiger prawns, pistachio, rocket lettuce, fresh tomato, chilli and garlic; and risotto con pesto and funghi—Arborio rice tossed with homemade pesto, fresh mushrooms and parmesan cheese... truly luscious!

Seafoods ‘from the seas and rivers’ include Amiconi’s famous deep fried calamari fritti (or rings); mussels alla pescatore—mussels tossed in wine, tomato, garlic, shallots and basil; polpe alla griglia – baby octopus marinated and grilled with balsamic vinegar, chilli, garlic and olive oil; as well as gamberi con aglio—prawns tossed in wine, garlic, mild chilli and a light cream sauce.

Rib eye steaks with a selection of scrumptious sauces are to die for. The finest veals are prepared al limone (with lemon); ai funghi (with mushroom); alla parmigiana—

crumbed and topped with a tomato, mozzarella and basil sause; or alla arrabbiata—sautéed in brandy, topped with mild chilli, shallots, cheese and Napoli sauce.

And then there’s the chicken fillet Calabrese, formaggio and di Marco to tantalise the taste buds, delivering true pleasure. Amiconi continually aims for the top: and it has not failed to deliver any time I’ve dined there.



Amiconi sits on the corner of Victoria and Errol Streets, North Melbourne Photo: Adam Falloon



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Queenscliff, jewel of the Bellarine

Kashka Lantis

Following on from our March issue article about Geelong we explore another gem of the Bellarine Peninsula.

Since permanent settlement began in 1836, Queenscliff has undergone a number of changes, though it still remains one of the best examples of a heritage town in Victoria.

Starting out as a thriving fishing village, it soon developed into an important cargo port servicing the busy steamship trade of Port Phillip Bay.

In the second half of the 19th century, its strategic location made it an ideal command centre for an extensive range of coastal forts. These coordinated fortifications provided one of the most heavily defended harbours in the British Empire.

During this period Queenscliff also became a popular tourist destination, with visitors arriving from Melbourne on paddle-steamers, including the famous PS *Ozone*.

In 1879, a branch railway was built linking Queenscliff with Geelong, making the trek from Melbourne much quicker and easier, and cementing this area as a favourite holiday destination. During the summer months ‘The Queen of Watering Places’ attracted over 20,000 visitors, who were in search of the milder weather, the picturesque surroundings and the splendid hotels and homely guest houses.

Queenscliff boasted extensive outdoor

activities, including angling, swimming, surfing, yachting, bowling, cricket, golfing, tennis and croquet. To entertain picnic lovers the Queenscliff Band often played on the beach front, and during December and January a large carnival was held in Princess Park.

As a manageable day trip from Melbourne or a perfect short break, the Queenscliff of today holds just as much charm and holiday magic as it did over 100 years ago. If history is one of your passions you will thoroughly enjoy the grand old buildings of this heritage town.

Take a Saturday afternoon guided walk with one of the knowledgeable volunteers from the Visitor Information Centre or purchase their self-guided tour booklet. A good starting point for setting the scene is a visit to the Historical Museum in Hesse Street. This collection of varied and interesting artefacts gives visitors a very good introduction to the heritage of this gem of the Bellarine.

Also on Hesse Street is the majestic Grand Vue, the largest of the hotels built during the 1880s economic boom. From its impressive exterior to its atmospheric interiors, the original colonnaded hallway, main staircase and beautiful dining room are a must on your list of things to see.

After exploring the quaint buildings and shops of Hesse Street, follow King Street to the corner of Gellibrand Street, where Victoria’s Defence Heritage can be explored at the Fort Queenscliff Museum. The old Fort has been fully restored.

Continuing down Gellibrand Street, you will pass more beautiful historic buildings, such



Photo: Kashka Lantis

as the Ozone and the Queenscliff Hotels, both boasting lookout towers over 100 years old.

On the opposite side of the street a reserve leads down to Princess Park, where picnic-lovers enjoy the sea air and a boutique market is held on the last Sunday of the month starting in 28th September 2014.

From the park it is a short walk to the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, which explores the seafaring history of Queenscliff and southern Port Phillip. After immersing yourself in this fascinating collection you may be in need of some refreshment, which is easily found at the nearby attractive Marina precinct.

To finish your tour of the delights of Queenscliff, take the stairs (or the lift) to the top of the harbour observation tower, where you can enjoy stunning 360 degree views out to sea.

For more information to help plan your trip:
Visitor Information
www.queenscliff.org

Historical Museum
www.queenscliffe-history.org

Fort Queenscliff
www.fortqueenscliff.com.au

Queenscliffe Maritime Museum
www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au

(Please note: the spelling ‘Queenscliff’ denotes the town, while the spelling ‘Queenscliffe’ denotes the Borough that includes Port Lonsdale)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Campaign’s rebirth = republication gold

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Environmental campaigns were seemingly purer ‘in the old days’ of the 1960s and 70s. Even the 80s and early 90s were innocent, when environmental saviours appealed to a community’s mind, morals and momentum.

These battles need reawakening, as polluters again discover and develop tactics to ignore the need to preserve our resources and the old lauded campaigns that worked to protect lifestyles, society, leisure and our planet.

Australia’s environmental soul was awakened to maintain the Great Barrier Reef by the avid awareness of the 60s generation. Predominantly academics, those specialist ‘caretakers’ were joined by political strategists, sociologists, writers, artists and other ‘greenies’ in the fight to preserve our precious surroundings for themselves and future generations.

At the absolute forefront of local environmental consciousness was last century’s doyenne of Australian poetry and the astute author Judith Wright (1915-2000). Her works have bred knowledge and respect in the minds of several generations of students.

Spinifex Press has just published the third edition of Wright’s brilliant tome, *The Coral Battleground*, in paperback and ebook. It is available through major hardcopy booksellers for \$29.95 and online through www.spinifexpress.com.au.

The volume vividly documents the campaign to save the Great Barrier Reef from mining and oil drilling.

“It was the living coral of the Reef, so spectacularly beautiful in its shapes and colours, so photogenically displayed in tourist posters and advertisements, that people thought

of when they thought of the Reef – that and the fact that the Reef itself had been built by the coral polyps.”

In their preface, publishers Susan Hawthorne and Renate Klein describe Wright’s motivation.

“What is so special about the Great Barrier Reef? Both of us live near the Reef and have seen its underwater beauty. For many people perhaps a single dive or a holiday in which they snorkelled the shallow coastline ... is sufficient to make them treasure the Reef... This is what Judith Wright meant when she said, ‘the Great Barrier Reef is still the closest most people will come to Eden’.”

Wright’s already well-established environmental awareness was heightened on September 4 1969 when Brisbane’s *Courier Mail* published a map showing offshore areas along most of the state’s Pacific Ocean coastline already under title to oil prospectors.

These included Tennaco Australia Ltd and Signal (Australia) Petroleum Co; Australian Oil and Gas Corporation Ltd; Exoil No Liability and Transoil No Liability, as well as Corbelt Reef Ltd; California Asiatic Oil Company and Texaco Overseas Petroleum Co; Gulf Interstate Overseas Ltd; Ampol Exploration (Qland) Pty Ltd; Shell Development (Australia) Pty Ltd and Pacific American Oil; Amalgamated Petroleum, Phillips Australia Oil Co and Sunray DX Oil Co.

As Wright explained in her brilliant volume, “If the Queensland government had hoped that their election win would allow them to go ahead unheeded with oil drilling programmes, they were quickly corrected. We set to work with more letters to the press, demanding Commonwealth action.”

Her group wrote to the Commonwealth Government and the media, appealing for action and using the Australian Conservation Foundation’s urgent recommendation to

impose a moratorium on drilling and mining.

“We drew attention,” Wright remembered, “to the deep concerns, not only of Australians but of overseas conservation bodies (with which we had been in correspondence) that such action should be ‘immediate and effective.’”



“‘We are entirely unconvinced,’ we wrote, ‘that the present controls, either by state or Commonwealth, to safeguard the Reef, or that the penalties now in operation are sufficient to repair damage, even if any way were known of doing this.’”

“As was becoming usual, the Premier (Joh

Bjelke-Petersen) made no reply. We had expected nothing; we got nothing.”

“The press was now demanding that the state government clarify its position,” but drillers were confident, rigs were ordered and – despite PM Fraser’s statements several months earlier – the Commonwealth Government was silent.”

Metropolitan media were also now demanding the state government clarify its position on oil drilling at Repulse Bay.

One Brisbane paper’s editorial said the site was a few miles offshore near the gateway to the Whitsunday Passage, in the heart of tourist territory, and one of the world’s great unspoiled regions of beauty.

Jacobs was joined by several major international colleagues, as well as recently appointed Australian Council of Trade Unions President Bob Hawke, who used the Amalgamated Engineering Union’s government submission to prohibit mining or oil drilling on the Reef.

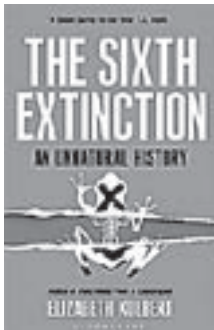
“The union black ban on drilling was spectacular and unprecedented”, Wright’s diary continues, “probably no trade union decision anywhere in the world has been more generally popular. The Trades Hall in Brisbane reported that not one of the letters and phone calls that poured in after the announcement had been anything but congratulatory.”

Yet Wright’s novel is still urgently current. The chief culprit in the deterioration of offshore marine systems, apart from oil, is myriad forms of pollution that pour into streams, rivers, estuaries and coastal seas.

Farms and cities, towns and industry – all are polluters. Tourist islands and offshore shipping all add their quota. And in Australia, including Queensland – indeed, especially Queensland – there is very little control over such pollution.

Between the Covers

Chris Saliba



The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History
By Elizabeth Kolbert
(Bloomsbury. RRP: \$29.99)

Throughout the world's 4.5 billion year history, there have been five mass extinction events. In this highly readable history, science writer for The New Yorker magazine, Elizabeth Kolbert, examines how we are now heading into a sixth mass extinction. This time, however, the extinction is happening before our eyes and it is being caused by human expansion. We are moving into animal environments, using their resources and leaving behind toxic pollution. As we continue to expand and exploit resources, biodiversity shrinks and atrophies.

Kolbert's engaging style and skill at communicates the science on extinction in a 'happily' digestible form. Her book mixes on-the-ground reportage, history, and science, creating a compelling picture of an environment under dangerous pressure. The concentration on individual species and their reduction to zero, often at the hands of greedy humans, will make you wring your hands in despair.

The Sixth Extinction is high-quality popular science that excels at communicating some of the toughest environmental issues we face today.



The Lie
By Helen Dunmore
(Hutchinson Publishing Co. RRP: \$27.99)

It is two years after the First World War and Daniel has returned to his home on the Cornish coast. He has taken over the dilapidated house of Mary Pascoe, an elderly friend of Daniel's mother who bequeathed it to him on her deathbed.

Daniel is pretty much alone in this eerie and haunting environment. He lives there, trying to fight off recurring visions of his time in the front lines, where his childhood friend Frederick was killed in the mud, filth and horror of the trenches. Frederick becomes a ghost-like apparition in Daniel's life. Daniel's one real living friend is Felicia, Frederick's sister, with whom the returned soldier hopelessly tries to piece his life back together.

The Lie is an achievement of imagination and research. Having never experienced the horror of war, Helen Dunmore does an inspired job of stepping into the shoes of Daniel and bringing his experience to life. The author, who is also a poet, brings a heightened sensibility to this portrait of a deeply damaged psyche.

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

Music Reviews

Paul Cook and Lucian Forbes

Live At Rockpalast, by BLUES PILLS

The second EP by Sweden's Blues Pills features 4 tracks captured live at Germany's now legendary Rockpalast.

While the EP opens and closes with instrumental tracks that perfectly capture the blues/rock essence of the band, it's when Elin Larsson's vocals kick in on the second track, Black Smoke, that the band truly hit their stride.

Her vocal style mirrors legendary singers Janis Joplin and Stevie Nicks, paired with a modern twist not unlike that of Stonefield vocalist Amy Findlay. The band backs her up with a contemporary blues sound incorporating nods to Hendrix, Zeppelin and even a bit of Sabbath.

This is more evident on the third track, Little Sun, where they slow things right down to lay their roots bare, giving guitarist Dorian Sorri- aux a chance to shine.

For those of you lucky enough to catch Blues Pills live late last year when they toured with Kadavar, this EP is just a case of preaching to the converted and simply filler before their debut full-length release later in the year. For those of you hearing them for the first time, check out their debut EP Devil Man and get aboard the blues train, next stop Woodstock.

Drive Home, by Steven Wilson

The painful thing about aging is that you often notice things are significantly different than they used to be all at once. This is most confronting when you realize that you have no idea what it is that kids are into these days. Easy way to avoid this? Stick to what you know. In the present diatribe, I refer to Steven Wilson's (of Porcupine Tree fame) record *Drive Home*.

When you have been in the music game as long as Steven Wilson, you obviously have access to a number of skilled session musicians and sound engineers. The product of getting all of these individuals into a room can make for dry listening. Another problem is that some of the lyrics would almost be passable if a younger man delivered them, but are highly questionable when coming from the mouth of a full-grown adult. The outcome of this is a mixed bag that is strictly for the fans.

It contains live versions and alternative edits that appeal to the aspie collector or a jerk with a 500gig mp3 player. So, if you want to discover Steve Wilson, try one of his full records. If you're a fan? You probably already have this.



Self Titled, by BAD FAMILY

As Luc Dawson's vocals kick in on the opening track, Lilac Mouth, you could easily mistake this for an early 90s release, straight out of Manchester England.

In fact, Bad Family hail from Melbourne and, while their influences are obvious (The Smiths, Stone Roses & Charlatans all come to mind), they manage to bring their own style to the party.

The cover artwork depicts an aerial shot of rows of terraced houses, perhaps to set the mood for the songs on the album. They describe their music as jangle pop, but it has more depth than that, the simple melodies could easily be the perfect soundtrack to a sunny afternoon stroll in suburbia or a dreary night having missed the last train.

As a possible coming-of-age album, this is a great debut and we can look forward to what they have to offer next.

The stand out tracks were Off To Bed and Week To Weak & Bleak, titles that aptly sum up the feel of the album. The band is currently touring to promote this release - so go along and see them live.

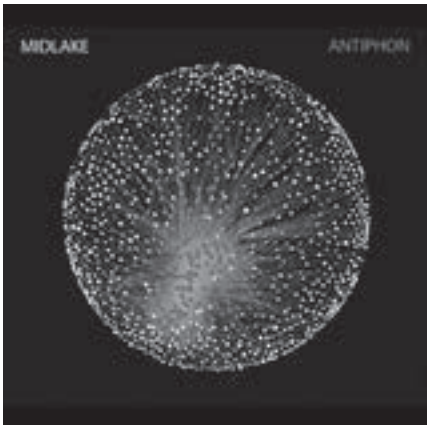


Antiphon, by Midlake

In 1979, *The Buggles* posed the hypothesis that video killed the radio star. Radio? Now we have instant access all the time. It used to be that someone whose brother was in a *Pave-ment* covers band had a bootleg of *Minutemen* and you got a cassette copy. You didn't fast forward the songs, you didn't put anything on repeat. You played that tape until the magnetic strip started to pale out. You listened to the record start to finish. These days? You can have a discography on your desktop by the time you have a shower.

And how is this relevant to *Midlake*? Well, initially their record *Antiphon* put me off. The *Fleetwood Mac* comparisons brought about a Pavlovian response to bang on the walls and secondly because the music didn't slap me in the face and demand attention.

Once I took them jogging it was a different story. Their songs summoned images of fox cubs playfully discovering an overgrown graveyard before captain freak-out chased them down a badger hole and begged to be played again. I enjoyed this record not because the songs were bangerz, rather because they were a fertile playground for an overactive imagination when played end to end.



Recent releases are available from Heartland Records, 420/422 Victoria St, North Melbourne, www.heartlandrecords.com.au.



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Galleries

Langford120
120 Langford Street, North Melbourne
www.langford120.com.au
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May 31 – June 28 (Opening May 31)
Works from Mt. Gaspard Studios:
‘The Gathering Room (The Metaphysical Room in the Landscape Series)’, works by Wendy Stavrianos
Works from Mt. Gaspard Studios: *‘Resonance’*, paintings by Craig Gough, *Gilded Lies*, works by Wilma Tabacco
July 5 – August 2 (Opening July 5)
Shades of Concealment, works by Wendy Kelly
Liquescence, works by Susan Raleigh
Politic/Pasquinade, sculptures by Peter Hannaford
August 9 – September 6 (Opening August 9)
Big Garden, installation by Jan Davis
Seeing is believing, believing is seeing: Is seeing believing?, works by Mark Spencer.
Blue works, group exhibition curated by Wilma Tabacco

Galleriesmith
170–174 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne
www.galleriesmith.com.au
Exhibitions:
June 12 – July 19
Opening drinks Friday June 13, 6pm – 8pm
Once Upon a Time, Dadang Christanto
Odalisque, Paula do Prado
July 24 – August 16
Opening drinks Friday July 25, 6pm – 8pm
SPACE POP 2000, Adam Norton
August 21 – September 27
Opening drinks Friday August 22, 6pm – 8pm
Expedition, Catherine Nelson
Drawings, Andrew Seward

Comedy

The Comic’s Lounge
26 Errol Street, North Melbourne
www.thecomicslounge.com.au
Mad Mondays with John Burgos and Doug Chappel: every Monday in June, 8pm
Professional Comedians New Material Night: every Tuesday in June, 8pm

Standup Nights
Dave Thornton: **June 4 – June 7, 8pm**
Tommy Little: **June 18 – March 21, 8pm**
Dave Callan: **June 19 – March 22, 8pm**
Entry: \$15 Monday – Thursday, \$30 Friday and Saturday

Markets

North Melbourne Market
The Lithuanian Club
44 Errol Street, North Melbourne
www.northmelbournemarket.com
A project of Thread Den. Handmade and locally designed, vintage or fair-trade crafts, with outstanding Melbourne fashion labels right alongside delicious homemade food. You can meet the maker of the item you are purchasing. Every item tells a story.
When: **June 22, 11am – 4pm**. Free entry

Queen Victoria Market
Corner of Victoria Street and Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
www.qvm.com.au
The Queen Victoria Market has just launched an additional monthly market called NEW CRAFT in the A Shed on the **first Sunday of every month 9am – 4pm**. NEW CRAFT will be Melbourne’s monthly curated art and craft market. Featuring only Victorian contemporary handmade works by more than 80 local makers. Free entry

Theatre and Performance Art Arts House
North Melbourne Town Hall, Meat Market and Warehouse
www.artshouse.com.au
LIVE WITH IT is a striking cross-arts performance experience, tracking the still present, important issue of HIV/AIDS and those who are profoundly affected by the virus.
Arts House, Meat Market July 17 – 27.

Events

Melbourne City Library
253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne
ESL Conversation Club

June 4, 10.30am – 11.30am and June 11, 10am – 11am
Practise your English language conversation skills in a relaxed social setting. For ESL speakers. Free.

Library at The Dock
107 Victoria Harbour, Promenade
Big science, big fun!
Come and have your mind blown at the Big Science Big Fun Show at Library at The Dock. Watch liquid nitrogen bubble, toilet paper fly, amazing coloured shadows appear and much, much more. This event is for school aged children. Please book places for the adults attending along with each child. **June 13, 4.30pm**. Free
Rare book week: Library at The Dock tour
The Library at The Dock is a community hub providing contemporary library and community facilities. It includes a performance space, meeting rooms, activity spaces, editing and recording studios, thus enabling people to come together to create, explore, connect, belong, learn and participate. **July 18, 11am and 2pm**. Free

Layout and Design (InDesign): **June 12, 5pm – 7pm**. Free.
Introduction to WordPress: **June 18, 5pm – 7pm**. Free.
Making Movies With iMovie: **June 23, 5pm – 7pm**. Free.
Introduction to Photoshop: **June 26, 5pm – 7pm**. Free.
Makerspace
Library at The Dock Makerspace has a wide range of programs and workshops to get you making and experimenting with electronics, 3D Printing, Craft and Robotics. These programs are designed for beginners through to advanced skill levels.
Intro to 3D Printing: **June 3 and 17, 5pm – 7pm**.
Intro to Arduino: **June 5 and 19, 5pm – 7pm**.
3D Printing Drop-in Session: **June 10 and 24, 5pm – 7pm**. Free.
Gaming
Melbourne Library Service has developed and implemented a dedicated gaming strategy to support gaming culture in their libraries. They offer the latest games and consoles for free to the public, and support independent game developers and a range of gaming styles.



Hand crafts from the North Melbourne Market Photo: courtesy of the North Melbourne Market

Studio skills
To support Library at the Dock’s professional recording studio we offer programs and workshops to help you with audio and music production. Learn about the software and hardware that can enable you to produce music, audio mastering and recording techniques, digital music production, DJ’ing and much more. **June 2, 4.30pm – 6.30pm**. Free
Digital skills workshops
Library at The Dock is offering a monthly digital skills program to help you learn and develop your creative skills. Learn how to cut and edit audio and video, digitally design and illustrate, create websites, use social media and develop your very own games. Introduction to

Their gaming program will allow people to experience and learn about the many aspects of gaming, including the latest technologies, game development and design, competitive play and community. **June 10, 11am – July 8, 1pm**. Free
For more information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/MelbourneLibraryService

Victorian Archives Centre
99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne
www.prov.vic.gov.au
Tour of the Archives – Free one hour guided tours.
June 3 and 18
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Gods, Myths and Mortals: Hellenic Museum delivers Greek antiquities to Melbourne

Jennifer Choat

Stationed in the former Royal Mint building in central Melbourne, the Hellenic Museum will soon play host to an impressive permanent collection from Greece’s renowned Benaki Museum in Athens. Chronicling the pre-historic to neo-Hellenic periods of Greek history, the exhibition will document the development of Greece’s social and cultural identity through an array of national treasures.

The key themes of myths, gods and mortality will be explored in the exhibition through jewellery, manuscripts, tools, figurines and costumes. A first for both museums, the collection will be on loan permanently in a unique 10-year agreement. It will provide over 200 pieces, each carefully selected to embody the different major Greek periods.

The collaboration between the Hellenic Museum and the Benaki, which is Greece’s oldest and largest private museum, is about connecting Greek culture and treasures with a broader audience.

Hellenic Museum CEO, John Tatoulis, has been working on the project since taking over his post in 2012.

“The partnership couldn’t have come at a better time,” says Tatoulis, “as the Benaki is looking to spread its wings into the Greek diaspora and it has recognised Melbourne as a cultural city of many Greeks and affiliates.”

Along with the permanent collection, each year a second minor exhibition from the Benaki will be showcased. These exhibitions will be time or theme specific and will focus on an aspect of the collection in further detail, such as ancient Greek jewellery or weaponry. This story-led approach is part of the museum’s new direction.

“It allows for the items to ‘take on another life’,” Tatoulis, a former media, film and televi-

sion producer, explains.

It will also include new contemporary exhibition spaces, which will be equipped with audiovisual and interactive media.

Education and building new relationships with local schools is another ongoing focus. “We want to inspire young people...there are so many connections between contemporary stories, art and literature that are based on Greek characters and stories.”

“The idea of the hero’s journey is something that dates back to the invention of ancient Greek literature. And modern cinema and television all borrow heavily from ancient Greek tragedy or mythology; it’s an insight into story telling and finding hero’s that are most relevant to use as the starting point for a dialogue to excite young minds.”

The Benaki’s fantastic educational resources will also be on offer and utilised or adapted for the Hellenic Museum’s ongoing exhibitions. Substantial planning, preparation and renovations are taking place to make the museum ready for the Benaki exhibition.

“It will be quite an undertaking and a significant process,” Tatoulis comments.

Due to the building’s heritage listing, specialist architectural consultation is needed to develop the new exhibition spaces.

Completed in 1872 by the British Royal Mint, the building was used for the production of gold coins and bronze pennies until 1931 and continued to operate until 1972.

The museum’s founder Spiros Stamoulis was an ambitious young man when he arrived in Australia from Greece. Originally an athlete, Stamoulis entered into a number of enterprises including a soft drink distribution company and successful building and manufacturing portfolios.

Very proud of his Greek heritage, Stamoulis established a Greek radio station and newspaper before approaching the government to use



Hellenic Museum CEO John Tatoulis says, “Through the collection, audiences are given the chance to explore the ideas that have contributed to how we live in society, today.”

Photo: Jennifer Choat



Silver gilt belt consisting of articulated elements and a buckle with enamel decoration. Soufli, Thrace, late 18th-early 19th c.

Image: Hellenic Museum

Fragments from the 57

Very Impressive




I’m trapped in a world of evil noise and teenagers on the 57 tram. They have orange, purple and grey shoes. There are purple shorts and red T-shirts. I’m thinking of things to do in North Melbourne. There’s so many I can think of but strangely most of them don’t exist...

Here’s one for my bucket list, I’ve never previously been inclined to actually write

one...But here’s something I’ve thought of for years, (every time I’ve been here alone, that is legion).

No. 1: Be at the Astor Theatre for the Light Bulb Change. The chandeliers descend upon pulleys. Britt The Magnificent told me about it many years ago and today’s the first time I’ve attended since March 2013. That Saint Michaels, after much community protest, are now doing a HUGELY improved job of ownership.

You may have met Very Impressive in and around North Melbourne. Very has a wealth of knowledge about bits and pieces, some of which he may even try to focus on in his column. Feel free to write in with question about the North and West Melbourne area, what you should borrow from the Library, or ask him exactly how important trees are in the big city.



V. Impressive cartoon by Ava MacMaster

the old Royal Mint site to develop a museum dedicated to the preservation of Hellenic culture.

The museum was also dedicated to his daughter Nafsika who died unexpectedly at the age of 24 while the family was together in Athens.

Mr Stamoulis’s vision for the museum was realised when it opened to the public in 2007. Sadly Mr Stamoulis passed away in the same year however his family maintains his legacy as the major benefactors of the museum.

Gods, Myths and Mortals: Greek Treasures Across the Millennia will open August 2014.

For further information see the Hellenic Museum website www.hellenic.org.au

Hellenic Museum
280 Williams Street, Melbourne, Victoria

Jennifer Choat is the Arts & Entertainment section editor for the News.

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