

Town hall to become a dedicated 'Arts House'



The four rooms at the North Melbourne Town Hall's were, until recently, available for hire by locals and groups within the local community

Photo: Adam Falloon

Adam Falloon

The Arts House management, in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, recently decided to make the North Melbourne Town Hall a dedicated arts venue with effect from January this year.

The unavoidable consequence of this is that the hall and adjoining spaces are no longer available for public hire. This has worried a number of community groups in North and West Melbourne who rely on regular use of the venue.

Arts House has been working with groups that use the space to find alternative venues to cater for their requirements.

In response to *News* enquiries, a City of Melbourne spokesperson released this official statement outlining the plan for the town hall:

"Arts House is a magnet for artists and

audiences across the city. It has grown to a size where the full use of the North Melbourne Town Hall will allow a more engaged, exciting and accessible program for artists, audiences and the community. The transition of the use of North Melbourne Town Hall to a programmed arts space supports Melbourne to be the centre for contemporary and experimental performance and interactive art."

The statement points out that there are still local spaces available for community hire, including the newly refurbished Kensington Town Hall and the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre in Carlton.

Another Arts House venue, the Meat Market, is still available for public hire. The North Melbourne Community Centre, located behind the Melrose Street shopping centre, also offers spaces for use by community groups.

Regardless of the reasons for the changes, the decision to make the town hall a dedicated

arts venue has put pressure on community groups to find other viable venues.

One such group is the Errol's Angels Community Choir. In the last two years, Errol's Angels have taken advantage of the Community Use of Town Halls Scheme (CUTHS) funding provided by the council to hire out the North Melbourne Town Hall supper room for fundraising concerts. The choir also makes use of the rehearsal room.

The choir's chairperson, Kathleen McPherson, is opposed to the changes.

"It's a very sad day when North and West Melbourne community groups no longer have access to anything at that beautiful old building that is part of North and West Melbourne's heritage."

The group was very concerned that no one notified it of these changes before they were implemented and that the website had not been updated with the information.

"We have to look for alternative venues.

What the Arts House did offer is that next year we can use the Meat Market, which comes under CUTHS funding. The only thing is that it's one space to use and the capacity is 500. Well, that's just too big ... it's huge. It's just inappropriate for us.

"The town hall shouldn't be used for just arts or the community — I think there's room for both to use it together."

The Centre's annual street festival, Spring Fling, may also be affected by this move, as the town hall is often used for activities and events.

Arts House, the organisation that currently manages the North Melbourne Town Hall, operates as an arts branch of the City of Melbourne and is a presenter and producer of contemporary arts projects.

Arts House began 10 years ago as a small arts initiative and has since grown in scope and reputation as a proud supporter of contemporary performance and interactive art.

NOTICEBOARD



The *North and West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers from North and West Melbourne and the inner city. It is now in its 36th year of production. Readers' contributions are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

Articles should be submitted by email to EditorialNWMN@centre.org.au. Please use minimal formatting and do not embed graphics in documents. Photographs should be sent separately as JPEGs.

Finance

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News subscriptions

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Volunteers

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

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World War I and Anzac Commemoration

Key citizens from North and West Melbourne's past will be the focus of displays from the Hotham History Project in George Johnson Lane during March to June.

The first will feature *Monash the Citizen*. Watch The Centre (Shop 58, Errol Street) and North Melbourne Library windows for days and times. The library will also be featuring important figures and material from its collection over the same period.

The local branch of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women and The Centre will be conducting a service and ceremony at 2.00pm on Saturday 25 April at the memorial in King and Victoria Street Reserve, West Melbourne.

North Melbourne Library Events

An interesting fact about North Melbourne Library: it is the city's oldest free public library and still operates today.

Opening hours are:

Monday to Wednesday 10.00am - 7.00pm
Thursday to Friday 10.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 2.00pm - 5.00pm

The library has much to offer, from free wi-fi to Storytimes, from online newspapers to best-sellers.

Regular programs at North Melbourne Library for children are:
Songbirds, for newborns to 18 months - Mondays and Wednesdays at 10.30am

Stompers, for 18 months to three years - Thursdays at 10.30am
Preschool Storytime, for 3-5-year-olds - Tuesdays at 10.30am
Everyone is welcome and the staff would love to see you!

North Melbourne Book Group 2015

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

18 Mar *Shy: A Memoir* Sian Prior
15 Apr *The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden* Jonas Jonasson
20 May *This House of Grief* Helen Garner
17 Jun *Adultery* Paulo Coelho

Enquiries: 9658 9700 — www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au
North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051

Annual General Meeting

Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance (IMPA) Inc.

IMPA is a non-partisan association that brings together community, professional, industry and business bodies to engage with government and other relevant bodies on the major planning changes proposed for inner Melbourne.

Date Wednesday 18 March 2015
Time 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Where Drill Hall, 26 Therry Street, Melbourne (behind the Multicultural Hub opposite Queen Victoria Market)

Speaker Professor Brendan Gleeson
Topic A conversation about Melbourne's future



Brendan Gleeson is the Director of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute and a professor of Urban Policy Studies in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne.

For further info: www.impa.org.au

Annual General Meeting

North and West Melbourne Association Inc.

The annual general meeting of the Association will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 April 2015 in the Dewey Common, Bastow Institute, 601 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne (enter from Union Street), followed by the April ordinary general meeting at about 8.00pm.

All are welcome!

Easter Services in North and West Melbourne

St Alban's, Anglican

55 Melrose Street, North Melbourne

Easter Eve Saturday 4 April 6.00pm

Sunday 5 April 10.00am Easter Service

St James' Old Cathedral, Anglican

Corner King & Batman streets, West Melbourne (opposite

Flagstaff Gardens)

3 April 10.00am Good Friday Passion Reading

5 April 10.00am Easter Sunday Holy Communion

St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic

Corner Victoria & Howard streets, West Melbourne

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) 29 March 10.30am Sunday Mass; 12.00 noon Sunday Mass (in Lithuanian) - Blessed palms will be distributed at each Mass

Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 March 12.30pm Weekday Mass

Wednesday 1 April 12.30pm Weekday Mass; 8.30pm Tenebrae, prayers by candlelight in church

Holy Thursday 2 April 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 3 April 10.30am Stations of the Cross; 3.00pm

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 4 April 8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 5 April 10.30am Mass of Easter; 12.00 noon

Lithuanian Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday 12 April 10.30am Sunday Mass;

12.00 noon Sunday Mass (in Lithuanian); 1.30pm Divine Mercy

Devotions begin

St Mary's, Anglican

Corner Queensberry & Howard streets, North Melbourne

Palm Sunday 29 March 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Sung

Eucharist with Procession; 8.00pm Tenebrae

Thursday 2 April 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Friday 3 April 10.00am Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday 4 April 9.00pm Great Paschal Vigil

Sunday 5 April (Easter Day) 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Sung

Eucharist

St Michael's, Catholic

456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne

Holy Thursday 2 April 5.00pm

Good Friday 3 April 3.30pm

Holy Saturday 4 April 6.30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 5 April 10.15am

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic

Corner Canning & Dryburgh streets, North Melbourne

Saturday 11 April 6.00pm Paschal Matins and Blessing of Easter Baskets

Sunday 12 April 10.00am Divine Liturgy

The Eighth Day (a Baptist Community)

4 Miller Street, West Melbourne (corner Curzon & Miller streets)

Easter Sunday 5 April 5.30pm

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist

51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne

The congregation meets in the church hall, 4 Elm Street

Palm Sunday 29 March 10.00am The Passion of St Mark:

Readings, Songs and Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7.30pm Eucharist, Foot washing

Good Friday 3 April 10.00am

Saturday 4 April (Easter Vigil) 8.00pm The New Fire, Eucharist

Easter Day Sunday 5 April 10.00am Eucharist

St Mary's Anglican Church and Kindergarten Fair

Corner Queensberry & Howard streets, North Melbourne

Saturday 2 May, 10.00am to 2.00pm

Stock up on your year's supply of delicious homemade preserves. We have a wide range of second-hand books. There's plenty for the children including clothes and toys, and wonderful entertainment including face-painting, games and pony rides. Also crafts, bric-a-brac, home-grown produce and plants and a great array of cakes and other baked goods.

Handmade scarecrow for sale!

Relax over Devonshire tea and ribbon sandwiches.

Come along and bring your friends to this great family day!

Annual General Meeting

Residents About Integrated Development (RAiD@3051) Inc.

Date Wednesday 25 March 2015

Time AGM will start at 6.30pm and conclude at 8.00pm (doors open 6.00pm)

Where North Melbourne Recreation Centre, 204 Arden Street, in the Auditorium, Level 1

Speakers

Ms Leanne Hodyl, Coordinator - City Plans and Policy, Melbourne City Council

Councillor Rohan Leppert, Melbourne City Council

COMMUNITY

RMH volunteers are from all walks of life

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Saintly behaviour certainly shines in Melbourne town, the current measures being truth, dedication to the care of others and gentle, knowing smiles to ease others' pain and trauma.

These saints are uniformed — like most other hospital workers — but not in white or surgical blue; Melbourne Health volunteers announce their presence in bright red shirts blazoned with contrasting slashes of bright blue. These uniforms are ideal for attracting wayward visitors, hesitant outpatients and medical or nursing staff seeking someone to spend extra comfort time with their patients.

Melbourne Health has between 300 and 400 volunteers working its Royal Melbourne Hospital site on Grattan Street, Parkville, many of those also working at its Royal Park Rehabilitation Campus at the other end of the suburb.

These dedicated volunteers “may be aged anywhere from 18 to 100,” according to MH promotional materials. They must also “commit their time weekly for a minimum 12-month period with enthusiasm and a willing attitude.”

MH volunteers complement professional health care by enhancing the comfort and well-being of patients, their families and their friends. They are rostered to assist in numerous hospital departments.

Volunteers are initially assessed by MH's volunteer services manager to provide help according to their time availability, skills and preferences, but there are never enough to meet Melbourne's rapidly growing health care demands. The most needed volunteers work as ward assistants in general medicine, aged care and rehabilitation at either or both campuses.

Prospective volunteers undergo an interview process, provide two current referees, undergo a Victoria Police check and, depending on placement, a Working With Children check by the Victorian Department of Justice. They then attend MH's Volunteer Service Training and Orientation program, with ongoing training provided as needed to support their individual roles.

Almost uniformly MH volunteers praise the return benefits for their weekly efforts with the cross-section of North and West Melburnians who access Melbourne Health facilities.

“We know that each and every day we're here we are truly aiding people who often critically need that helping hand from an outsider they'll probably never see again,” says Clair Herft, an 82-year-old Sri Lankan pastoral carer. Volunteering each Monday and Friday, Mr Herft began work at RMH on 5 January 1983.

“I worked in Medical Records for the first

15 years of my retirement, then moved across to Pastoral Care because people seemed to trust me.”

That's no surprise: like so many of his younger — and older — colleagues, Clair Herft is a truly gentle listener, providing Christian sustenance, Catholic communion, daily papers, refreshments and measured support for the dozens of patients he may visit during a shift.

“Like one lady — let's call her ‘Anne’ — who was here for surgery some 10 years ago now,” he remembers, carefully preserving her identity along with the precious memory.

“This lady was terribly upset, but it wasn't just due to her medical condition. She was still grieving because her son had died some years before when he was a small child, just four years old.

“It had taken her some time to trust me to tell me of this deep concern, but I completely understood her pain because we also lost our son when he was aged four years. For anyone, losing a child is terrible,” he says, looking away.

But the strength of the Herft clan is inspirational; a true example of the undaunted determination of immigrant Aussies. The family arrived here in 1972.

“We had six children and there was a degree of difficulty getting work. My wife was a senior maths teacher, but her qualifications were not recognised here. After retraining she eventually taught at our local Catholic primary school.”

There is no doubt MH volunteers fully relate to patient concerns. They are drawn from a wide range of socio-economic sectors, with occupations that include former nurses — both male and female — teachers, bankers, expert tradespeople, food merchants, salespeople, the odd lawyer or architect, and an even odder reporter, each truly humbled by their tasks.

Like 27-year-old Filipino nurse Joan Pesigan, who is retraining to practise here while volunteering at the RMH, which she loves.

“I've wanted to do it ever since I began nursing at Bethlehem Hospital in Caulfield, some two and a half years ago. They had volunteers there and I noticed the worth of the work they did spending time with patients, visitors and organisationally.

“Here at Royal Melbourne we have library trolleys, for which we always need good, relatively new books, and refreshment trolleys — I work with one of those — and people are quite grateful we have that service.”

Joan's deep brown eyes shine as she talks.

“Volunteering with patients allows far more personal time with them, because you're not concentrating on the medical side, although patient recovery is still the main purpose of

everyone who works here, even the vols!”

Nurse Pesigan finds her volunteering role so beneficial that she intends to continue after her course finishes at the end of June.

Yet another pair of glorious brown eyes belongs to Nazih Salama, 75, from Egypt, who is now in his fifth year on the wards at RMH. Like many volunteers everywhere, Nazih donates his time and skills, “because I'd like to give back to the country that helped me here when I arrived 46 years ago”.

Nazih works as a hospital guide on Wednesdays and in the emergency department on Fridays, as well as checking tea and coffee stocks for the refreshment trolleys. These blanket supplies “ease whatever anxieties patients may have” during their visit.

This former Cairo pharmacist and maths/science teacher in Australia is supremely equipped for his voluntary tasks separating pharmacy ampoules, sorting clerical forms and assisting with meal deliveries.

“In my teaching career I became acting as-

sistant principal at Upfield Secondary College during 1990 and '91, then Lalor Secondary College from 1993 to '99 inclusive till retirement.

“But I haven't retired completely,” he says, noting some schools had staffing problems securing biology and chemistry teachers, so he was proud of principals' reports acknowledging his work tutoring their students to achieve good final passes.

Far from retiring, Nazih also supervises Saturday language classes at Roxburgh Park's Victorian School of Languages. He says this desire to help people means his effort comes naturally, which may explain his grateful delivery of MH work in return for the hospital's life-saving care when he was admitted with a severe asthma attack in 1969.

These volunteers know the golden rule: What goes around comes around.



Joan Pesigan volunteers while retraining as a nurse

Photo: Jim Weatherill



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Anzac Day

Caitlin Wood

Tremors do not fade away
We feel you every Anzac Day
Although you are buried in the ground
Of the Old Lands so far away
Your courage and memory will resound
Each year on Anzac Day

Young men and boys, they signed up
A bonzer chance to sail away
To the lands of chivalry and the *Arabian Nights*
On the farm? Who'd want to stay?
We remember you on Anzac Day

Oh, to see the land of childhood tales
To die would be an awfully big adventure
Guns and mud and mates all 'round
The land of history and culture
Youth will know you on Anzac Day

Between the trenches they run like hell
Feel safer underground
Eating bully beef and a treat from home
To be found by my loved one
Our hearts are with you on Anzac Day

The dead and the living in the trenches
All soldiers side by side
To live will be an awfully big adventure
For the 'Heads' they must abide
We respect you on Anzac Day

Blood and guts and bone blown everywhere
From bombs hurled from the other side
No better over there
Stench of bodies in the trenches
Flares light up No Man's Land
We grieve for you on Anzac Day

In 1915 it stopped for a while
A truce
To collect the dead, and stop to pray
Still, war raged on three more years
'Til those left could say G'day
Courageous men on Anzac Day

From golden lads with ruddy faces
To battle hardened men
We shall never say goodbye
To our evanesced kin
We say a prayer for you on Anzac Day
Our Men with God, Amen

Sudoku

Your answers may differ to what is shown here. To check that you have completed it correctly, simply make sure that each row, column and square have the numbers 1 to 9 - if so you've done it right!

					6		7	
	7		9		4		3	
4								1
3		6						
		2	8		1	9		
						1		5
1								7
	3		5		8		9	
	5		4					

Last issue's puzzle

9	5	7	6	3	2	1	4	8
8	2	3	1	5	4	6	9	7
1	4	6	8	7	9	2	5	3
3	1	8	9	4	1	7	2	5
4	6	2	5	8	7	3	1	9
5	7	9	2	1	3	8	6	4
6	3	4	7	9	1	5	8	2
7	8	1	4	2	5	9	3	6
2	9	5	1	6	8	4	7	1

Light Up service for children with special needs

Emily Payne

St. Mary's Anglican Church has announced a new service designed for the strengths of children with sensory and related challenges. Parents of children with special needs often find that nurturing the spiritual growth of their children is a challenge, as religious organisations struggle to meet a diversity of needs

within their regular programs. The 'Light Up!' service is the result of collaboration between clergy of the parish and an occupational therapist with significant experience in this area. The service focuses on calming sensory experiences for relaxation, the telling of the gospel story through pictures, and creative expressions such as art, dance, and movement as prayer and reflection. While the service has a Christian focus, all

are welcome regardless of faith commitment. This is a new initiative and participants are exploring how experiences like these can nurture their spirituality. The service is structured to flow naturally but flexibly according to the needs of the day. There are visual prompts to guide worshippers through the service. Children's sensory needs are important in this program and movement is an integral part of the activities. Light Up! is held from 3.00pm – 4.00pm on

the second Sunday of every month, followed by refreshments. St. Mary's is at the corner of Howard and Queensberry Streets, North Melbourne. For further information, please contact the Revd. Emily Payne at curate@stmarys.org.au or visit the 'Light Up!' Facebook page at [facebook.com/lightupatstmarys](https://www.facebook.com/lightupatstmarys)

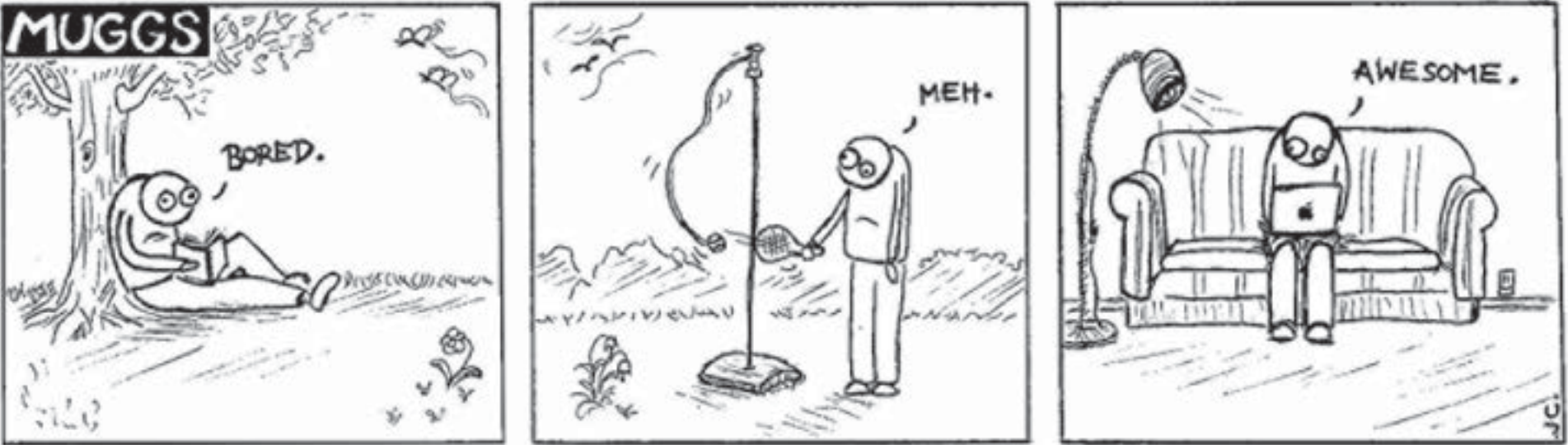




Illustration: Jennifer Choat



DENTURES

New Full / Partial Dentures
Metal Framed Partial Dentures
Implant Retained Dentures
Repairs / Relines
Mouthguards
Maintenance



Premier Health Partners

Dental Prosthetist Sam Robertson is treating patients every Thursday at Premier Health Partners
Ground Floor, 491-495 King Street, West Melbourne (corner Rosslyn Street)

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9329 7077

*** Bring this advert in for a 10% discount off any price quoted ***

Dental Prosthetist Sam Robertson is now available for appointments every Thursday at Premier Health Partners, Ground Floor, 491-495 King Street, West Melbourne.


Sam's qualifications allow him to treat patients and provide the following services directly to the public:

- New Full / Partial Dentures
- Metal framed Partial Dentures
- Implant retained Dentures
- Repairs / Relines
- Mouthguards
- Maintenance to current Dentures

All private health funds are accepted, with facilities on site for all possible claiming. Government forms are accepted as well (Victorian Denture Scheme, Vet Affairs).

With continual professional development and improvements being made in the industry, Sam prides himself on constantly seeking the latest in technology and materials to improve the quality of the products he can provide to his patients.

For a **free initial consultation** call Premier Health Partners on **9329 7077** to make an appointment to see Sam.





North and West Melbourne Association

Michael Halls

Congratulations to all the businesses, services and agencies in Errol Street for the celebratory atmosphere created by your Christmas window displays. Extra special congratulations to Kitchen Capers who took out the first prize in the Christmas is Coming Window Competition.

We appreciate the hard task of judging undertaken by Councillor Beverley Pinder-Mortimer. Ace Antiques was runner up and Con-tours Travel took third prize. The end-of-year marketing campaign also included the NWM-PA joining with the Errol's Angels Community Choir and The Centre and Metropolitan Fire Brigade to provide a great evening of Christmas carols with Santa. His arrival on the fire engine was a great treat!

It's a new year and the NWM-PA is working hard to develop a strong promotional program for traders. By the time this information hits the press the first Business 2 Business Breakfast will have occurred with presenter Sophia Healy, communications manager at the City of Melbourne. Ms Healy will be speaking on how to access free City of Melbourne marketing opportunities, including practical examples from other local businesses.

The NWM-PA has two further breakfasts under consideration which will hopefully be hosted in the market end of Victoria Street and a further one in West Melbourne. Members of the committee are also working on

- the development of a give-away business directory for the precinct
- the updating of our website www.north-westmelbourne.com.au/

As advance notice, the Association is obliged to adopt new rules since the government introduced the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act* in 2012. Our rules date from 2000 and must be updated at the AGM this year. We plan to adopt the recommended 'model rules' with changes to make it relevant for the NWM-PA.

The City has advised that the 2015 small business grants are open.

Round 1 opens Monday 16 February and closes Monday 16 March

Round 2 opens Monday 13 July and closes Monday 10 August

www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/enterprisemelbourne/BusinessSupport/grantssponsorship/grants/Pages/BusinessGrants.aspx

Our calendar for the next quarter of the year includes:

MARCH

Precinct Committee meeting 19 March 7.30am
B2B Networking breakfast

APRIL

International Comedy Festival – Traders' promotional activities
Precinct Committee meeting
Submission for Lord Mayor's Commendations
Anzac Day 100th anniversary with Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women

MAY

Precinct Committee meeting
B2B Networking breakfast
Melbourne Jazz Fringe Festival – Traders' promotional activities

JUNE

Precinct Committee meeting
EOFY campaign – Winter Fest

The NWM-PA is actively recruiting new members. We seek to have all local businesses as part of a drive to reinvigorate our business districts in North and West Melbourne. Led by Julie Phillips, one of the owners of the Courthouse Hotel, the Association has a larger and energetic new committee which covers a range of businesses from Flemington Road to the edge of Docklands.

Membership of the Association is open to individuals, partnerships and corporate bodies that carry on a business in the North and West Melbourne districts of the City of Melbourne. The entrance fee is \$60 for the current financial year.

Contact us at northwestmelbourneprecinct@gmail.com or through NWM-PA secretary Loan Nguyen at North Melbourne Podiatry 9328 3733.

Update on Baptist Church development site

On 29 January, VCAT held a mediation session between residents and The Eighth Day Baptist Community Property Ltd. The local residents attended, while the development company was represented by a barrister and a solicitor.

No compromises were made and the mediation ended with no changes to the development plan. The matter will now be heard by VCAT on 10 March.

The Eighth Day Baptist Community Property Ltd have made a submission to VCAT to remove four of the conditions the Melbourne City Council imposed:

(1) Remove the requirement to finish site decontamination as required by the EPA under environmental protection laws where soil is contaminated with carcinogens; (2) remove the glazing of the stairwell at the western end; (3) remove the requirement that all affordable housing be located above the function hall; and (4) remove some restrictions on the trading hours of the convenience store.

Residents will be asking VCAT to consider the strict conditions of use that were defined in the original Crown grant of the land. The land was granted free on the condition that it be "to provide a site for a church or place of worship ... and for no other purposes whatsoever".

The Crown grant went further, specifying that the land reverted to the state if the conditions of use were violated. The *Transfer of Land Act* protects the state's interests, including gold and mineral rights, through legislation which enforces that all conditions set out in Crown grants apply to all future holders of the land.

We are encouraging residents to attend the VCAT hearing as observers, to show local community concern about this development proposal. The hearing is scheduled over four or five days from Tuesday 10 March.

Residents have been fundraising for legal representation at VCAT. Donations can be made to the CBA, BSB 063158, account number 10392436. For more details and updates, see www.nwmelbourne.com.

Other West Melbourne developments

Since our last report to the *News* we are still awaiting outcomes from our objections to the massive changes proposed for the Australia

Post site on Rosslyn, Adderley and Dudley streets and to the 14-storey tower proposed for Railway Place next to North Melbourne Station (109–129 Ireland Street).

It appears that expressions of interest in apartments are being sought at the former and, at the latter, drilling to assess foundations has taken place. Both these possible developments are seen as transformational for West Melbourne.

On a more positive note, we have been working with the Urban Landscapes staff at Melbourne City Council on the design of a new park in the vicinity of the former Railway Hotel, which we believe will improve the amenity of the area.

Benefits will be the creation of a substantial grassed area; new trees to shield the new apartments from Dynon Road traffic; closure of Laurens Street at Miller Street and the road between the northern end of Anderson and Stawell streets to through traffic, which at present includes heavy industrial vehicles; and landscaping of the boundary with the railway land to the west.

A pleasant, safer area will be the result. Part of the new park will be beneath the Dynon Road bridge, an area that lends itself to future community recreational use.

NWMA annual general meeting, other meetings and contact points

Ordinary general meetings take place at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Dewey Common, Bastow Institute, 601 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne (enter from Union Street on the west side of the building). Everyone is welcome.

The 2015 annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 April at 7.30pm, followed by the April ordinary general meeting at approximately 8.00pm. The Association will be accepting membership renewals and applications for new membership and a new committee will be elected.

You will find more information on the NWMA website, www.nwma.org.au, or please email info@nwma.org.au.



West Melbourne Baptist Church, built 1866, with ancillary buildings including a lecture hall

Photo: West Melbourne Baptist Church

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Who will fight for our neighbourhood?

Megan Cusack

The existence of community groups who are able to vocalise a community’s current and future needs and a commitment to protecting the unique charm of a neighbourhood is more important than ever before.

Since 2011, North Melbourne has been inundated with planning applications that fail to take into consideration the additional pressures that large-scale developments exert on already oversubscribed social infrastructure.

Residents About Integrated Development (RAID) was established in response to the proposed 56-metre-high Woolworths development on the corner of Vaughan Terrace and Canning Street (opposite the dog park on Macaulay Road).

Since its inception, RAID has worked closely with neighbours to present a united voice to the City of Melbourne and developers, highlighting how these dense developments neglect to incorporate measures to ensure successful integration into our community.

RAID’s focus is to:

- Monitor the Woolworths development
- Assess the implications of developments on the Melbourne Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and Arden–Macaulay Structure Plan
- 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 matters.

Protecting Gardiner Reserve from overshadowing, and ensuring that the overall height of structures in the Haines Street and Shiel Street area is in line with the current amenity, are priorities for RAID in the first quarter of this year.

This precinct is at risk of overdevelopment with irreversible consequences following two planning applications (TP-2014-419 and TP-2014-955) for Haines Street comprising 10- and 13-storey developments, lodged just before Christmas.

These are in addition to the six-storey development at 1 Shiel Street (TP-2014-115) that has already been approved and an eight-storey development at 3–5 Shiel Street (TP-2014-1068) which will be publicly advertised in the coming weeks.

If these developments proceed in their current form it will result in a total of 277 apartments and 217 car parks in a total area of approximately 4100 square metres.

The immediate impacts of these dense developments in this small residential area will be the overshadowing of the highly utilised Gardiner Reserve (the only public playground in North Melbourne), pressure on the local traffic network, reduction in on-street parking for current residents and considerable stress on existing services such as North Melbourne Primary School (Errol Street), which is already accommodating twice the number of students it was designed for.

RAID will lobby the City of Melbourne, in particular the councillors, in an effort to influence their decision on these developments — seeking an outcome that is more respectful of our community.



Development applications in Haines Street and Shiel Street Graphic: RAID@3051

There is still time for you to voice your objection to these developments by writing to planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au or to your local councillors. Further information about the grounds on which RAID has objected to these developments can be found at www.3051-integrated.com and Facebook pages *RAID* and *Save Gardiner Reserve*.

While RAID continues to present the views of the North Melbourne community, we always seek the support of the people we represent. Our annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 March at 6.00pm in the Theatre at the North Melbourne Recreation Centre, 204 Arden Street, if you wish to hear more about the work we are doing and our future vision.

Alternatively, you can join our mailing list to receive information about our progress and how you can object to any further applications or follow us on Facebook for notice of campaigns and rallies in which you can participate.

Connect to RAID@3051

For further information about RAID, or to become a member, email 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](https://twitter.com/Raid3051)

Santa and his trusty fire truck join in on Christmas carolling

Pamela Every

It was 11 December and throughout the town there was carolling and festivities all around.

Not to be outdone, Santa arrived in a big red fire engine — much more practical than a sleigh in our Victorian summers — to greet the children.

Errol’s Angels, the local North Melbourne community choir were carolling to their audience when the man with the big white beard stepped down from the truck to greet the audience.

Song sheets were handed out to the audience so they could join in as the choir moved along the street.

The end-of-the-year celebrations continued at the Three Crowns Hotel.

Errol’s Angels would like to thank the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association for promoting and supporting such a wonderful community event.

New Errol’s Angels members are always welcome. All you need is an enthusiasm for singing!

The choir meets Thursday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm during school terms at the Maternal and Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne.

For further information visit www.errolsangels.com or call Kath on 0408 564 213.



Errol’s Angels gather outside the Centre to wait for Santa Photo: Jim Weatherill

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An opportunity for local people to shape E-Gate

Janet Graham

Connecting Docklands to West Melbourne with a large green open space across the proposed E-Gate development is a key objective for local community association Western Connection.

The group was formed last year by West Melbourne residents to address some of the major issues affecting the area, including poor access between West Melbourne and Docklands, a lack of parkland in the area and the increase in diesel trains operating along Railway Place since completion of the Regional Rail Link.

“Docklands and West Melbourne share an industrial past, but now both suburbs are being transformed into medium- to high-density urban areas,” says Western Connection chairperson Anthony McKee.

“The problem is that we have built a lot of high-rise buildings and apartments without giving proper thought to the corresponding need for more local amenities, open space and better connections to other areas.”

The E-Gate site is a 22-hectare parcel of industrial land between Docklands and West Melbourne. The Victorian Government is now seeking tenders for its development, which currently envisages 10,000 residents and 50,000 square metres of commercial space for this new suburb.

“We believe more consideration needs to be given to how this will impact on the surrounding communities, and the city as a whole,” Anthony says.

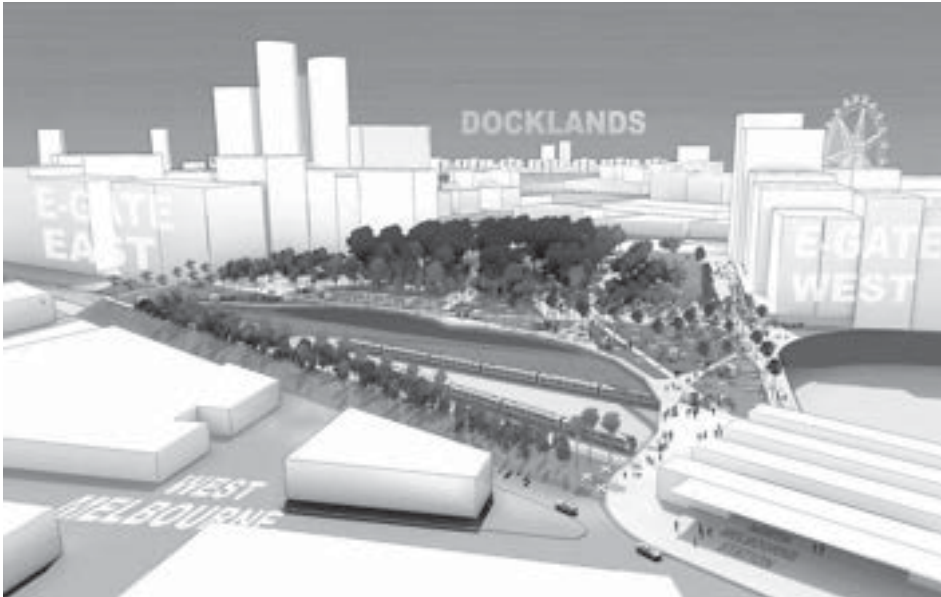
The government’s current plan for E-Gate has a large open space located along the Moonee Ponds Creek at the CityLink end of the development. There are also plans to connect North Melbourne Station to E-Gate with a walkway, but this will need to rise several metres above the Regional Rail Link flyover.

The Western Connection proposal is to move the flyover away from Railway Place and closer to Southern Cross Station. This would reduce the impact of train noise on both E-Gate and West Melbourne residents.

With the overpass moved back, it would then be possible to put walkways directly across from the foot of Hawke Street and from between Abbotsford Street and North Melbourne Station onto open parkland and plaza.

In Western Connection’s plan, the green space and walkways could extend over Footscray Road to enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross from West Melbourne into Docklands without having to negotiate busy roads.

Anthony sees the proposed development of E-Gate as an opportunity to resolve some of the key problems affecting this corner of the city, including the isolation of Docklands.



An alternative, greener plan for E-Gate Image: Western Connection

“A lot of businesses in Docklands are struggling,” he notes. “Making open space central to E-Gate will not only provide a community hub in this part of the city, it will also make it a lot easier for residents in North and West Melbourne to access the waterfront.”

Members of Western Connection have already discussed their ideas with Melbourne city councillors and are hoping to meet soon with the new Planning Minister, the Hon Richard Wynne.

Anthony encourages West Melbourne and North Melbourne residents to familiarise themselves with the E-Gate development and to start discussing the Western Connection proposal.

“I think local people have a real opportunity to shape this development,” he says. “E-Gate is the last piece of the jigsaw for inner Melbourne and it’s important that we get it right.”

For more information visit www.westernconnection.org.au

Budget rallies: Fair Go for Pensioners

Carole Lander

Life can be tough for people living on any kind of pension. The increasing costs for essential services and public transport are stretching the public purse to bursting point.

The population of North and West Melbourne is diverse and as such we have a wide range of incomes and many residents rely on social services. We have yet to see if the new Victorian state government will improve the lot of single parents, aged pensioners and the unemployed.

An organisation that has been fighting for the rights of pensioners and other welfare recipients is the Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition Inc. (FGFP). The FGFP is now in its seventh year and is an advocate for those living at or below the poverty line.

Each year FGFP holds rallies that draw attention to key issues related to income, poverty and disadvantage. Vice president Lew Wheeler describes these as “a powerful means of fighting against the savage cuts to pensioners’ living standards by state and federal governments.”

The first FGFP rally for this year will take place on Wednesday 20 May 2015, following the release of the May 2015-16 state and federal budgets. The rally aims to highlight gains and losses for pensioners, single parents, the unemployed and other low income groups’ claims. Anyone with an interest in social welfare is encouraged to come along.

The FGFP was established following a meeting convened by the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV). The organisations involved considered a draft Statement of Claims and how they could work together to achieve shared goals. Some of these

organisations were already undertaking separate initiatives to improve the quality of life of older people on low incomes.

In 2007, for example, the Greek community organised and held a successful rally outside the Victorian State Library to highlight the financial hardship suffered by pensioners.

Two organisations of retired union members — the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) and the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Veterans — were discussing strategies to build a coalition of organisations supporting such an agenda.

The Council of the Ageing, Victoria (now COTA Victoria) was deeply involved in policy development and action at state and national levels on a wide range of issues including disadvantage and discrimination, retirement income, grandparenting, health and aged care, housing and transport.

These three groups (ECCV, retired union

members and COTA) combined to form Fair Go For Pensioners (FGFP) in 2007. They presented a case for pension reform to parliamentary members of all major parties. In 2009 a national body was formed.

In 2013, FGFP in Victoria broadened its base to cover single parents with dependent children and unemployed workers and their families as well as aged pensioners. Also, in that year they accepted individuals as members.

The FGFP achievements to date have been substantial. They include significant increases to the single age and disability pensions (2009), year-round electricity concessions in Victoria (2011) and free public transport on Saturdays for holders of the Victorian Seniors Card (2012).

For more information and to get involved visit www.fgfpcoalition.com

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FGFP Justice For Pensioners rally in front of the State Library Photo: Gino Iannazzo

Hispanic style in North and West Melbourne

Nancy Lane

If Johnston Street in Fitzroy is Melbourne's 'metropolitan centre' of Hispanic culture, then North and West Melbourne is its 'inner suburb'. We sport a Mexican restaurant, a Latin American travel agency and gift shop, and two Spanish-language playgroups, as well as many local residents whose first language is Spanish.

El Sabor Mexican Grill & Bar (*sabor* means taste or flavour) opened in July 2013, in the Victoria Street premises formerly occupied by the Libertine French restaurant. The owner, Dhi Vig, has lived in Australia for 17 years and has travelled extensively throughout Mexico.

Mexican food has been one of his favourite cuisines ever since he worked on cruise ships, where staff used to cook Mexican food for the cruise parties. He started the restaurant with a Mexican business partner from Puebla and together they devised an authentic menu.

Their specialities include both food and drink. Tamales, which are made of cornmeal dough enclosing spicy minced meat, are wrapped in corn husks and steamed. The fish tacos, which use soft rather than crisp tortillas, are very popular. Dessert favourites include churros and homemade corn cake, which is gluten-free.

Modelo Especial and Pacifico are El Sabor's best-selling Mexican beers, but customers also enjoy tasting the Jarritos (the 'J' is pronounced with an 'H' sound) soft drinks. These come in novel flavours such as guava, grapefruit, pineapple and mandarin.

Red wine sangria is a staple. Another hit is Tommy's margarita, which contains agave tequila and lime juice, served over ice and shaken. "It's not the usual slushy style," says Dhi.

The ambience is very Mexican — from the soft orange walls to the wide-brimmed sombreros hanging on the banister to the colourful paintings depicting the annual Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations.

El Sabor offers both a nine- and seven-course degustation menu, and it can cater for private events in its upstairs function room. Last year the restaurant was featured on Channel 10's food and wine series.

About three months ago El Sabor started a home delivery service for the local suburbs. "Last Sunday night was crazy," says Dhi. "We did 35 deliveries."

Further down Victoria Street towards the market is Contours Travel, which specialises in tours to Mexico, the Caribbean, Cuba and Central and South America. The company has been established for 40 years and has been at its current location since 2005.

The owner, Ted Dziadkiewicz, first explored

South America as an overland bus driver in the mid-1970s. Since then he has been back more than 100 times. Ted specialises in small-group tours of between six and 16 travellers.

"Our goal is to visit the region in a less intrusive and more sensitive way, which allows us to connect with people and places on an intimate scale," says Ted. "Rather than just looking at the scenery, we try to provide a genuine understanding of the region and its people."

Contours employ 10 staff members, all of whom are experienced in Latin American travel and share Ted's passion for the region. They enjoy planning tours for individuals or special-interest groups, such as wine or cooking tours, bird watching or photography. In a nutshell, Ted says: "Superficial travel is not for us."

Contours Travel supports a number of community projects in Latin America and provides opportunities for travellers to visit rural communities and see those projects in action. The Agua Pura project, a joint project with the Rotary Club of North Melbourne, was featured in the June 2014 issue of the *News*.

Also part of the business is Los Andes the Latin store, which imports high-quality, one-of-a-kind *hecho a mano* (handmade) products such as scarves, ceramics and jewellery. The shop also offers a wide range of maps and books on the region.

"We tailor travel to your interests, budget and timeframe," says Ted. "If you're thinking Latin America, come in and have a chat."

The two Spanish-language playgroups meet at the other end of North Melbourne, at the Maternal and Child Health Centre on Abbotsford Street. The groups meet in alternate weeks; one caters for three to five-years-olds, and the other to toddlers two years and younger.

The first group started a few years ago and originally met at the Spanish Club in Fitzroy. One of the organisers, Remedios Sanchez, got in touch with Playgroup Victoria to find a location that catered more for children.

"The staff at Playgroup Victoria were fantastic," says Reme. "They helped us find the location in North Melbourne, and everyone is happy with it." The venue accommodates about 12 children per group, and both groups are full at the moment.

When the group meets, the children have a chance to play, then sing songs in Spanish and listen to books read to them in Spanish. During term breaks the group sometimes schedules other activities such as barbecues or trips to the zoo.

"The parents always converse in Spanish," says Reme, "and although we encourage the children to speak Spanish with each other, we don't force them to."



Tacos are to Mexico what the meat pie is to Australia

Photo: courtesy El Sabor

El Sabor Mexican Grill & Bar

500 Victoria Street, North Melbourne
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Contours Travel and Los Andes the Latin store

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Contours website: www.contourstravel.com.au/
Los Andes website: www.losandes.com.au/

Spanish-speaking playgroups

Meet on alternate Saturdays 10.30am – 12noon
Maternal and Child Health Centre
505 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne
To locate a playgroup, contact
Playgroup Australia, phone 1800 171 882

Los Andes gift shop imports handwoven scarves from Latin America

Photo: Nancy Lane

"And it's not just the mums who come," he adds. "Lately we've had more dads who bring the children." Families come from a range of suburbs — Yarraville, Coburg and Preston as well as North Melbourne.

"But just here in North Melbourne I know of at least six Spanish-speaking families

including ours," says Reme. "Three have both parents from Spanish-speaking countries, while the other three have one Spanish-speaking and one Australian parent."

So if you hear people speaking Spanish in your neighbourhood, smile and greet them with "Hola" (pronounced 'oh lah').




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Sir John Monash: a West Melbourne lad

Bill Hannan

On Foundation Sunday, 25 January 1920, a group of noted Melbourne citizens gathered round the tomb of John Batman, Melbourne’s founder. They were protesting in the strongest possible terms against a decision that the tomb, and the Old Cemetery it was part of, would be covered by a vegetable market. The gathering held that the plan was a desecration. Colonel Dr Springthorpe, reported *The Argus*, declared he would rather be a carnivorous animal for the rest of his days than eat vegetables which had come off that sacred soil.

Of all the protesters, none was more noted than Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash, who chaired the meeting claiming a special right as a citizen of Melbourne. “I was born in Dudley Street,” he said, “less than 150 yards from the spot where we are assembled.”

The house he was referring to in Dudley Street, West Melbourne, is number 58. John Monash was born there on 27 June 1865. By 1920 he had become, in the opinion of many, the greatest of Australia’s engineers

and soldiers and in his remaining 11 years would add yet more to his extraordinary accomplishments.

58 Dudley Street is still easy to find. It is at one end of a row of four Victorian terrace houses that had been built as rental properties three years before John was born.

The terrace (Nos 58–64) was named Rich Hill Terrace when it was built. At that time, places were often identified by name, and numbers were less predictable. Rich Hill Terrace was built for John Harbison, an Irish migrant who had been in Melbourne since 1849 and had become quite a public figure.

Having profited from the affluence of the gold rush years and become a property owner, Harbison was first a councillor (1860), but moved up to be elected to the colony’s Legislative Assembly representing West Melbourne (1864) and North Melbourne (1866).

The Flagstaff Gardens over the road were reserved as parkland in the year Rich Hill Terrace was built. Choosing this site was an astute move on the part of its owner.

The houses seem typical of Victorian terrace

rows in nearby West and North Melbourne even though they were built earlier than many. This is probably because they would have been restyled in the 1880s in the then popular Italianate style. Since that time they have remained largely intact.

Early life of John Monash

John was born in 1865 and had two younger sisters, Mathilde and Louise. Like many Australians then and in later generations, John and his sisters grew up in a bilingual migrant family. In an entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Geoffrey Serle records that their parents, who were of Jewish families from Prussia, had good English and that John knew German but not Yiddish.

Their father, Louis Monasch, had come to Melbourne in January 1854 on the *Johan Cesar*. He was 23 and it was the year in which Melbourne was to get its first university, the State Library and Museum and *The Age* newspaper.

When he was naturalised in 1856, Louis changed the spelling of his family name to Monash. Some seven years later he took a

trip to Europe, married Berthe Manasse, and returned with her to Melbourne where he had already been a successful businessman.

By 1869, Louis’s Melbourne business was struggling so the family moved away from West Melbourne to Jerilderie in the southern Riverina in New South Wales.

There the young John met Ned Kelly, but not on the occasion when Ned held the town up, because by then his mother had returned to Melbourne with her children, determined to educate them. John went to Scotch College, and subsequently to Melbourne University, where he would one day be vice-chancellor.

Although he did not return to West Melbourne to live, like many of us Sir John Monash, as he was to become, retained a strong loyalty to the place where he was born. Interestingly, the Old Cemetery cause that evoked this loyalty has never been fully resolved and the adequate protection of the remaining area has strong supporters amongst us today.

Bill Hannan is a member of the Hotham History Project.

At home and school in (North and) West Melbourne

Janet Graham and Lorraine Siska

One Saturday last November about 50 Hotham History Project members and friends gathered outside St Mary Star of the Sea to take a nostalgic walk along the streets of West Melbourne.

Many had attended the King Street Primary School in the late 1940s and 1950s when their families lived in the area. Led by Lorraine Siska, who had a trolley-load of photograph albums compiled from books and individual records, the party stopped at houses and sites that held memories for these (former) residents.

In Dudley Street we learned how the kids of yore would catch frogs, tadpoles and yabbies in a pond that covered a large part of the low-lying area of Flagstaff Gardens facing William Street. This pond had been filled in by the mid-1950s and was replaced by a shallow wading pool where the children’s playground is now.

Bill Liddy told the tale of his King Street school friend Nicky Simpson dragging a cornet (of the musical kind) out of the pond in the ‘Flaggies’ when the boys were fishing for

yabbies in 1947. Nicky later gave the cornet to Bill’s younger brother, Max, then aged five, in 1952. Could this have been what sparked Bill’s interest in jazz and his later taking up of the trombone?

During and after World War II there were air-raid shelters in Flagstaff Gardens. There were also air-raid shelters in the King Street school yard.

Rae Nicholls said that when her family, the Quinns, first came to Melbourne from Adelaide they lived in a rented room in Dudley Street. Being very poor, the family’s first Christmas dinner consisted of mussels collected from the nearby docks below Dudley Flats.

Number 25 Walsh Street is a former home of the Barbaro family, who emigrated from Italy in the 1920s. Marie Alafaci, in her biography *Savage Cows and Cabbage Leaves*, wrote about the lives of her aunt Carmela and her family in West Melbourne coping with the hardships of immigration and the effects of the Great Depression.

“Do you remember how they used to herd sheep down the middle of King Street?” someone asked. A few did, recalling this as an

exciting highlight in their young lives.

Participants in the walk remembered their childhood in this area as a happy one, although many — especially girls — had strict limits imposed on them as to how far they could roam beyond their immediate neighbourhood.

Outside the 1867–69 bluestone houses on the corner of Stanley and Chetwynd streets, Ted Meyer described the trek he and his eight siblings used to make from the cramped bedrooms down the stairs and along the lane to the outdoor toilet next to the front of the house. The bluestone kept the houses cool in summer and cold in winter, he said.

The walk ended at the old West Melbourne School No. 1689 in King Street, which is now the Salvation Army’s Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation. Manager Katrina Nguyen and the chaplain, David, welcomed the group and gave us a tour of the facilities. Many of the rooms and architectural features were still familiar to those who had spent so much of their childhood there.


The centre’s staff kindly provided afternoon tea — much appreciated after a two-hour hike in the hot sun.



Pat Green (nee Hamilton) shares her reminiscences of growing up in the Flagstaff Gardens area. As a child, Pat lived at 70 Dudley Street (now a legal office) with her grandparents, mother and brother.

Photo: Janet Graham

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Five-year-old Max Liddy tries out a cornet salvaged from the Flagstaff Gardens pond in 1947, the year he was born

Photo: Bill Liddy

COMMUNITY

Melbourne's expansion into the west

Anna Gerraty

These photos are visual recordings of Melbourne's westward expansion out of the Hoddle Grid, and of the Boom period of the 1880s. By this time, many English nationals and Melburnians called the city 'Marvellous Melbourne' because everyone was so proud of how fast it had been built and how grand it was.

Many factories were being established, creating a lot of harsh, difficult jobs for the scores of immigrants and the poor. Housing was

being erected in significant volumes from the 1870s to late 1880s.

This was caused partly by property development and house-flipping being done by investors and brazen capitalists. But most of the urban expansion of North and West Melbourne was due to the rapid expansion of the building industry, the Carlton United Brewery and a population boom that made Melbourne the most populous city in Australia.

All of these issues forced working poor people to live near their places of employment. After riots and demands for less sub-human treatment, North and West Melbourne grew into an

artisans' housing area, with subsidised housing for a range of craftspeople and tradespeople.

North and West Melbourne are laden with clues revealing the social structure of Melbourne's expanding population. What is interesting is how genteel and self-conscious the suburb became, despite its rough beginnings, occasionally rough nature and fast-tracked development. Some far richer, middle-class merchants, developers and capitalists also set themselves up in North and West Melbourne.

Today, the massive contrast in these local demographics is still very discernible in the layout and architecture of the area.

Contemporary North Melbourne continues to be a place that accommodates a wide cross-section of people quite effectively. These photographs show the variations of architecture that immortalise the social development and class disparities. Despite this area being known for its massive working-class population, it has actually been a fairly socially diverse precinct of Melbourne since its beginning.

Anna Gerraty is a Melbourne-based architecture student and artist with an interest in history. You can find more of her work at www.etsy.com/au/shop/akgphotog.



Left: Cottages share a brick wall in Queensberry Street. Workers' cottages were the first Australian socially conscious housing projects. Workers' cottages were needed to house artisans who couldn't afford typical rents.



The terraces in Capel Street are all built in the same way: wide, with shared walls and cheap cast iron balustrades for the balconies. They may have been part of Alex Cooper's property development ventures. Cooper was a successful land boomer, or real estate developer of the Boom period.



These opulent terrace houses were built in 1881 in Capel Street, near Queensberry Street. They were made for high-ranking families and also people who had struck gold and decided to splurge on housing.

Left: These properties in Eades Place, West Melbourne, are heritage listed, but in need of repair. The parapet is inscribed with the date 1884.



Shoreham House is larger than all the other terrace houses, and towers over everything. This is a fascinating example of Boom period architecture.



A solid bluestone masonry building on the corner of Chetwynd and Stanley streets. The location, the multiple windows and sturdy construction suggest this is a pub or inn, dating back to 1870 or earlier. This is mainly a workers' establishment, and possibly a bit rough for the middle class patrons down the road. Masonry of this quality and volume was only used when it was absolutely necessary, due to the laboriousness of stone cutting and laying. It acts as fire protection as well as protection from violent intruders.



This strip of cottages in Errol Street is small, but intricately designed and solidly built. The burgeoning building industry heavily subsidised the construction and even the rents of workers and artisans' cottages by the 1880s. One of the distinguishing marks of these cottages is that they are architecturally very impressive despite their modest proportions. The people who lived in them were bricklayers, glassblowers, potters, metalworkers, boilermakers, carpenters and so on.



This house in Chetwynd Street is the grandest on the block. It has intricate acanthus moulding and a highly decorated neoclassical parapet, with eucalyptus moulding. This is fantastic, as Australian decoration in housing is rare among our imported architectural styles and details.

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66 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
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Arts House Meat Market
5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Tel: (03) 9329 9966

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



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



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Time: Fourth Tuesday monthly
9.30am – 4pm
Meeting Point: Docklands Hub **NEW**
Time: Fourth Monday monthly
9.30am – 4pm

Discovery Walks – Art, Architecture and History Walking Group

Time: Fourth Tuesday monthly
10am – 11am
Cost: \$3 per session
Meeting Point: 58 Errol St, North Melb

Drop-in Morning Teas

Cost: \$3 per session
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Time: First Tuesday monthly
10.30am – 12 noon
Venue: Kensington Town Hall **NEW**
Time: Second Tuesday monthly#
10.30am – 12 noon
Venue: Docklands Hub **NEW**
Time: Third Monday monthly#
10.30am – 12 noon

Errol's Angels Community Choir

Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm
Membership: \$160 / \$100 concession*
Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre,
505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne

Volunteer Program

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

- Spring Fling, second Sunday in October annually
- Writing and editing *NWM News*
- Tutoring or teachers aide
- Office and business administration

Time: Must enter into a regular commitment
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Ready, Steady – Walk Docklands

Self-guided tour using QR code reader technology (assisted)
Time: Any day
Cost: \$5 refundable material deposit per session
Meeting Point: Docklands Hub

Wonder Walks

Time: Any day quarterly,
usually 10am – 2pm
Cost: \$30, includes afternoon tea
Meeting Point: 58 Errol St, North Melb

FOUNDATION SKILLS

ABC English for Business

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

Adventure Book Club for Fathers and Sons

Grade 5 and 6 boys plus fathers
Time: Two hours monthly
Cost: \$153 per term
Venue: 58 Errol St and excursions

Global Homework Program

Primary (Grades 4 and 5)
Time: Wednesday 3.30 – 5.30pm
Secondary (Grades 7–12)
Time: Tuesday 4pm – 6pm
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession*
Venue: North Melbourne Library
Open (Grades 4–10)
Time: Thursday 3.30 – 5pm
Cost: Free to City of Hobsons Bay residents
Venue: Hobsons Bay Altona Library

Job Readiness / Vocational Preparation Program

Time: Thursday 9.30am – 3pm
Cost: \$133 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Time: Tuesday 9.30am – 12 noon
Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession*
Venue: Kensington Town Hall **NEW**

Financial Literacy

Time: TBA, in conjunction with Wingate Avenue Community Centre
Cost: Free for concession card holders, others \$55
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Event Management Short Course

Time: Monthly and term options available
Cost: \$237 / \$188 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Food Handling OR First Aid Short Courses

Time: 9am – 4pm quarterly
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession*
Dates: 10 April, 10 July, 2 October, 15 December
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Job Readiness / Vocational Preparation Program

Time: Thursday 9.30am – 3pm
Cost: \$133 / \$105 concession*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Time: Tuesday 9.30am – 12 noon
Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession*
Venue: Kensington Town Hall **NEW**

Project Management for Beginners

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$184 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Certificate IV in Frontline Management (BSB40812) / Diploma of Management (BSB51107)

Time: Wednesday 6pm – 9pm
(10 sessions)
Cost: \$1295 / \$375 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne,
or Kensington Town Hall **NEW**

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE40110)

Time: Monday 6pm – 9pm
(11 sessions)
Cost: \$1595 / \$375 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Upgrade to TAE40110 from old BSZ40198 and TAA40104

One-day workshop
Time: Wednesday 9am – 4pm
Cost: \$475
Date: 8 April
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Teachers Aide Work

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

Introduction to Mental Health

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$237 / \$188 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Special Needs

One-day workshop
Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$250
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

INFORMATION, DIGITAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

Computer Skills: First Steps

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

Computer Skills: One Step Further

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

Computer Skills: INTEL Easy Steps

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

Open Door

Cost: Free to those sleeping rough

Job Seeker Skills

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm

Basic Skills

Time: Friday 1pm – 2pm
Venue: Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation

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
(four sessions)

Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Photoshop and Your Photography

Time: Thursday 10am – 12 noon
or 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$133 / \$90 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne,
or Kensington Town Hall **NEW**
or Docklands Hub **NEW**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Active at Any Age

Time: First Tuesday monthly#
10am – 12 noon
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession*
Venue: Kensington Town Hall **NEW**

Time: Second and third Tuesday monthly
10am – 12 noon
Cost: Free/subsidised to June 2015#
Venue: North Melbourne Library
Time: Third Monday monthly
10am – 12 noon
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession*
Venue: Docklands Hub **NEW**

Yoga

Time: Monday 6pm – 7.30pm
Cost: \$165 / \$125 concession*
Venue: Arts House Meat Market

Introduction to Health Studies

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

Introduction to Mental Health

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$237 / \$188 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Pilates:

Introduction to Pilates

Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm

Beginners Plus

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

Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm

Antenatal Pilates

Time: Thursday 7.30 – 8.30pm
(five sessions)
Cost: \$185 / \$135 concession*
Venue: Arts House Meat Market

Yoga for Kids#

Time: Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm
Cost: \$115 / \$100 concession*
Venue: The Legion in Little Errol Street

ART AND CRAFT

Art and Craft: Create and Communicate

Time: Thursday 10am – 12 noon
or 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne,
or Kensington Town Hall **NEW**
or Docklands Hub **NEW**

Art Heroes (Primary – Grades 4–6)#

Time: Monday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Cost: \$133 / \$111 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Art Warriors (Preschool – Grade 4)#

Times: Monday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Tuesday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Cost: \$133 / \$111 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Creative Industries Short Courses Photoshop or Introduction to Media and Printing

Times: Various
Cost: \$133 / \$90 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Exploring Calligraphy

Time: Tuesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
(eight sessions)
Cost: \$200 / \$115 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Photoshop and Your Photography

Time: Thursday 10am – 12 noon
or 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$133 / \$90 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne,
or Kensington Town Hall **NEW**
or Docklands Hub **NEW**

INC PARTNER PROGRAMS**

Certificates in General Education for Adults
Certificates in English as a Second or Additional Language
Certificate III in Children's Services
Certificates in Kitchen Operations/Hospitality
Certificate in Vocational Preparation

* subject to conditions

subject to staff–student ratios

** subject to demand

The Global Homework Program goes west

Frances McMillan

We are very pleased to announce that the Global Homework Program has extended its reach beyond North Melbourne.

We have gone west and successfully established the program in the Altona North Community Library.

A number of discussions and consultations with Altona North Library staff as well as the local primary and secondary schools there stressed the need for the program in the western suburbs. This is due to the high number of refugees and recently arrived CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) students in the area, who have few options available to meet their needs for homework support.

Because of this, we all made an agreement. The Centre agreed to provide a coordinator, all administrative support and reporting as well as the recruiting and training of volunteer tutors for the new Altona North program.

The Altona North Library has provided the venue, access to computers and all photocopy-

ing and printing needed for classes. A new initiative taken by the library is the Shared Energy Contribution Scheme, which enables local council staff members to volunteer in the program.

The program started in May of last year in Altona North and was held one night a week with 14 students from year 4 to year 9. By the end of the year it had expanded to 22 students, including a ‘Year 6 Transition to Secondary School’ group, and all participants (students, volunteer tutors and library staff) agreed that it was a resounding success.

The students took to the program like ducks to water.

Every week they rushed in with enthusiasm and got started on their tasks immediately. Students fully embraced the principles and practices of the program right down to the Healthy Snack Preparation initiative, the learning challenges and also the raffle.

A dedicated team of volunteer tutors meant that the students were well supported and connected through consistent relationships and sound educational advice. We saw the students continue to grow and improve in their learn-



A busy session at the Global Homework Program, Altona North Community Library
Photo: Source supplied

ing, self-confidence and personal resilience.

The Centre acknowledges that the Global Homework Program is successful in North Melbourne and Altona North because of the hard work, dedication and commitment of its staff as well as through the support of staff at

the libraries, our exceptional volunteers and last, but not least, the eager students who come every week and their families.

We will always be happy to grow and change to meet the learning needs of the children in North Melbourne and beyond!

Biryani recipe

A family recipe that feeds 8–10 people

by Andriyas Tello

Ingredients

- 1kg Basmati rice
- 1kg chicken breast
- 1kg beef mince
- 500g sultanas
- 3 brown onions
- 4 potatoes
- ½ bunch parsley
- 500g frozen peas
- 500g chopped almonds
- 2 tbs olive oil

Seasoning

Turmeric, salt, pepper, 1 tsp chicken stock powder

Method

1. Cook rice until soft, adding 1 tsp turmeric, and set to one side.
2. Season the chicken breast with salt and pepper and then fry until cooked all the way through (no pink bits).
3. Shred the chicken into strips with your fingers.
4. Thinly slice half an onion.
5. Finely dice remaining onion and the parsley and add it to the beef mince, then add



6. salt, pepper, olive oil and chicken stock powder and mix thoroughly.
7. Make the mince into small meatballs and fry or bake in oven til brown (WARNING: do not overcook, remove while still slightly moist).
8. Defrost the peas in a separate bowl.
9. Slice the remaining onions, and peel and cut the potatoes into small cubes.
10. Caramelize the onions in a pan and then add the potato, sultanas and chopped almonds. The sultanas should be puffy and the almonds should be brown by the time this is done.
11. Once everything is cooked combine all ingredients with the rice.
12. Serve with salad or yoghurt.

OPINION

Lost Dogs’ Home deserves our support

Jennifer Cook

The recent media hysteria and unfair criticism levelled at the administration and operations of our local Lost Dogs’ Home by animal activists and others, with cries for a government inquiry, has led to much-needed public financial support being withdrawn from this amazing and caring organisation, placing it in an invidious position. Its administration and staff have also been traumatised unnecessarily.

Let’s place these issues in context. The use of euthanasia procedures on animals that face many health problems or do not meet social criteria for adoption would be minimised if animal owners took responsibility for their pets. Having them de-sexed would prevent unwanted puppies and kittens being born. Some owners even abandon their pets when the task of looking after them becomes too onerous. Animal welfare organisations do not have the capacity to house the resulting population numbers.

One hundred years on, this historic organisation has moved with the times. It has a new state-of-the-art veterinary clinic with

caring and well-qualified clinicians and its welfare work is exemplary. Recognising the importance of professional development, it has upgraded staff qualifications for personnel at all levels of engagement.

As a long-term supporter, on all my visits over the years with our dogs for veterinary assistance and for tours of the wonderful facilities I have been very impressed.

I urge members of our local community to rally behind the Lost Dogs’ Home and support it morally as well as financially.



Illustration: Adam Falloon

URBAN VILLAGE

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Whether you have lived or worked here for many years or have just moved to the area, one thing you probably enjoy is the liveable quality of the built environment. The North and West Melbourne Association has worked for more than 30 years to maintain the amenity and enhance the wellbeing of residents, workers and visitors. We are a group of people who live or work in North and West Melbourne, a community that is very much a part of the inner-city life of Melbourne. We represent our members by canvassing their views, concerns and proposals on issues of community interest to local, state and federal government. Join us to work together for the future of our community. We meet once a month on the third Tuesday, and everyone is welcome.

www.nwma.org.au

info@nwma.org.au

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[NorthAndWestMelbourneAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/NorthAndWestMelbourneAssociation)

PO Box 102 North Melbourne 3051

Walk your hound and lose a pound

Debra Mayrhofer

People with dogs tend to be healthier and happier than those without, and one of the reasons is that they are often more physically active, according to Lort Smith veterinarian Dr Samara Rao.

“The benefits include a stronger heart, lower blood pressure, more energy, denser bones and a lower risk of depression,” says Dr Rao. “In dogs, regular walks can also reduce common behaviour problems.”

While exercising with your dog is a great way to have quality time with your pooch and to get some cardiovascular benefits, Dr Rao suggests you follow these safety tips.

Before starting an exercise program, make sure you are both physically fit enough to handle it

Dogs should be evaluated by a veterinarian before starting an exercise program. Your vet will advise you of the type of walking or running that suits your dog, according to its age, breed, weight, general health and joint conditions. You should also assess your own health profile before beginning.

Be flexible with your expectations

Dogs are not designed for sustained running. In the wild, they tend to hunt using relatively short bursts of speed, so even with fit dogs you should intersperse running with periods of walking.

With older or smaller dogs, running might not be feasible at all, but walking, in moderation, will do you both good. Older dogs may have good days and bad days, so be guided by how they seem to be feeling, not by a predetermined exercise program.

Consider your dog’s breed

Some breeds are better equipped for harder exercise than others. Greyhounds may do better with shorter sprints while working breeds may have a higher endurance. Small dogs are quite prone to knee problems, so always take it easy with them.

Get your dog used to staying to one side of you the entire time

Dogs that dart about and change sides are hazardous to you and can also hurt their throats if they lunge on the leash.

Adapt to the conditions around you

Be mindful of not overheating (either you or your dog). Heatstroke is extremely dangerous

and the middle of the day brings the added risk of your dog burning its paws on hot pavements. If you need to go out when it is warmer, keep a close eye on your dog and have plenty of recovery breaks and drinking opportunities.

Never ride your bike or rollerskate with your dog

Yes, people do it, but neither of these forms of exercise really suits dogs, unless you make frequent stops, and both carry the added risk of falling.

Read your dog

Always keep an eye on your dog and watch for any signs of exhaustion, pain, soreness, excessive panting or breathing distress. Brachycephalic or short-faced breeds, such as bulldogs and boxers, are especially vulnerable because they do not pant efficiently. Dogs are so keen to please us and to spend time with us that they will push themselves beyond their safety limits, so it is your responsibility to watch out for them.

Always do a post-run or post-walk check

Run your hands over the dog to check for soreness and make sure there are no cuts or prickles in the paws. If you have been through

grassy or bushland areas, check the fur for ticks and burrs. Make sure your dog has access to plenty of cool water and give him or her time to rest sufficiently between exercise sessions.

In the swim

Swimming is a great all-in-one workout for people and dogs, especially those with arthritis.

“It’s low-impact, so it’s easy on the joints, yet it works various muscle groups, improves endurance and strengthens the heart and lungs,” says Dr Rao.

“Dogs swim less efficiently than we do, so be careful not to overdo it,” she advises.

“Some dogs are good swimmers and take to it easily. Others will need longer to get used to it. Remember, the point of the exercise is for you both to have fun!”



Photo: Jacqui Boyd

Staying healthy and grounded with yoga

Janine Barron and Chris Addison

Many everyday things make us worry and sometimes life can feel too overwhelming. When we feel overwhelmed like this, we can feel safer and more secure by adopting familiar practices that can help us through life’s turbulences.

A yoga practice is useful as it provides comfort through the stability it offers. The following three basic yogic principles are about taking yoga off the mat and into our daily lives — where it *really* matters.

Physical practice

There are benefits of yoga poses (*asanas*) in strengthening the muscular and skeletal systems, but the benefits of a physical yoga practice affect the subtle body as well.

When we engage in core work like the Boat Pose (*Navasana*), we not only strengthen our abdominal muscles, but we also activate the solar plexus chakra, our place of personal power and confidence. When we feel unsteady, uncertain or indecisive, we can engage in a little extra core work for a physical and mental boost.

We can’t heal the world by doing crunches, but we can enhance our personal power and strength so that we have the stamina to participate actively in all aspects of our lives.

Breathing

Breath is the essence of yoga, and for good reason. This is the system of our body that is both voluntary and involuntary — giving it an almost mystical quality in the eyes of ancient practitioners. From a scientific standpoint, the power of the breath helps a person navigate the major branches of the autonomic nervous system: sympathetic and parasympathetic.

By controlling our breath (our *prana*), we are positively affecting our system’s reactions. We learn to self-regulate. By taking deep diaphragmatic breaths in a moment of anxiety, we activate the parasympathetic system that tells our mind all is well. This activation takes us out of a reactive state by stimulating the sympathetic system.

By working with our breath, we learn to calm our minds and, from here, we feel internal peace and equanimity in the face of external chaos.

Meditation

Doctors and yogis alike recommend meditation — it helps to strengthen our awareness and build a sense of calm. But how many of us actually set time aside every day to meditate?

Thankfully there are many ways to practise awareness, the fundamental aspect of meditation, in daily activities and events.

For instance, when lying in bed at night we can focus our attention on our pulse in each fingertip. This engages the *dharana* (the sixth limb of yoga), which is our concentration. If the mind is concentrated on perceiving a pulse in the pinkie fingertip, then the mind is fully present. A big part of our ability to feel safe and peaceful is the knowledge that there is always the safe haven of our present mind that we can rely upon to go to.

So, instead of simply hiding from life, we can participate mindfully and presently in the events of our lives, and take comfort in knowing that yoga can help us feel grounded. When we can find a way to access that inner peace, it will inevitably expand. Find inner peace and grounding in all aspects of your life and notice how much happier you feel.



Meditation on the rooftop at The Yoga Place
Photo: Chris Addison

Janine Barron and Chris Addison manage The Yoga Place at 203 Victoria Street, West Melbourne.



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POLITICS & ENVIRONMENT

Local doctor, local MP discuss Medicare changes

Ezme Webb

The Federal Government promises to be more consultative in its process to change Medicare, but remains committed to removing the universality of Australia's healthcare system.

A yet-to-pass measure from last year's budget and a contributing factor to the Liberal-National Coalition's poor popularity, the government insists that Australia place a price on visits to the doctor.

While Health Minister Sussan Ley suggests there will be provisions for concession card holders, veterans and children, the government proposes a \$5 user co-payment for GP appointments.

In a process sometimes described as vague and chaotic, a former proposal to increase the minimum consultation time from six minutes to 10 minutes has been dropped. This will be to patients' detriment, according to local GP Dr John Gall.

"Six-minute medicine is not good medicine; it's conveyor-belt medicine," he says. "The government hasn't done a very good job of explaining why it wants to do anything."

"It doesn't really matter what government it is — none are giving clear directions on what they are seeking and what they are trying to achieve."

Although Dr Gall believes Medicare needs changing, he says it should be done in a way that doesn't jeopardise quality or access to care.

"I don't believe Medicare is sustainable the

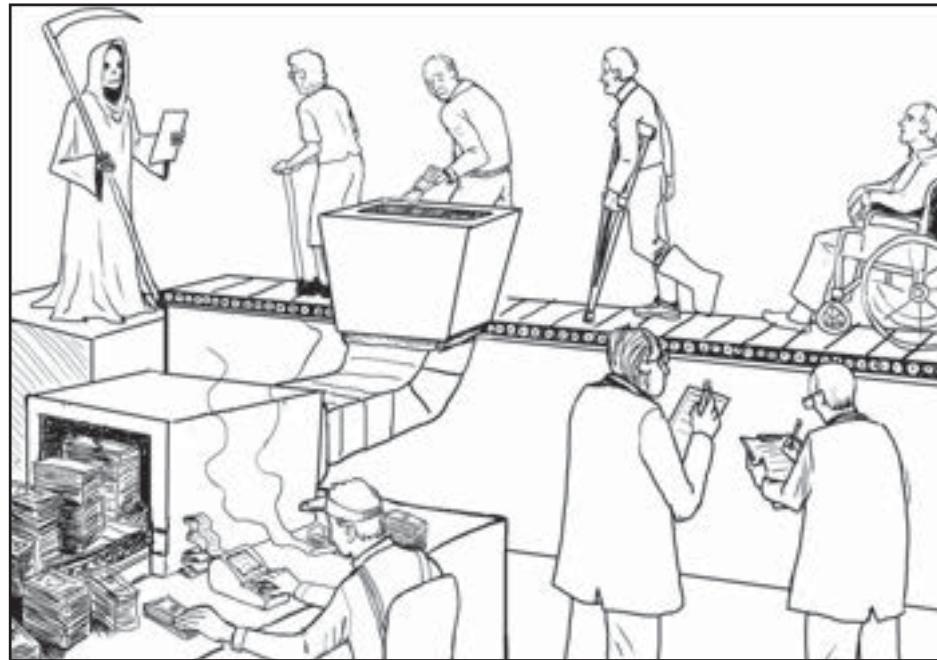


Illustration: Adam Falloon

way it is at the moment, but you shouldn't have people who haven't got the funds not being able to see a doctor."

The Federal MP for Melbourne and Australian Greens Deputy Leader, Adam Bandt, suggests while the rising cost of health care needs consideration, a discussion about increasing revenue is also required.

"There are issues worth looking at, but the idea that we can only make health care more sustainable by cutting spending is simply wrong."

"If, after finding inefficiencies, we don't have enough money to fund a good-quality universal healthcare system — then why aren't we having a discussion about whether Australians would like to raise the Medicare levy?"

"Unless we have that discussion sensibly, we'll have ourselves back in this situation in five years' time or 10 years' time."

"Up to date, every time there's an election Labor and Liberals out-compete each other as to who can cut taxes the most — problem is, if

you keep cutting your income, you have to cut your spending as well, and we end up in this dilemma."

Minister Bandt says the government needs to address increasing healthcare costs due to rising life expectancy and expensive new cures and treatments. "Let's have a discussion on how we're going to pay for those. That's a much better discussion to have."

Cutting healthcare spending reduces the overall health of the community and increases long-term public health costs, Mr Bandt says, adding that this is a discussion about budget priorities and the kind of society we want.

"Once Australia becomes a place where you check your wallet before going to the doctor, then we become a very different sort of society. There are other ways to finding money in the federal budget, but they involve standing up to some wealthy and powerful people."

Health Minister Ley won't express an opinion as to when policy details will be announced, citing respect for the consultation period, with nothing perhaps certain until this year's budget.

And while Dr Gall thinks doctors' political representation is fragmented, he says there is agreement that the process so far has been shambolic.

"One would hope that the Health Department in Canberra has a plan, but what it is, I have no idea."

NW Melbourne are fourth in solar boom

Raphaelle Race

The City of Melbourne's recent push for a solar power boom has left North and West Melburnians lagging behind in the race to mitigate global warming.

Since 2007, the combined suburbs of North Melbourne and West Melbourne (postcodes 3051 and 3003) have placed 267kW of solar power on both residential and business buildings.

While this is a respectable figure, holding the line with well-to-do areas such as Docklands and Carlton North, it stands in stark

contrast with our close neighbours, Kensington and Flemington (postcode 3031), who have installed 700kW of solar in the same time period.

Surprisingly, it is the residents of Kensington and Flemington themselves who have been behind this amazing number. The locals of 3031 reached this figure by installing small, individual solar systems of less than 10kW on their homes, with solar purchased by local businesses making up only a small portion of the overall figure.

Following Kensington/Flemington in the solar charge is South Yarra, with 335kW,

and in third place is Docklands on 280kW of installed solar power.

The lowest solar contributors are to be found in the inner city, with Southbank and Melbourne City tying at approximately 50kW of solar.

While solar power was initially expensive at the turn of the century, being almost four times as costly as today, the reducing cost of solar panels plus increases in conventional electricity prices mean that solar can often make economic sense for households.

In Australia, approximately 2.6 million people now use solar power.

To promote further residential and commercial investment in solar power, the City of Melbourne has partnered with Positive Charge, a social enterprise that local councils engage to provide advice on environmental sustainability.

From December last year until 31 March this year, Positive Charge is offering a free help service to assist residents in understanding solar power, and to provide access to quality solar systems at affordable prices.

Since December 2014, over 200 enquiries have been made about the solar offer, and 87.6kW of solar has already been purchased.

The Melbourne solar offer is part of the City of Melbourne's Zero Net Emissions Strategy, which includes a target of sourcing 25 per cent of the municipality's electricity from renewables by 2020.

Residents whose homes are not suitable for solar can still be part of Melbourne's renewable energy goal by switching to accredited GreenPower. Again, support to switch to GreenPower is available through Positive Charge.

A previous City of Melbourne initiative, Smart Blocks, saw businesses and large apartment blocks improving energy efficiency and updating renewable energy technologies across the district.

For more information about the City of Melbourne's Zero Net Emissions strategy, visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au and search for 'Zero Net Emissions', or go straight to www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/enterprisemelbourne/environment/Pages/Zeronetemissions.aspx



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Maundy Thursday April 2, 7.30pm

Good Friday 10am

Easter Vigil Sat April 4, 8pm

Easter Day April 5, 10am

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



For further details: 9326 8245;

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au;

www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au



Hotham Mission is seeking volunteer tutors for its Homework Club in 2015. This after-school program supports upper-primary-aged students from the North Melbourne and Kensington communities to complete homework and improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

For more information contact the Homework Club coordinator lee.kenny@hothammission.org.au or visit the UCHM web site

www.hothammission.org.au



Autumn and how to pack up your garden

Phoebe La Gerche-Wijsman

Recently a good friend of mine, who is also a neighbour, told me that she and her partner are leaving the area for a rural adventure. I was shocked and a little bit jealous all at the same time. Oh to have more space for a garden, healthy unpolluted soil for growing vegetables and peace and quiet from the sound of the B-doubles’ air brakes screeching at the intersections in North Melbourne!

When it comes to moving and starting a new garden, their timing could not be better because autumn is one of the best times to be planting or transplanting all sorts of trees and shrubs.

As we head to winter the soil gets colder and plants go into their dormancy — in a way, you could say they go to sleep. So while they sleep,

and are not putting all their energy into leaves, flowers and fruits, this is the optimum time to dig them out and move them to where you think they will perform better in the coming months and years.

My friend has planted a few things in her garden that she cannot bear to leave, such as a beautiful crepe myrtle, pomegranate, strawberry guava and a Japanese flowering peach. Below are a couple of rules for replanting larger plants like these:

- **Before you dig, look up.** With trees especially, always look up to make sure you are not about to plant them under the power line, which would result in the tree’s natural shape being adversely affected.
- **Look around.** Make sure you are not planting too close to the house or fence, or that the tree’s canopy is not going to cast shade where you would prefer not to have it. Even do a little research about your plant prior to the move so you pick the best spot — both for the plant and for you.
- **Be prepared.** Pre-dig your holes in the new location before digging out your plant. This will remove that extra time your plant will be out of the ground and prevent any trauma or shock to its root system.
- **Water and feed your plant.** It is a good idea to give your plant a good soaking drink of water before and after the move. Make sure you throw in some slow-release fertiliser and, when settling the plant into the new location, give it some tonic, such as fish emulsion or worm wee, which will help prevent transplant shock.

Generally autumn is the time to clean up after

summer, so collect fallen leaves (except the plane tree leaves) and sprinkle them around your plants as another layer of mulch. Move your cymbidium orchids out of the shade into the sun, and give them some orchid food. Replenish your soil where you have grown your summer vegetables by adding some worm castings and manure for your next crop.

What to plant for autumn:

- Vegetables such as beetroot, leeks, garlic, broad beans, snow peas, sugar snap peas, parsnips and potatoes
- Herbs such as parsley, chives, coriander, rocket and mint

And remember two special days

- 17 March for planting sweet peas
- Red poppies for the centenary of Anzac Day on 25 April.

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Whitelion opens doors for local young people

Daniel Doody

Opening doors to opportunities, fostering community ties and supporting disadvantaged youth is Whitelion’s mission — and one they take pride in.

Mark White is the CEO and founder of Whitelion, which began in 1999. He felt that there weren’t enough programs for young people who were struggling to cope with everyday life and decided to implement mentoring programs for those in need.

Whitelion has an office in West Melbourne and also has offices throughout Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and New South Wales.

Whitelion is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on kind donations, fundraising events and some support from the government.

Mentoring programs are an essential component of the organisation’s mission to ensure the best outcomes for young people. Mentors assist with resume writing, applying for work and finding housing, leading to better employment opportunities.

The expectations of a mentor are very high. He or she must make a meaningful connection with a young person who may exhibit antisocial behaviour, be affected by substance abuse or be at risk of offending.

Once trained, a mentor will be matched with a young person, usually of the same gender, with the aim of building a positive relationship, providing genuine care and compassion in their lives, reassuring them that they are not alone, and helping them to engage with the community.

at the time and this young person needed help right away,” she says. “We matched them up with a mentor and the mentor was able to help them find a place for detoxing and then to rehabilitate their substance addiction.

“The mentor also assisted in finding employment. And after a year of getting them out of that dark place the mentor and the young person still remain friends today.”

The mentoring program is generally over a 12-month period, but often a friendship develops between the mentor and the mentee.

Program manager David Shannon explains: “We trial match-ups with the young person and a volunteer. If we believe it’s going to be successful, the mentoring will continue for 12 months. The young person will graduate and it’s gone from being in that mentoring program to essentially being friends.

“They have stepped out of their volunteer–young person roles and have actually developed a friendship beyond their relationship with us. I think it’s important that a lot of those matches end up in those long-term friendships to provide a stable base for that young person.”

The next big fundraising event for Whitelion is Bail Out, which will be held on Friday 29 May at the Old Melbourne Gaol Watch House. To make a donation or participate in the event, head to their website at www.whitelion.asn.au/ for more information.



Mentor Lachlan (left) gives 15-year-old Luke a few tips on winning lawn bowls
Photo: courtesy Whitelion


All mentors are volunteers and give their time willingly, knowing they are contributing to a better future for today’s young people.

“Some young people just need a secure, healthy, adult relationship. It’s something they haven’t had and that is why they are in the care system,” says Steph Hutson, a team leader of mentoring at Whitelion.

Whitelion often attend community events to present on what their service provides and to encourage more volunteers to join, as a lack of numbers can be a problem. The organisation is constantly recruiting, so, if you would like to become a mentor, just go online to find out more about how you can make a difference to a young person’s life.

Steph describes one young person whose family was heavily involved in drugs and who was referred to Whitelion.

“Many things were happening in their lives



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TRAVEL & FOOD

Visit Mysore and begin to know southern India

Michael Roche

My travel bible tells me that if you haven't been to Mysore, then you haven't really been to southern India. So I figured this town I knew very little about must have a lot to offer.

It's a two-hour train ride south-west of Bengaluru (Bangalore), the booming 'Silicon Valley' of India, in the state of Karnataka. I arrive by train from Bengaluru in the afternoon with Ayan, my partner and trusty travelling companion.

We note the weather is warmer here, probably due to the lower altitude. From the station, an auto rickshaw negotiates traffic through the wide and sun-drenched streets. In a few minutes we're inside the cheerful Parklane Hotel, which looks even better than the pictures on its website.

Our first expedition is to the Maharaja Palace. Inside the palace the wearing of shoes is forbidden. This is a bonus as the tiled floors feel nicely cool and there is something strangely liberating about walking barefoot around a palace.

It's hard to find enough superlatives to describe this grand building. We look in wonder: at the chandeliers, the stained-glass peacock windows and the gold elephant gate.

The English-language audio guide tells me about the Wodeyar maharajas, who ruled this part of India for most of the 550 years before national independence in 1947.

Afterwards, the beer at the Parklane restaurant and bar is refreshingly cool, helping to wash down the marinated fish and golden prawns. A note on the back of the drinks menu gives us pause, pondering the behaviour of our fellow tourists: "Disposable vomit bags are available on request in case of need, as a consideration to fellow diners. Note: it is best to avoid excessive drinking."

We try to adhere to this warning. For others, the menu helpfully provides a 10-point plan to beat a hangover.

The next day I wake at about 6.00am to the sounds of *azaan*, the Muslim call to prayer, from the mosque around the corner. At breakfast we see monkeys running through the trees and onto the balconies of the adjoining building.

Later that day we visit the museum Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya. There is an exhibition of art from the tribes of the north-east states. I marvel at the craftsmanship of the bamboo and cane fishing equipment, baskets and bowls.

After walking through the colourful maze of the Devaraja Urs Market, we lunch at Hotel RRR on Gandhi Square, where they serve food from the neighbouring state, Andhra Pradesh.



Street vendors in Mysore Photo: Michael Roche

Ayan has the vegetable thali while I go for the chicken biryani, both served on banana leaves and eaten with our right hands. It feels like the real thing.

Our final morning in Mysore takes us up to Chamundi Hill. We catch the 201 bus from the central bus depot for only 17 rupees to make an offering at the temple and take in the view.

From the top of the hill we see Mysore stretched out below us and realise that it's far bigger than we ever imagined. It's the perfect way to start exploring southern India.

For more information go to www.karnatakaturism.org

Michael Roche is the History section editor for the News

Reviewing Berlin's 'Ostalgie'

Carole Lander

Thousands of illuminated balloons were released over Berlin last November to signify the 25th anniversary of the Berlin Wall coming down.

The west side of the Iron Curtain had a very different way of life to the east side — a much freer way. There are still people living in Germany today who grew up in the German Democratic Republic (GDR or DDR in German).

Many of the people who lived in the GDR must surely be puzzled by a current resurgence of interest in their former lifestyle. This can be found with the revival of some utilitarian GDR products (foods, household products and cosmetics) popping up in stores and online.

The term 'Ostalgie' has been coined as an expression of both discontent and identity related to that time.

The best place to find out about life in East Germany following the war is in Berlin's DDR Museum, which is a homage to Ostalgie. Packed into a small space, crowded with groups of young German students, interactive exhibits provide a glimpse into life under the Ministry for State Security (known as the Stasi).

By focusing almost entirely on daily life, it glosses over the censorship and repression of the era, and is strangely upbeat. Nevertheless, beyond the fun of the interactive rooms, the museum does provide a glimpse into the grimmer side of life in this Soviet-style regime from the years 1945 to 1989.

Without even going to Berlin, two films can take us there from our lounge rooms in Australia to experience Ostalgie for ourselves.

Goodbye Lenin was hailed as the Best European Film at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival. In this heart-warming film we first meet the Kerner family in 1989 on the eve of the GDR's 40th anniversary.

Twenty-year-old Alex (Daniel Bruhl) lives with his mother Christiana and his sister Ariane in the GDR. Christiana is a celebrated member of the Socialist party and a strong political activist. When she sees her son taking part in an anti-government demonstration, she suffers a heart attack and falls into a coma.

During the eight months that she is unconscious, the Berlin Wall is knocked down, the East German government is dismantled and capitalism invades from the west. Because of her fragile condition, Alex and Ariane decide that when their mother awakens they will keep all knowledge and reference to the changing world from her, to protect her from the shock.

So begins their ridiculous attempt to keep the GDR alive within the four walls of their apartment. Using farcical stunts and emotional scenes, the characters attempt to explain away every glimpse of the western world that Christiana catches.

The Lives of Others (2007) is a darker film.

It begins in 1984 and finishes in 1990, in the period after the Wall comes down.

The Stasi was renowned for the huge number of people it kept under surveillance and in this film Captain Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Mühe) sets out to tarnish the reputation of playwright Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch) by watching and recording his every move. He doggedly records everything for the Stasi's files, with entries in his log such as (noting the end of a birthday party) "unwrap presents and then presumably have intercourse".

This is a poignant film in which Wiesler becomes captivated by his targets. He develops human sympathies for them. He reads Brecht. He begins to make minor interventions, protecting their privacy — acts that put his own life and career in danger.

This year Germany will celebrate the anniversary of reunification. Whether or not we visit, we can learn a lot from these two excellent films — and be entertained as well.

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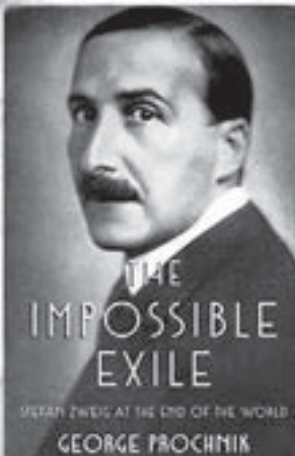
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Between the Covers

Chris Saliba

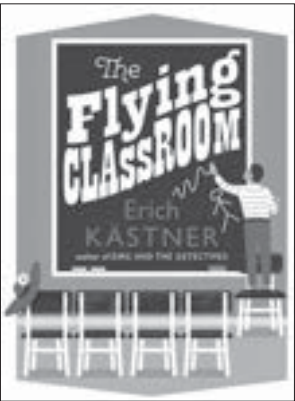


The Impossible Exile: Stefan Zweig at the End of the World
George Prochnik
(Granta Books. RRP: \$39.99)

Stefan Zweig, an Austrian novelist and biographer, was enormously popular in his day. His life should have been a happy one — literary success, fame and money were his. But, as the Nazis marched to power, Zweig being Jewish found himself fleeing from country to country until it all became too much. He committed suicide with his second wife, Lotte Altmann, while seeking refuge in Brazil.

The Impossible Exile is not so much a biography of Zweig as a piece of psychoanalysis: what finally pushed Zweig over the edge? Author George Prochnik’s father and grandfather fled Austria in the 1930s. Prochnik alternates his family’s troubled history with Zweig’s throughout the text.

This is a book that excels at contemplating the despair, hopelessness and suffering of Europe’s Jewish refugees. George Prochnik, in his poetic and illuminating prose, brings the reader to an understanding of why Zweig decided he could live no more, even though he was one of the lucky ones who escaped.



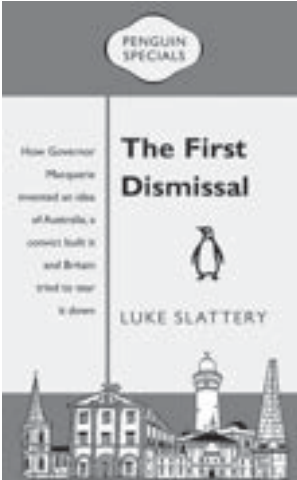
The Flying Classroom
Erich Kästner
(Pushkin Children’s Books. RRP: \$16.99)

The Flying Classroom is a 1935 children’s novel by German author Erich Kästner, published by Pushkin Children’s in a new translation by Anthea Bell. Other well-known books by Kästner include *Emil and the Detectives* and *The Parent Trap*, which was made into the famous Disney film.

The story centres around five young school friends — Martin, Uli, Sebastian, Johnny and Matthias. There are conflicts with a rival school, a kidnapping, an end-of-year play to put on, art projects to complete and risky tricks to perform, especially by the young Uli, who is desperate to prove he can be brave. Another plot involves the boys bringing together their favourite teacher, Justus, and his long-lost best friend, Dr Robert Uthofft.

This is a wonderfully lively story full of great characters, heart-warming plot twists and

all-round good fun. The story is told in Erich Kästner’s characteristically effervescent style. *The Flying Classroom* may be 80 years old this year, but it seems as if it was written yesterday. A cheerful read, but I was a little sad that it ended so soon!



The First Dismissal
Luke Slattery
(Penguin. RRP: \$9.99)

The title of this short history by Luke Slattery is a bit of a stretch. There really was no first dismissal that can be likened to the 1975 dismissal of Gough Whitlam. Rather, this is a case of a competent Australian governor being squeezed out by conservative forces back in England.

Lachlan Macquarie was governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. During this time, Britain was ruled by a reactionary conservative government. It was not a good time for progressives. Macquarie was under special watch. His interest in the reform of prisoners, and the actions he took to those ends, raised the hackles of Britain’s ruling elite.

John Thomas Bigge was sent over as commissioner to investigate Macquarie’s government, ready to set up a hatchet job right from the get-go. Sniffing the ill winds, Macquarie resigned before he could be dismissed.

This is a highly enjoyable history featuring a rogues’ gallery of power-grabbing politicians. Slattery shows how leading figures like Macquarie, with their faith in the ability of convicts to reform, would give birth to the enterprising and egalitarian spirit of Australia today.

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

Music Reviews

Paul & Maria from Heartland Records

Neil Young
Storytone – deluxe 2CD or 2LP set

At the tender age of 68, Neil Young has not wavered on his stance of “I release what I like, when I like”. *Storytone*, his 35th studio album to date, also shows he has no intention of slowing down anytime soon.

This latest release is the same album twice, but offered up as two different versions. The first disc sees Neil backed by a full 92-piece orchestra, swing band and choir over 10 tracks. The second contains the stripped-back, almost demo-quality versions of the same songs played solo by Neil accompanied by guitar, ukulele, piano and harmonica. This is a unique listening experience.

Protest songs such as ‘Plastic Flowers’ and ‘Who’s Gonna Stand Up’ in stripped-back mode with Neil’s raspy voice really help to breathe life into the meaning. In contrast, the orchestral version of tracks like ‘Tumbleweed’ and ‘When I Watch You Sleeping’ take on a whole new dimension with full backing arrangements.



Obvious comparisons will be made to earlier albums such as *Prairie Wind* and even *Harvest*, which contained the orchestral track ‘A Man Needs a Maid’. Fast-forward about 40 years and it’s now ‘A Man Needs a Mermaid’, an obvious nod to his recent involvement with actress Daryl Hannah after splitting with his wife of 36 years.

While this is not Neil’s greatest work and may not win him any new fans, it is an interesting release and one that has certainly grown on us.

The Go-Betweens
G Stands for Go-Betweens Vol 1

Much-loved Australian group The Go-Betweens have just released a highly anticipated anthology documenting their work from the years 1978 to 1984. For the first time their initial three albums, *Send Me a Lullaby*, *Before Hollywood* and *Spring Fair*, have been re-pressed on vinyl and remastered from their original analogue tapes.

The box-set has everything. It contains a vinyl compilation of each of their first five non-LP singles, as well as four CDs of rare unreleased demos, radio recordings and a complete live concert radio broadcast from 1982. As well as the music, there is an extensive 112-page book featuring liner notes by founding member Robert Forster, archival photos, essays and more.

The Go-Betweens formed in Brisbane in 1978 and relocated to London shortly after their debut release brought them to the attention of Rough Trade and the Beggars Banquet label. Robert Forster and Grant McLennan were the founding members, joined



later by drummer Lindy Morrison and bassist Robert Vickers. They released three successful albums, then split in 1989 and re-formed in 2000, releasing three more albums.

Following the sudden and tragic passing of Grant McLennan in 2006, The Go-Betweens disbanded. Cited as a lyrical influence on bands such as Belle and Sebastian and well-respected artist Glen Johnson, they have left a legacy of ingeniously witty, beautifully raw and honestly heartfelt songs that envelop both long-existing and new fans.



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March and April line-up:
Mad Mondays with John Burgos and Doug Chappel, **16 & 23 March, dinner starts 6.30pm, show starts 8pm**
Professional Comedians New Material, **17 & 24 March**
Mikey Robbins, **18 & 21 March, dinner starts 6.30pm, show starts 8pm**
Comedy Festival at The Comic’s Lounge, **dinner starts 6.30pm, show starts 8pm**
Dave O’Neil, **25 March & 7, 8, 14, 15 April**
Lehmo, **26 March & 2, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 April**
George Kapiniaris, **29 March & 5, 12 April**
Bob Franklin, **30 March & 6, 13 April**

Galleries

Gallerysmith
170–174 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne
www.gallerysmith.com.au, 9329 1860
Mike Chavez, *Breakup Album*
12 March – 11 April
Sue Lovegrove, *Lagoon*
Charmaine Pike (guest artist)
16 April – 16 May

Langford120
120 Langford Street, North Melbourne
www.langford120.com.au, 9328 8658
Dawn Csutoros, *ELEMENTAL: time, space, presence*
Theo Strasser, *Constructed Paintings*
Irene Barberis, *All I wanted was the cut-space pinned to the wall...*
21 March – 18 April, opening 2–4pm
Saturday 21 March

Markets

Docklands Sunday Market
Newquay Promenade, Waterfront City, Docklands
Every Sunday, 10am – 5pm
The Docklands Sunday market reflects a multicultural Melbourne with French, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Nepalese, Polish, Russian, Israeli and Irish influences! Find a treasure, have a meal and make a day of it.

Theatre & Performance Art



Club Voltaire
14 Raglan Street, North Melbourne
Phone 9326 9094 or book online at www.clubvoltaire.net.au
Open 7pm Wednesday to Sunday

Kabareiske
Hosted by resident artists MiMi Chelle and Liez A’Plenty, featuring Felix the magician
Bookings online \$20, entry at door \$25
Saturday 14 March, 8pm



Dance Massive Festival
The Arts House and North Melbourne Town Hall are hosting the Dance Massive Festival from 10 to 22 March. For all events, book online at artshouse.com.au or call 9322 3713. Use promo code ‘LOCAL’ to purchase tickets at concession price — proof of residence required on pick-up.
Tickets for all shows:
Full \$30 / Concession \$20 / Student \$15

Dance Massive performances:
Catalogue: Fantasies and vulnerabilities in a theatrical cabinet of curiosities. Twelve

performers, with and without disabilities, grace eight stages, side-by-side in an exhibition of human expression.
Arts House Meat Market
Tuesday 10 – Saturday 14 March
Tue – Fri 6.30pm, Sat 1pm & 6.30pm

Meeting reveals a fascination with the articulation of the body and mind in motion. A choreographic study stripped to the bare essentials.
Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
Tuesday 10 – Saturday 14 March
Tue – Fri 6.30pm, Sat 3pm

Long Grass, Indigenous choreographer Vicki Van Hout’s powerful new dance theatre work, finds warmth, humour and play in a community at the edge.
Arts House, Meat Market
Tuesday 10 – Saturday 14 March
Tue – Sat 8.30pm, Fri 1pm

Overworld focuses on our capacity to access pop culture just as easily as ancient ritual and spiritual practice. Appropriates neo-paganism, yoga, music videos, death metal, online gaming, erotica and YouTube.
Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
Tuesday 10 – Saturday 14 March
Tue – Fri 8.30pm, Sat 5pm

The Boom Project is conceived as a live interplay between a dancer/choreographer, an artistic companion/provocateur and a designer. Dance has exhausted herself, form is collapsing, nature is rapidly being extinguished, our house is burning out of control.
Arts House at Blueprint Showroom
183 Laurens Street, North Melbourne
Friday 13 – Saturday 21 March, 9pm

Motion Picture, presented by Lucy Guerin Inc, takes the 1950 film noir classic *D.O.A.* as a choreographic score to explore the tensions between live performance and cinema.
Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
Tuesday 17 – Sunday 22 March
Tue – Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2pm, Sun 5pm

Merge offers a poetic discourse on humans’ co-existence with inanimate objects.
Arts House, Meat Market
Wednesday 18 – Sunday 22 March
Wed – Sat 6.30pm, Sun 2pm

Stampede the Stampede expands choreography beyond the performer’s lone presence, to include machinery, objects, lighting and sound configurations
Arts House, Meat Market
Wednesday 18 – Sunday 22 March, 8pm

Kingdom, presented by Arts House and Phillip Adams BalletLab. Four men — poof, queer, homo, fag — who also happen to be choreographers, come together to articulate how their individual and collective desires

intersect with art, life and sexuality.
Arts House, Meat Market
Wednesday 18 – Sunday 22 March
Wed – Sat 9pm, Sun 5pm

Events

Library at The Dock
107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

From page to pose (suitable for beginners)
Relax and unwind at these special workshops which fuse yoga and books. Bring a book that relates to the week’s theme. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring your yoga mat. Bookings for each session are essential.
Tuesday 17, 24 & 31 March, 5.30 – 6.30pm
Themes: 17 March: Courage; 24 March: Surrender; 31 March: Quiet

Chinese Book Club Morning Tea
Meet other readers, have a chat and find some new Chinese books, magazines or DVDs to borrow.
First Thursday of the month, 9am – 11am
2 April, 7 May

Story Lounge
Story Lounge is a storytime for adults. Hand-picked stories and poems are read aloud in a relaxed setting. Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasure of listening. Free, no bookings required and all welcome!
Fourth Wednesday of the month, 12.30 – 1.30pm
25 March, 22 April, 27 May

Docklands History Group
Travel back in time with local historians, collectors and guest speakers. Meet other like-minded people at the monthly Docklands History Group.
Fourth Thursday of the month, 6pm – 7pm, in the Meeting Room
26 March: Explore the history of the Docklands railyards with Ian Jenkin, Vice President of the Australian Railway Historical Society Victoria.
For more information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/MelbourneLibraryService

Kensington Community Festival
JJ Holland Park, corner Altona Street and Kensington Road
Celebrate Kensington’s cultural diversity with great live music, entertainment and giveaways, stalls, food and children’s games. Coinciding with the festival is the 2015 Unity Cup football competition for teams of culturally and linguistically diverse players aged 15–19, co-hosted by Australian Federal Police, AFL Multicultural Program and local AFL clubs.
Sunday 29 March, 9am – 4pm

Melbourne Latin Festival
Jason Coleman’s Ministry of Dance, 1/64 Sutton Street, North Melbourne
Latin America is taking over Melbourne once again in a three-day dancing festival of performances, workshops and parties.
Tickets from \$35
Friday 3 – Sunday 5 April
For more information visit www.melbournelatinfestival.com.au

St Mary’s Anglican Church and Kindergarten Fair
428 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne
Stock up on your year’s supply of delicious homemade preserves, second-hand books and children’s clothes and toys. With entertainment including face-painting, games and pony rides. Also crafts, bric-a-brac, produce and plants and other delicious goods.
Saturday 2 May, 10am – 2pm

If you would like to add a community event to our column, we’d love to hear from you! Please forward event details to EditorialNWMN@Centre.org.au







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Elemental: the art and perceptions of Dawn Csutoros

Jennifer Choat

Dawn Csutoros’s latest exhibition, *Elemental: time, space, presence*, opens at Langford120 gallery on 21 March. This show pulls together many threads and key themes that have been present in her art for several years.

Csutoros’s body of work is largely a continuation from her artist’s residencies and travels in China. Her more recent pieces were created in rural Bendigo after Evi Robinson invited her to be the artist in residence at the John Robinson Studio. The exhibition showcases the development and expansion of her work with mulberry paper and textural surfaces and consists of archaic forms such as the ellipse and the sphere.

“I want to pare things back to their essence, their most elemental form — yet still maintain a tension, a dynamic,” the artist explains. “They are multi-layered, deceptively simple, yet with complex meanings. Through this minimalist format, the viewer is invited to

slow down, to look and see more deeply, to feel and listen.”

The silhouette of each work holds its own symbolism, as Csutoros comments further: “The ellipse is such a primordial form that we intuitively resonate with it on many levels, on both a micro and macro scale — healthy blood cells, the orbit of the planets, the human aura, the egg and the womb, for example.

“It is a development from my *Numinous* series and explores the element of presence through scale and simplicity of form. [I also explore] the circle, which is a powerful form and seen as a symbol of infinity in many cultures. In the *Elemental* series, the space of the circular sphere is paradoxical, the spherical form at first appears convex, but in reality is concave creating spatial ambiguity and exploring our notion of perception.”

The exhibition features these latest experimental pieces which transition from traditional painting formats into the realm of sculpture. These radical new artworks lift Csutoros’s core themes into unique three-dimensional forms. An unusual interactive sound component has also been introduced,

allowing viewers to experience the works in multiple ways.

Each piece of artwork within the series is built by hand, using mulberry paper sourced from Csutoros’s travels in China. The layering of the paper replaces the gesture of the brush marks in painting, leaving a quality that the artist describes as the “mark of the handmade”.

Embedded within the surface of each artwork, a variety of materials have been chosen for their sensual qualities. The artist builds these into seductively tactile surfaces, using mediums such as pigment, ink, graphite, semi-precious stones, 24-carat gold leaf and sterling silver leaf.

Earlier in her career, Csutoros introduced coal as a medium during a residency in China, where she travelled across the east Silk Road, through the Gobi Desert and surrounding sacred mountains.

Upon visiting ancient cities, Buddhist caves and Daoist temples, the artist was alarmed by the presence of coal in the everyday life of these places. “I was surrounded by it. I couldn’t breathe because of the coal. It was quite shocking,” she says. This permeated through to her work, beginning with a series titled ‘Black Diamonds’, which commented on the various ways in which the use of coal is hidden through material guises.

Later, in 2013, these themes were revisited in ‘Black Diamonds #5’ and ‘Black Diamonds - Gold’, created during a further artist residence in Songzhuang Artist Village, Beijing.

For *Elemental: time, space, presence*, Csutoros has continued this line of enquiry, linking her past work with those created during her current residency. As the artist explains: “Every body of work is a stepping stone to your next one ... For me it’s very important to keep pushing and searching. In a way, it’s a restlessness, a constant enquiring and exploration into how we perceive the world around us.”

of construction renders them, literally, as paintings embedded within paintings.

Barberis, in her exhibition *All I wanted was the cut-space pinned to the wall...*, draws upon her first seminal piece, ‘48 pieces’ (1975–76), an enormous, high-key acrylic expressionist painting of the imperfect world.

“I remember thinking, what’s the antithesis to the stark conceptual world that I inhabit — why it’s the push through the grid — a fracturing if you like ... outworked through the detritus of living,” Barberis explains. The work is an amorphous shape, constructed out of the ‘space’ of cut laser lines of plastic drawings — a romp of fun and fervour.



Dawn Csutoros during her residency in Songzhuang Photo: Dawn Csutoros



Alchemy #8, 2015, Pigment, mulberry paper, 34x15.5x2cm Photo: Elise Dutra

Dance Massive in March

Alpha Barratt

This March, expect to see Errol Street buzzing with international, national and local residents swarming to see the fourth running of the Dance Massive (DM) festival. Held biennially in three primary locations — the Arts House, Dancehouse and the Malthouse Theatre — it is currently Australia’s largest dance festival.

The festival features exceptional performances that range from Indigenous choreographer Vicki Van Hout’s *Long Grass* to Lucy Guerin Inc’s *Motion Picture*.

The Arts House, which arrived on North Melbourne’s cultural scene 10 years ago, will again present us with an array of “exceptionally produced, technically sophisticated ... top of the game” performances, says Angharad Wynne-Jones, the Arts House artistic director.

This year Dance Massive has welcomed the birth of a new aspect to the festival. Dance Massive will host the first-ever exchange program with the Taipei Arts Festival.

Three artists from Taipei (Tien Hsiao-Tzu, Lee Tsung-hsuan and Wu Yu-Hsien) will unite with three Melbourne artists (Melanie Lane, Peter Fraser and Natalie Abbott), with their work-in-progress to be shown at DM. The completed performance will be unveiled in

August at the Taipei Arts Festival.

Dance Massive 2015 also welcomes the return of Phillip Adams BalletLab (established 1998) in a new series of works entitled *Kingdom*. Four influential choreographers (Phillip Adams, Matthew Day, Luke George and Rennie McDougall), described as “poof, queer, homo, fag”, are collaborating on *Kingdom*. This work explores the idea of utopia and the themes of habitation and nature.

As the largest dance festival in Australia, Dance Massive brings a large audience to North Melbourne. There will be 68 international delegates attending DM from around the globe, including Singapore and the USA.

This unique event brings tourism to the area, largely benefiting our local businesses. “We’re really wanting to connect and engage with the people that live locally,” says Angharad. Dance Massive accordingly brings together all circles regardless of gender, age and personal interests.

While the rich talent, finely choreographed work and breathtakingly beautiful sequences should be enough to tempt you, performances are concession price only for all North and West Melbourne locals!

Book online at artshouse.com.au using the promo code ‘LOCAL’ or phone 9322 3713. Dance Massive will be on show at the Arts House from 10 to 22 March.

Csutoros’s interest in Eastern philosophy and meditation practice informs and influences her art, often lending her work to be used as tools for contemplation. Her travels to distant, remote and sacred sites around the world are reflected in her primal totemic forms.

“I’m interested in the presence that art can have. The mystery of the ‘other’,” says Csutoros. “My travels have informed this. Going back to an ancient time when art was a ritual with a connection to mystery.”

Alongside *Elemental: time, space, presence*, in the two remaining gallery spaces at Langford120 will be works by Theo Strasser and Irene Barberis. Strasser’s exhibition, *Constructed Paintings*, features works that reference landscapes through drawn, painted and collage materials that suggest melting icebergs and watery inundations. Their method

21 March – 18 April. Opening 2–4pm, Saturday 21 March

Dawn Csutoros, *ELEMENTAL: time, space, presence*
Theo Strasser, *Constructed Paintings*
Irene Barberis, *All I wanted was the cut-space pinned to the wall...*

Langford120 gallery
120 Langford Street, North Melbourne

For more on Dawn Csutoros visit www.csutoros.com

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