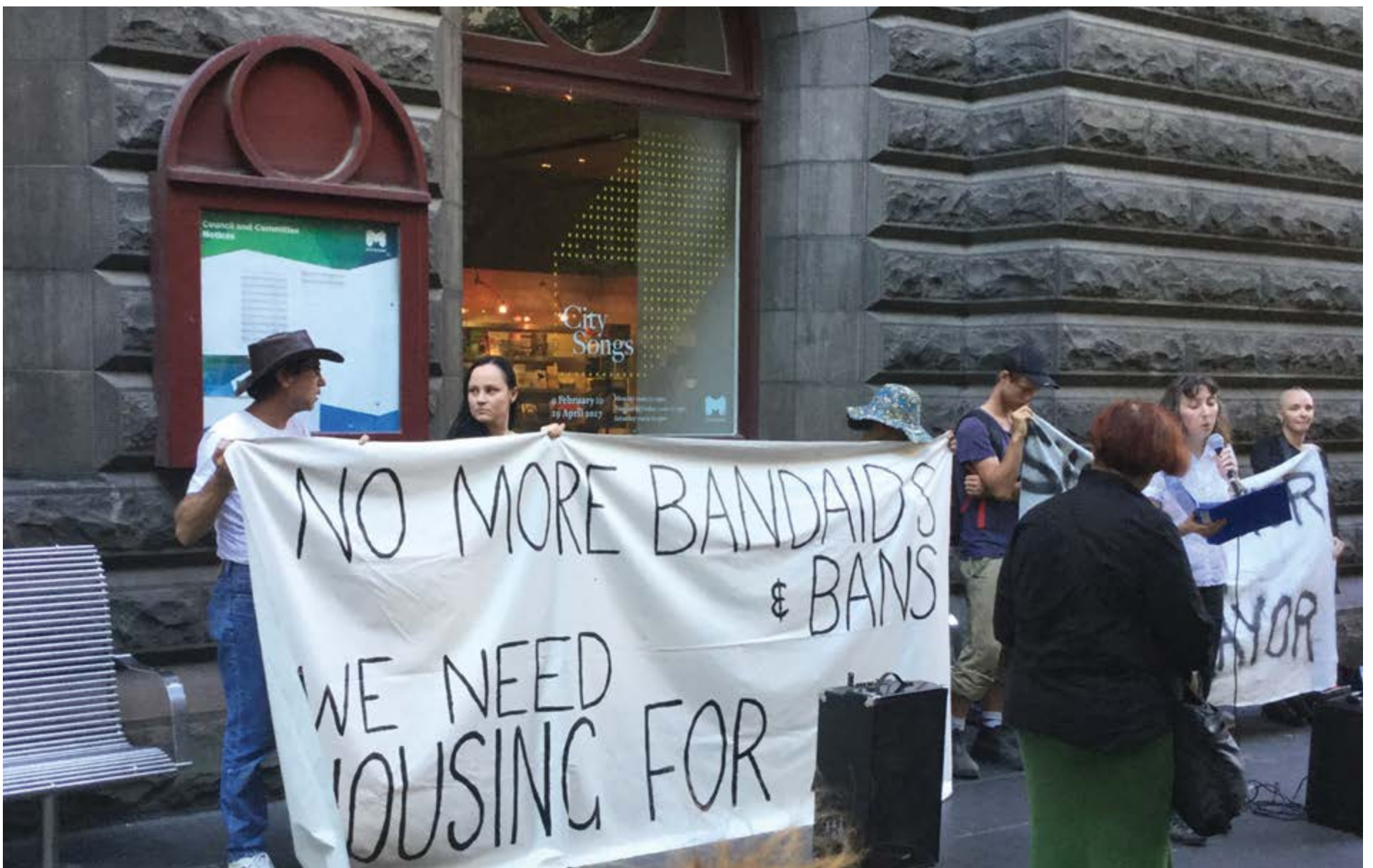


Homelessness crisis divides the city



Protesters rally against proposed changes to public camping by-laws before the council meeting

Photo: Brianna Faye Lugg

Brianna Faye Lugg

The situation for Victorians facing homelessness is at breaking point.

While recent media coverage of violent altercations between people experiencing homelessness and law enforcement officers has caused anxiety among the community, local councils are being labelled callous, cruel and insensitive in their approach to dealing with homeless people.

At a Melbourne City Council meeting in early February there was heated debate about proposed changes to legislation that would allow police to force the homeless to 'move on'. Belongings confiscated would only be returned to them upon payment of a fine.

The council was inundated with submissions from members of community groups working in the sector who objected to the proposal. The Melbourne Town Hall gallery was filled with homeless Victorians who were vocal in their disdain — many formally addressing Lord Mayor Robert Doyle with their opinion that this 'bandaid approach' does not address the systemic, growing problems of homelessness

in the city.

Across the river from the manicured pavements and waterfront restaurants on Southbank Promenade is Batman Park, a concrete strip under city train-lines renowned as a haunt of those sleeping rough. Watching over a medley of blankets, clothing, a bicycle and other possessions are a young man reading a book, an older woman writing in a journal and David, who introduces himself whilst mixing tracks on a laptop with a makeshift sound system.

David describes his struggles, his passion for making music, his feelings about the girl he is in love with who is sleeping two blocks down, and his experience of being homeless.

"I haven't had a night off the street in about five months," he says. "It's gotten to the point that I don't know if I could sleep inside ... this is exactly what I didn't want to happen. I didn't want to get used to doing this. It's not good to get comfortable on the street 'cos it ain't a safe place."

"The council should never have cut money from mental health, they should never have cut money from drug and alcohol [services]. I would love to know where the millions of dollars have been spent to assist the homeless."

Asked how he looks after his computer and sound equipment, David explains: "There are some places with free lockers ... but that is not resolving the issue. Maybe if the locker was four times bigger and you could sleep in it."

'Cheryl' has also been sleeping rough at Batman Park, choosing to stay in the inner city for safety. "This spot is well lit and there are CCTV cameras everywhere. I don't feel as scared down here. Two days ago the council came down through the city with a police escort and took everything ... they said only tents would be removed but they took everything ... they took people's kids' photos. If I did that — pretty sure I'd end up in prison."

When provided with details of the proposed council by-laws, Cheryl was unaware she would have the right to access her belongings after paying a fee. "So I have to buy my stuff back [laughter]? How are they going to track what belongs to who? This is an absolute joke."

The Victorian Government committed \$152 million in funding last year in response to the desperate need for better-resourced crisis accommodation, yet the situation remains just as dire. Statistics provided by Sacred Heart

Mission indicate over 102,000 Victorians were assisted by specialised homelessness agencies in 2014–15.

CEO Cathy Humphrey gives a damning overview of the crisis during that period:

"Every day 329 requests for assistance were unable to be met, with 8500 people reporting that they had slept rough in the last month. In 2016, Infrastructure Victoria called for a major investment in affordable and social housing for Victoria's most vulnerable as one of the top priorities of its draft 30-year infrastructure strategy.

"According to their estimates, up to 100,000 low-income Victorians are currently living under extreme financial stress and without access to affordable housing [but] we are yet to see an Affordable Housing Strategy from the Victorian or Commonwealth governments."

Sacred Heart Mission assists hundreds of people experiencing homelessness and living in poverty by finding shelter and providing food and ongoing care and support. Cathy also has a strong stance on the proposed law reforms. "Criminalising those sleeping rough is

Continued on Page 4

SHORT STORY COMPETITION: CASH PRIZE \$500. ENTRIES CLOSE 24 APRIL 2017. SEE PAGE 18

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 39th year of production. Readers' contributions are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles and advertisements considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

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

Finance

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

News subscriptions

If you would like to receive the *North and West Melbourne News* by mail, the rate is \$20 for four copies sent anywhere in Australia or pro rata for part of the calendar year. The *News* is distributed free throughout North and West Melbourne. Further copies are available from The Centre and the North Melbourne Library.

Advertisement sizes and new rates effective from June 2017

60 mm W x 92 mm H	\$75 plus GST
124 mm W x 92 mm H	\$150 plus GST
188 mm W x 92 mm H	\$225 plus GST
252 mm W x 92 mm H	\$300 plus GST

A charge of 25 per cent may be added for advertisements that require designing. For more information phone 9329 1627 or email nwmnews@centre.org.au. *Community announcements are published free of charge.*

Volunteers

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

Publisher: Michael Halls

Editor: Position vacant

Advertising Coordinator: Janet Graham

Section Editors:

Arts & Entertainment: Lucie Gavanon

Community: Dhugal Bissett

Education & Technology: Dan Tutas and

Ian Truong

Events: Emma McCashney

History: Position vacant

Noticeboard: Janet Graham

Politics & Environment: Brianna Faye Lugg

Sport & Health: Victor McMillan and Katrina

Kincade-Sharkey

The Centre: Janet Graham

Travel & Food: Meghalee Bose

Production team: Susi Allender, Dhugal Bissett, Janet Graham, Emma McCashney and Jim Weatherill. Peter Alsen provided professional assistance with layout.

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Telephone: 9328 1126

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Publication date: Wednesday 7 June

Provisional dates for the rest of the year

Copy deadline 9 August, publication 6 September
Copy deadline 1 November, publication 29 November

www.northandwestmelbournenews.com

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Please note that *News* advertising rates will increase slightly from June 2017 to help keep pace with production costs. The base rate will rise from \$70 to \$75 per column (60 mm wide) plus GST. The 25 per cent additional charge for layout services will remain.

The panel in the column at left shows how the new rates apply to the four advertisement sizes that we offer.

This is the first rate increase for three years. Local businesses are a valued part of our community and we greatly appreciate your commitment to keeping the *News* in production. Thank you!

Janet Graham
Advertising Coordinator

Subscriptions to the News

For just \$20 you can become a *News* subscriber and receive paper copies of four editions of the *News* through the post!

To apply to become a subscriber please email

nwmnews@centre.org.au or phone The Centre on 9328 1126.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION!

Cash prize \$500 — entries close 24 April 2017
Details on page 18

Anzac Day 25 April 2017

Join the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen & Women and The Centre at the North & West Melbourne cenotaph, corner Victoria & King streets, for the annual commemoration
at 2.00pm on Sunday 23 April

Feminist publisher SPINIFEX PRESS is leaving North Melbourne after 25 years. See article page 9.

St Mary's Anglican Church & St Mary's Kindergarten Annual Fair – Saturday 6 May 10.00am to 2.00pm

Children's activities, sausage sizzle, scones with jam and cream, cake stall, preserves and jams and other local produce
Corner Queensberry & Howard streets, North Melbourne

North Melbourne Library

Walk for National Trust Heritage Festival 2017 Voices North Melbourne

The walk starts from the library at 2.00pm on 7 May. Bookings required, commencing in April. Look for brochures in the library and check the website, www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au.

North Melbourne Book Group 2017

Third Monday of every month, 6.00pm, North Melbourne Library

10 April* *Our Souls at Night* Kent Haruf

15 May *Commonwealth* Ann Patchett

19 June *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* Madeleine Thien

*Please note the April date is in lieu of Easter Monday (17 April)

Enquiries to: 9658 9700

North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne

 **Need help?**
1300 134 130
WIRE Women's Support Line

Easter Services in North and West Melbourne



St Alban's, Anglican

55 Melrose Street, North Melbourne

Easter Sunday 16 April 1.00pm Service (Eucharist)

St James Old Cathedral, Anglican

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

Palm Sunday 9 April 10.00am Holy Communion

Good Friday 14 April 10.00am Passion Reading

Easter Sunday 16 April 10.00am Holy Communion

St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic

Corner Victoria & Howard streets, West Melbourne

Saturday 8 April 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) 9 April 10.30am Sunday Mass;

12.00 noon Sunday Mass (in Lithuanian) — palms will be distributed at each Mass

Monday 10, Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 April 12.30pm Weekday Mass

Holy Thursday 13 April 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 14 April 10.30am Stations of the Cross; 11.15am

Seven Words of Our Lord on the Cross Sermon; 12.00 noon

Holy Rosary; 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion; 7.30pm Office of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday 15 April 8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 16 April 10.30am Mass of Easter; 12.00 noon

Mass of Easter (in Lithuanian)

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent: to 7 April at 5.30pm; 14 April at 10.30am

St Mary's, Anglican

Corner Queensberry & Howard streets, North Melbourne

Palm Sunday 9 April 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Sung

Eucharist with Procession; 8.00pm Tenebrae

Thursday 13 April 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Friday 14 April 10.00am Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday 15 April 9.00pm Great Paschal Vigil

Easter Day Sunday 16 April 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Sung Eucharist

St Michael's, Catholic

456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne

Holy Thursday 13 April 6.00pm Mass

Good Friday 14 April 3.00pm Mass

Saturday 15 April 6.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 16 April 10.30am Mass

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic

35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Canning & Dryburgh streets)

Holy Thursday 13 April 9.00am Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great and Vespers; 7.00pm Matins of the Passion and reading of 12 gospels

Good Friday 14 April 9.00am Royal Hours; 3.00pm Vespers and Procession with Christ's burial cloth, veneration and Matins

Holy Saturday 15 April 9.00am Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great and Vespers; 6.00pm Solemn celebration of Christ's Resurrection, Matins and blessing of Easter baskets

Easter Sunday 16 April 8.00am Divine Liturgy; 10.00am

Solemn Pontifical Divine Liturgy with the blessing of Artos and Easter baskets

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist

51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne

The congregation meets in the church hall, 4 Elm Street

Palm Sunday 9 April 10.00am

Maundy Thursday 13 April 7.30pm including Eucharist and the foot-washing ritual

Good Friday 14 April 10.00am

Saturday 15 April 8.00pm Easter Vigil Service, the New Fire, Eucharist

Sunday 16 April 10.00am Easter Day Service with Eucharist and a reaffirmation of baptism

RESIDENTS ABOUT INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT (RAID@3051) Inc Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 5 April 2017

Time: AGM from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: North Melbourne Recreation Centre, 204 Arden Street, Theatre (above the gym)

The AGM will provide an update on local planning matters affecting us all, notably the Woolworths development and others in Shiel/Haines Street and plans for the new Arden-Macaulay precinct. We do hope you can join us at our AGM.

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It's time to make renting fair in Victoria

Tenants Union of Victoria

Victoria's renting laws are currently under review. These are the laws that outline the protections and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, controlling safety, security and privacy for renters.

Tenancy legislation has not had a significant review since 1997 and since that time the rental market has changed significantly. What was once considered a stepping stone to home ownership has now become the only long-term housing option for an ever-growing number of Victorians.

There are now over 1.2 million people renting in Victoria, around 30 per cent of all households. Many people continue to live in the private rental market for life, with the fastest growing group of renters aged over 55. This is why it is vital that we modernise the legislation to better reflect the current realities of the housing market.

The Victorian Government launched the review of renting laws in August 2015 through its Fairer Safer Housing review. The review began with an initial consultation paper, *Laying the Groundwork*, and proceeded with six Issues Papers covering topics such as security of tenure, rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants, bonds, rents and other charges, property conditions, dispute resolution and alternative forms of tenure.

Following this extensive consultation, in January of this year an Options Paper was released, detailing over 150 possible options for reform.

The government claims that it wants to make things fairer and safer for tenants. This however is not the full picture of what is being put forward in the options.

Long-term leases and security of tenure

The Andrews Government wants to provide optional longer-term leases to try to make rental housing more secure. At the same time they are proposing to significantly erode tenants' protections from unfair and unnecessary evictions.

We say that longer fixed-term tenancy agreements are not the way to make housing more secure for the majority of renters, and definitely not if other protections are being eroded in the meantime.

Housing security, or security of tenure, is about having choice, control and certainty over your housing circumstances. Tenure security is about the ability to create a home and a sense of belonging in the community.

There are a number of factors that influence how secure a tenant feels in their housing sit-

uation. The one that often comes to people's minds is the length of their fixed-term agreement. If you've got one of those you should be right, right? Well, not necessarily. Tenure security is not only about the length of your lease.

Other aspects that give you tenure security are:

- having a rent that you can afford to pay (and knowing that it won't be increased haphazardly);
- having your home be properly maintained and being able to get repairs done through an accessible and simple process;
- having privacy and quiet enjoyment of your home; and
- having confidence that you will be able to stay in your home for as long as you want whilst maintaining your responsibilities as a tenant.

How to make renting fair

Protect tenants from unfair and unnecessary eviction

- Abolish no-reason notices to vacate

In Victoria landlords can give notices to terminate a tenancy for a number of reasons, including where the tenants have failed to pay the rent, or where landlords wish to sell the property or move into it themselves.

Landlords can also give a notice to vacate for no reason at all, either at the end of a fixed-term agreement or at any time during a periodic tenancy. This severely weakens tenants' security of tenure and undermines tenants' confidence in the system to protect them from unfair eviction. We know that the majority of tenants are unwilling to assert their rights in other areas because they fear retaliation through eviction.

We say eviction should only ever be a last resort and that there is no place in a fair system for eviction for no reason.

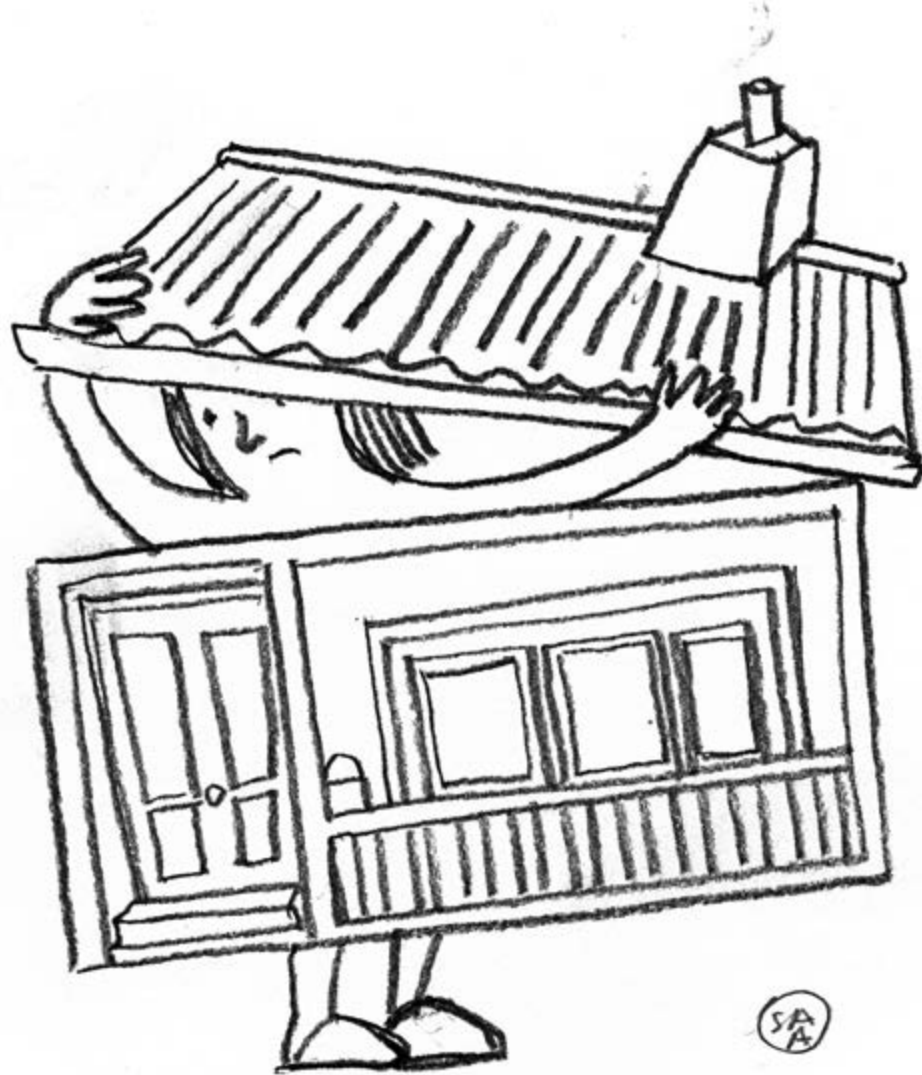
- Introduce a reasonableness test for evictions

Eviction should always be proportionate, it should be a last resort and it should be fair. We say that there needs to be greater protections for vulnerable and disadvantaged tenants to ensure that eviction is the most reasonable option given the circumstances. This means allowing the tribunal to consider relevant factors to determine whether eviction is reasonable given the circumstances.

Protect tenant health and safety

- Introduce minimum standards for health, safety and energy efficiency

Decent housing is essential to health and well-being. Rental housing, however, is one of the only consumer goods that does not have some form of minimum standards to protect consumers' health and safety. Because there are no standards, housing can be available for rent



It's hard to keep a roof over your head

Illustration: Susi Allender

even though it:

- Lacks basic amenities such as a heater, running hot water and a working oven/stove
- Is insecure because of inadequate locks on external doors and windows
- Is unsafe or unhealthy because of structural defects

There continues to be an ever-increasing shortage of affordable rental properties, and many tenants have no choice but to rent properties that lack even a basic level of amenity and energy efficiency. We are calling for the Victorian Government to introduce standards for health, safety and energy efficiency to protect tenants from unhealthy living environments.

Give tenants greater privacy protections

- Expand privacy and quiet enjoyment protections for tenants

We think tenants need greater privacy protections from disruptive and intrusive entry to their home.

The law states that tenants have a right to

'quiet enjoyment' of their rental property.

However, landlords and real estate agents do have some rights of entry, as long as they comply with the legal notice requirements.

When a landlord is selling the property tenants can be subject to disruptive and intrusive open house inspections many times per week. This is despite the fact that the law does not expressly allow for this type of entry. We say that the law should clearly give tenants the final say over if and when they have to open their doors to an open house inspection.

We also say that tenants should be able to refuse the gross intrusion of privacy of having photographs of their possessions displayed in advertising billboards and online.

To read more about the Residential Tenancies Act Review go to www.fairersaferhousing.vic.gov.au/renting or go to the Tenants Union of Victoria website on www.tuv.org.au.

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Homelessness crisis divides the city

Continued from Front page

not effective change. It will only hand out people with fines they can't pay, which might lead to arrests and imprisonments," she warns.

"Homelessness and sleeping rough is not a choice, it's a national shame. It's a shame that this crisis has been brewing for many years now and it is only now that it has taken centre stage. The solutions being offered are temporary fixes, and changes to laws that will make it illegal to sleep rough in the city are a bandaid fix and won't work."

The most recent available data from the 2011 census recorded 40 per cent of the national homeless demographic as under the age of 25; shockingly, 21 per cent of these were under the age of 10. The number one reason given by people accessing homeless services was domestic violence, coupled with financial hardship.

The City of Melbourne has recorded a 74 per cent increase in homelessness in the past two years.

Melbourne City Mission is another leading support service for those experiencing disadvantage, offering housing assistance, counselling and ongoing support. They have various specialised youth programs and are

the first point of contact for many vulnerable young people facing crisis. They have seen the council proposal and intend to make a formal submission.

Lisa O'Brien, Melbourne City Mission's operations manager of youth refuges (WRAP), explains the need for a holistic approach:

"Obviously, housing is a number one basic necessity for everybody but it can't just be housing ... it has to be support. What that support looks like is a cross-sectional approach with drug and alcohol services, mental health services, traditional health services, local government, councils, media and the community. It's really easy to turn a blind eye but we are all part of the solution."

Lisa also stresses the need for individualised support plans when addressing the complex issues of those experiencing homelessness: "Ultimately, it is about understanding the reasons why people are where they are — how their journey has led them where they are. The only way to get to those people who are disengaged is to go to them, wherever it is that they feel safe, build their trust, which is a slow process, and bring them back into services that can support them and have the expertise to do so."

Various outreach services operate across Melbourne providing assistance to the home-

less. Most are funded by donations and operated through the kindness of volunteers.

One of the most innovative and successful ventures has been Backpack Bed for Homeless. The company won the Australian Human Rights Commission's 2011 Community Organisation Award. They provide emergency relief bedding for homeless people without shelter through partnerships with 400 homeless services across Australia. Sadly, the demand far outweighs current fundraising efforts.

CEO and founder Tony Clark has been nominated twice as Australian of the Year for his incredible contribution to the community and he is outraged at the council's plans.

"Shelter is a basic human right," he insists. "Passing a law that takes shelter away is inhumane and evil. Many city councils around Australia have funded Backpack Beds for their rough sleepers. When no other shelter is available, the only way for a homeless person to receive a Backpack Bed is via a local homeless service aimed at getting them off the street. It's not known if we will have to stop distributing [this] proven life-saving assistance to homeless services in the City of Melbourne."

"Even a child can see the City of Melbourne is not going to fix the problem with these inhumane new laws. It's just going to move people

into surrounding areas. Backpack Beds keep people alive — while waiting for politicians to move suffering homeless out of their electorates. Leaders who forcefully move problems to neighbouring city councils are not leaders."

Our elected government representatives appear to be committed to addressing the homelessness epidemic.

"Every Victorian deserves to have a roof over their head. We're providing more support so those in need have access to housing and targeted assistance to get back on their feet," wrote Martin Foley, Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, on 12 November 2016.

However, it is clear that the current funding models are not proving effective in providing adequate support to Victoria's most vulnerable.

The proposed changes to by-laws governing public camping were released for community comment after a majority of Melbourne City councillors voted in favour of the amendment.

For further information on the organisations featured in this article:

Melbourne City Mission:
www.melbournecitymission.org.au
Sacred Heart Mission:
www.sacredheartmission.org
Backpack Bed for Homeless:
www.swags.org.au

'World's most livable city' — not for some

Ellen Sandell,
State Member for Melbourne

Homelessness in Melbourne is on the rise. I know it's an issue that many North and West Melbourne residents are deeply concerned about.

A survey of homelessness conducted by the City of Melbourne last year counted 247 people sleeping rough in inner Melbourne. That's a massive increase of 74 per cent compared to 2014. Sixty-eight per cent of those surveyed had been homeless for more than a year.

In a city that is supposed to be the 'world's most livable', this problem is reaching crisis levels. However, I've been disappointed that the City of Melbourne and the Andrews State Labor Government are not dealing with it in the way they should.

I was dismayed to see Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and his team of councillors propose new by-laws to try and ban sleeping rough in the city. Simply 'moving people on' or confiscating their blankets and bags just pushes people to other areas of the city. This approach will not work, and it's cruel.

One of the main reasons homelessness has increased is the lack of affordable housing in our city. There are over 33,000 applicants on the public housing waiting list, and most wait 5–10 years or more for a place. People are often turned away from crisis or temporary accommodation because it's full, or simply too expensive. People can be charged up to \$100 a night (sometimes more!) for temporary 'crisis' accommodation in motels or shelters — which is simply unaffordable.

The Andrews State Government promised an affordable housing strategy by the end of last year, but at the time of writing this strategy is yet to be released. Instead of building more public housing, Labor is transferring large portions of public housing stock to not-for-profit providers.

We need urgent action on homelessness, but it must be action that actually solves the problem at its root, rather than just moving it around the city or to nearby suburbs.

I have been lucky enough to work closely with the Council to Homeless Persons on this issue, and would like to share the inspiring story of Jason, a team member in their Peer

Education Support Program (PESP), whom I recently invited to address our local Police Community Consultative Committee.

Jason, a proud Aboriginal man and father of three, was a firefighter and valued member of his regional community when he was diagnosed with a mental illness. His struggle with mental health led him to drug addiction, which threw him into 10 years of homelessness.

After spending three years on the streets of Melbourne, Jason started to volunteer at St Mark's, a homelessness service in Collingwood. By chance, he connected with a local homelessness worker and was eventually able to receive medical assistance for his addiction, and was assisted by the Melbourne Streets to Home program to secure permanent housing.

Now that he has a home (where he pays 75 per cent of market rent so it's affordable for him), Jason has joined the PESP team and does important work improving the homelessness system, providing input into policy, and building community understanding of the lived experience of homelessness. He is an amazing and insightful advocate. But his story could have ended badly. He was only helped out of homelessness by a chance encounter with a homelessness worker at the right time.

He also waited years before he was able to access long-term affordable housing. Many people in his situation would have, understandably, given up hope and not been able to get off the streets or deal with their addiction or other problems.

Lots of people like Jason don't get the help they need, often through sheer bad luck or lack of services where they are. Many people disengage from services because they've been failed in the past — particularly if they're waiting for public housing for years without success.

Jason's experience shows that we must look beyond just knee-jerk reactions. Trying to 'ban' homeless people sleeping on the streets won't solve the problem, and will just push people to surrounding suburbs.

If you'd like to hear more about our plan for affordable housing, visit www.fixhousing.com.au

Note: I am on maternity leave until mid-year, as I take time off to enjoy the birth of my first child. My office will remain open and my staff and Greens colleagues can help local residents with any concerns or issues you have, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Photo: courtesy Office of Ellen Sandell MP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gutted by whale death

I am frequently disgusted with the way we treat this planet, but the article '30 bags in whale gut' (*Herald Sun*, 4/2/17) has inspired me to write my third-ever letter to the editor.

A Cuvier's beaked whale is a rare enough specimen in and of itself, but to find one dying on the Norwegian coast with 30 plastic bags in its stomach horrifies me. The article says the bags were blocking the whale's intestines and would likely have been causing considerable pain.

The purpose of this letter is to suggest that we should be more responsible with our rubbish. We are clearly not aware of the impact of our own garbage and rarely give any thought to the items we use — what we should and what we most certainly should not use — and to how we dispose of the packaging.

Let's consider the environment even before we buy.

**Very Greer Impressive and Yarndi
North Melbourne**

The population debate

Ellen Sandell MP's article (*News*, March 2016, 'Overdevelopment is a road to ruin for our city') is actually encouraging. But the deflection on the central point of population growth blaming "the government" is disappointing, and evasive given the direct nexus between overdevelopment and population growth. So what is the Greens' position on population growth for the seat and City of Melbourne? And Australia?

I've read the Greens' population policy at www.greens.org.au/policies/population. It finishes with nothingness — the point about having a debate has been there for a decade.

The Melbourne federal, state and local government Green representatives, in my experience, are distinctly unenthusiastic about discussing population growth and avoid having a clear public position on it, even a position specifically with respect to growth in the seat of Melbourne and the City of Melbourne, which has had among the highest growth in Australia.

**Geoff Leach, North Melbourne
NWMN website**

COMMUNITY



North and West Melbourne Association



We look forward to the installation of the heritage-style toilet in Queensberry Street this autumn

Graphic: City of Melbourne

The community and the NWMA have a major win at VCAT

In November 2016 the Capel/Peel Street community and the North and West Melbourne Association attended the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to oppose a nine-storey development at 199–217 Peel Street, North Melbourne.

The original proposal was for 11 storeys above ground with three levels of underground car-parking and comprised three retail premises, two licensed food and drink premises, 75 dwellings and 51 car spaces. All vehicle and service access was from McInerney Lane to the rear, in the residential part of Capel Street. The site area is 762 square metres.

The local community, the Association and Melbourne City Council opposed this proposal.

Just prior to the VCAT hearing, the developer amended the proposal to nine levels above ground with three levels of underground car-parking. The number of dwellings was

reduced to 64 with four office/retail spaces. Unfortunately, our council supported this later proposal, contrary to the community’s and the Association’s requests.

With the help of Russell Hocking, a prominent town planning consultant, the community and the Association presented a very strong case for reducing the height of this development. Based on a number of town-planning principles and planning-scheme controls, the development was considered to be a very poor outcome for this part of North Melbourne.

Fortunately, the tribunal members agreed with our submissions and reduced the proposal significantly to seven storeys with all vehicles and services to enter off Peel Street.

The community argued that it would support appropriate development that produced good social and town-planning outcomes. Given the new planning controls for this area, this decision is regarded by many as a precedent for lower and less intensive development.

It has become very clear, with this application and others, that the development interests

regard the recent planning-scheme changes — which were supported by the Victorian State Government and the Melbourne City Council — as an invitation to open up North and West Melbourne and Carlton to intensive and high-rise development.

A number of applications for inappropriate developments are now under consideration in West Melbourne.

CLUE confirms rapid apartment growth in North Melbourne

The number of residential apartments within North Melbourne has increased by 78 per cent since 2006 (4280 residential apartments, compared with 2400 in 2006).

Earlier this year, the City of Melbourne released its findings from the 2016 Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) data report on North Melbourne. The CLUE census is compiled biennially, and separate reports are published by the City of Melbourne for each of its constituent suburbs.

The recent report found that employment in North Melbourne had increased by 30 per cent over the same period, with the top employing industries being business services, health and social assistance, and food and beverage services. However, the data shows that full-time employment was not growing at the same rate as non-full-time work, which had increased by 47 per cent over the past 10 years.

For more information visit our website at www.nwma.org.au or join our Facebook or mailing list to read the full report when it is released later this year.

New public toilet for North Melbourne

In the last edition we announced that Melbourne City Council had agreed to install a new heritage-style unisex public toilet next to the urinal in Queensberry Street opposite the town hall. There wasn’t room to include an image of the new arrival then, so we provide one here.

NWMA meetings and contact details

Meetings: Held on the third Tuesday of most months, at 7.30pm, in the Dewey Common, Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street (enter from Union Street). Everyone is welcome. We often have guest speakers who present on topics of interest to North and West Melbourne residents. On 21 March there will be a speaker from Council to Homeless Persons.

Information: info@nwma.org.au
Website: www.nwma.org.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthAndWestMelbourneAssociation/
Membership: pay at www.nwma.org.au/join

Melbourne City Council — ideas for West Melbourne

Valerie Gerrand

Like many West Melburnians, I have followed with interest the development of proposals for our suburb’s future. Having missed this year’s February workshop on the West Melbourne Structure Plan, my husband Peter and I took up the offer to meet with Melbourne City Council (MCC) staff at a ‘pop-up park’ at the corner of Roden and Adlerley streets. In preparation, we read the two discussion documents tabled at the workshop.

This meeting with MCC staff proved a valuable opportunity for direct discussion about issues for West Melbourne residents. In our case, we focused first on the future of Dudley Street. After 20 years living on Dudley Street, we are well aware of the increased volume of traffic.

This includes many more large trucks and longer peak periods each working day. More pedestrians cross Dudley Street heading to and from the CBD, and there are growing numbers of cyclists.

The MCC staff were well-informed and receptive to our concerns. They outlined strategies for improving the traffic flow through Dudley Street, including the use of reversible lanes. However, they also acknowledged the difficulty of limiting traffic along Dudley Street, as it is the only direct conduit for traffic to and from the west to bypass the CBD.

In the future, traffic flow could be improved by the proposed replacement of the William/

Peel Street roundabout with an intersection controlled by traffic lights, as included in the Queen Victoria Market redevelopment plan.

Other issues we raised included the importance of retaining the green median strips along King Street, consistent with the attractive greening of West Melbourne by the MCC.

The proposed pedestrian crossing across King Street between Rosslyn and Hawke streets would acknowledge the increased residential population west of King Street. However, along King Street, median breaks between Rosslyn and Hawke streets should be limited to the break that enables vehicle access to Roden Street and then to Leveson Street.

Note that you can identify your own issues up to 20 March on the relevant website: www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/westmelbourne



Traffic expert Harry Barber (right) explains the plans to West Melbourne residents at a ‘pop-up park’

Photo: Janet Graham

Errol Street businesses under pressure

Sarah Biron

Disgruntled Errol Street shopkeepers are claiming that their rents are exorbitant. Some are considering closing down, saying business is no longer viable.

Gianna Quattrocchi, owner of gift shop Kitchen Capers, has traded on Errol Street for more than 30 years. "The rent has gone up by 35 per cent in the past four to five years so the store is no longer sustainable. I will stop trading in April," she said.

"I will miss being here in North Melbourne. It's such a lovely place! I will really miss my customers. I have tried contacting the council but nothing has worked."

Lucy Cantone says her business, McMaster's Jewellers, was also adversely affected, forcing closure after 30 years under her ownership. The business now runs as a mobile operation: "I was struggling to pay rent as it was and then it doubled in the final two years. I did try to negotiate a lower rate a number of times."

McMaster's had been trading at 60 Errol Street since 1878. Lucy received a 2013 Silver Lord Mayor's Commendation, a recognition awarded to small businesses that have operated in the City of Melbourne for at least 25 years.

Two other traders who prefer to remain anonymous say they have similar issues. A cafe owner said it was hard to meet his commitments in terms of staff wages because of the \$1800 weekly rental.

"After paying rent, which is a big chunk at the end of the week, it leaves very little," he explained. "Now I'm in the position where I have to trade in the evenings in the hope that I can meet our needs, but it is difficult."

"The pressure keeps rising all the time for small business. Decreasing the rent by \$100 to \$300 per week would be a huge help."

Another business owner claims things will only get worse: "The rent is the same or higher than other businesses with more traffic. The last rental increase was more than 32 per cent and my customers have had to absorb the price rises."



Illustration: Susi Allender

VANISH

Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self Help

Support Group Meetings are held in North Melbourne

MIXED SUPPORT GROUP
(Adopted Persons, Natural Parents, Adoptive and Alternative Parents)
7.30 – 9.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Next group 14th March

ADOPTED PERSONS GROUP
(For Adult Adopted Persons over the age of 18)
7.30 – 9.30pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Next group 28th March

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VANISH Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation. Tax deductible donations can be made by cheque or through our website

VERY IMPRESSIVE

Hi, readers. Welcome to the first of my regular columns.

First time I've seen Dad's writing in many years. Cards have always said "love Mum+Dad". Also first acknowledgement of Very or Impressive. Thanking for Porsche book I sent for early birthday present. And brownie points for marking exact model of his car (the Lola). And an extra 100 he found after Bathurst. Gosh, most interaction I've had from him in years. And in print. It's astounding. It's fleeting. But listen closely. Not for very much longer. Until madness takes its toll. I remember doing The Time Walk ... etc etc etc.

26/2/16: Emergency Dept, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Think I've torn something inappropriate in right shoulder/bicep. Serious pain in places. Awoke with it Wednesday, maybe did it when dehoarding with Carolyn on Tuesday morning. Made a silly noise this morning during Laughter Yoga With Dogs, our first session. Seen triage nurse now, she's a dog person. Going to get Yarndi a bowl of water. Even before yoga I knew we were going to be here today, but foolishly we didn't bring anything to read. Could've gone home to get something. \$550 to see a doctor here without a Medicare card, a nurse has just told someone. Hoping we won't be told not to cycle, tomorrow apparently being the LAST World Naked Bike Ride in Melbourne.

April 2016: Prince is dead.

I think I saw him sing 'Little Red Corvette' in the early '80s. If a search reveals he was in Melbourne at that time, I was there. I saw Prince.

April 2016: Text received from Mark:

"Hello gorgeous. I thought of you when the recent wall collapsed in North Melbourne. How are you holding up?" I wish I'd got that gate before they tore the Royal Park Hotel down. I shed a tear for her. North Melbourne won't be graced with her unique beauty, history and memories anymore. They didn't deserve her in the first place if the first and only option is to knock her down carelessly.

I am still in isolation. If it didn't make me look seriously messed up, I would make Mondays my silent day, no speaking. I know a girl who takes vows of silence; she is into the hugging guru, Amma.

How is huggable Yarndi?

Snuggable

Huggable

Smug

Haughty

Delightfully proud

Yarndi

That's how I see him

Strutting his stuff

Doing his thing

Text to Mark: "Hey there, invalid. Are you at home or in Pakenno? Still can't send mail to St Kilda without address!!!"

September 2016: You should see Errol Street. Entire tram route fenced off, ripped up in three blocks and replaced. But there's no superstop. Business sales were down 60–70 per cent. IGA lost 20k one Saturday!

Here's a laugh for you.

I'm having an ode printed tomorrow on a T-shirt for the gay marriage rally that Yarndi and I are attending on Wednesday. Saw the shirt today in an op shop, yellow 3XL

thing: I WANT MARRIAGE FOR LIBBY O'DONNOVAN AND CASEY COLE
Stop being such a wimpy-washy PM, or go away and let someone good do it.

Happy (Invasion) Australia Day to you. Yarndi says "Hugs, and may the Force be with you always". It's been a non-event here, haven't even talked to anyone except Yarndi.

Text from John: "When are we going to start producing medical hemp oil?"

Reply: "Often I've wanted to." But others tell me it's a time-consuming, cost-prohibitive thing and unless you can sell it (which is strangely illegal) you're just not making anything on it. People get defeated by the process.

One of the best pussybeasts in the world, my Dr Evil, died yesterday (5/2/17). I knew him from eight weeks old. The only other cat I've known as long was Pumpkinpuss when my sisters and I were kids. Didn't attend vets for injection. Decided the hugs we had in the morning would do. Now he's under a cumquat tree in Preston. Loved that cat for many reasons, one of them being that as far as I know he NEVER killed a bird. Practically everything else, but no birds. Killed all spiders in number 35 and a gecko, and 25 locusts at Darryl's got eaten. Fabulous cat he was.

Bookface: I added a few more. Started by my sister. Come on someone, do this with me! Facebook is supposed to be social so let's learn about each other!

Tattoos ... 36

Piercings ... only 5 now

Marriages ... 0

Divorces ... 0

Children ... 1

Surgeries ... 12

Shot a gun? ... No

Quit a job? ... No

Flown on a plane? ... Yes

100+ miles in a car? ... Yes

Gone zip lining? ... No

Fallen in love? ... Yes

Skipped school? ... Yes

Watched someone give birth? ... No

Watched someone die? ... Yes

Ridden in an ambulance? ... Yes

Sang karaoke? ... Yes

Had a pet(s)? ... Yes

Been sledding on a big hill? ... No

Been downhill skiing? ... No

Ridden a motorbike? ... Yes

Ridden a horse? ... Yes

Stayed in a hospital? ... Yes

Donated blood? ... No

Ridden in the back of a police car? ... Yes

Do you walk and text? ... No, certainly not

Have you been to Rapa Nui? ... No

How many hats do you own? ... 300+

Have you ridden a camel? ... Yes

Do you have trophies? ... 4

Do you own a brass instrument? ... Yes, 2

Have you sung in a band on a stage? ... Yes

Have you been in any movies? ... Yes, 2

Have you been on a steam train? ... Yes

Do you own a magnifying glass? ... Yes

Do you still send mail? ... Yes

Have you been on an ocean-going vessel? ... No

Do you still cycle? ... Yes

Do you eat McDonald's? ... No

Do you own cacti? ... Yes

Seek out your own emojis. What fun it is to find things I've done or have amongst the emojis. If you want to play, hold your finger down and select copy ... then go into status and paste. Change the answers for yourself.

Yours, Very Greer Impressive

Connecting cultures at North Melbourne Language and Learning

Nikki Blanch

Working at North Melbourne Language and Learning (NMLL) at the base of the North Melbourne housing estate, I am constantly excited by the people I get to meet, the languages I hear, and the amazing ways in which people live their lives.

It is like travelling each day. Rich sounds, colours and smells fill the air. I often think how lucky I am to be surrounded by all this diversity for the learning opportunities it gives me.

The Connecting Cultures program at NMLL aims to connect the culturally diverse communities of North Melbourne with the wider community, through creating opportunities for cultural exchange and intercultural connection.

Now in its third year, the program coordinates events such as cultural festivals, workshops that share the arts, crafts and food traditions of different cultures, and excursions to places of interest.

In 2016 the Connecting Cultures program brought the local community together through these events: celebrating International Women's Day with an archive tour and morning tea at the Public Record Office Victoria; running a mosaic card-making workshop as a part of Ramadan; inviting one of our community members to run an Indian vegetarian cooking workshop; an excursion to the Collingwood Children's Farm with an enjoyable lunch together; and celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with traditional foods and some hands-on activities.

To finish off the year, we took two busloads

of people to Silvan near the Dandenongs, to pick and eat cherries!

The year's events were a great success, engaging over 300 community members from 14 different cultural backgrounds. I think one of the real benefits of this program is the positive exchange that happens between people from different cultures.

In 2017, Connecting Cultures has a very exciting calendar of events planned in collaboration with our community, responding to needs and interests. Our first event for 2017 will be a Harvest Festival to coincide with Cultural Diversity Week.

The Harvest Festival will be on Thursday 23 March, from 4.00pm to 6.00pm, at NMLL, and will take the shape of a thriving marketplace. There will be different stalls to show how Harvest Festival is celebrated around the world,

with food displays and samples of traditional foods, some art-and-craft activities and music and performances.

Harvest festivals traditionally celebrate the biggest food harvest of the year. We invite everyone to drop in and take part in the celebrations from around the world. If you would like to be involved in any way, as a stallholder, cook or performer, please contact Nikki Blanch at NMLL.

Nikki Blanch is the community development worker at NMLL.

*North Melbourne Language and Learning
Ground Floor, 33 Alfred Street, North Melbourne
Phone: 9326 7447
Email: cdevents@nml.org.au*



Photos: courtesy North Melbourne Language and Learning

Top tips for tenants

Yaelle Caspi,
Tenants Union of Victoria

At the start of a tenancy

1. Real estate agents must inform tenants if they check tenant databases (blacklists)

Sometimes real estate agents use a tenant database to check if applicants have been recorded as having a poor rental history. If a landlord or agent usually uses a tenant database to assess rental applications they have to let you know in writing at the time of the application.

2. Tenants don't have to consent to receive notices electronically

Landlords can now serve notices electronically. This means that they can let tenants know all the important information by email if the tenant has consented to receiving notices in this way. This may be a notice that the rent has been increased, or a notice to vacate. If tenants don't regularly check their email it is recommended that they don't agree to electronic service as they may miss important information.

3. Tenants should fill out the condition report carefully and take photos

The condition report details the condition of the property at the time the tenant takes possession. It is an important document that is used as evidence to determine liability for any damage at the end of the tenancy. The tenant should make their own detailed notes and take photos of the state of the property at the start and end of their tenancy.

During a tenancy

4. Landlords must always provide notice to enter the property

The landlord is only able to enter the property without the tenant's consent for limited reasons set out in the *Residential Tenancies Act*, such as routine inspections or to undertake repairs or maintenance. The landlord must provide at least 24 hours' notice in writing to the tenant to be able to enter the property.

5. Landlords must keep the property in good repair

There are two classes of repairs under the *Residential Tenancies Act*: urgent and non-urgent. Repairs specified on the urgent list should be carried out immediately. Non-urgent repairs should be carried out within 14 days of receiving notice in writing. If repairs are not done the tenant can either contact Consumer Affairs for non-urgent repairs or apply to the tribunal for urgent repairs.

6. Tenants have a right to compensation

If the landlord fails to maintain the property in

good repair or fails to uphold the tenant's quiet enjoyment of the property, the tenant may be entitled to compensation. This can be claimed during the tenancy or up to six years from the date the incident occurred.

After a tenancy

7. Tenants don't necessarily have to leave after receiving a notice to vacate

If a tenant receives a notice to vacate, they don't need to leave the property right away. The landlord must apply for a possession order through the tribunal if the tenant does not leave by the day specified in the notice to vacate. Tenants have the right to test the validity of the notice. We recommend that tenants seek advice as soon as possible if they receive a notice to vacate and are unsure if it is valid or not.

8. Tenants can transfer their tenancy agreement to avoid lease break fees

If a tenant needs to leave the rental property before the end of their fixed-term lease they may be able to avoid lease break fees if they find a replacement tenant themselves. The landlord is not allowed to unreasonably withhold consent to assign (transfer) the property to a new tenant.

9. Tenants don't always have to steam clean the carpets

Although it's often a clause in tenancy agreements, tenants don't necessarily have an obligation to professionally clean the carpets at the end of the tenancy. Tenants only have an obligation to leave the property in a reasonably clean condition, and free from damage aside from fair wear and tear. If the carpet is clean without professional cleaning, then the landlord can't require a tenant to pay for professional cleaning.

10. Tenants might not be liable for the amount the landlord is claiming against the bond

If the tenant damages something in the rental property they are not always responsible for the full cost of replacement; landlords are entitled to recover the value of what was damaged, not the replacement cost. This means that depreciation of the item should be used to determine how much is owed. A tenant is not responsible for fixing something that has broken due to fair wear and tear.

More information can be found on the Tenants Union of Victoria website: www.tuv.org.au. Tenants can contact the Tenants Union for advice on 03 9416 2577.

Defender of Victoria's parks, public lands and heritage

OBITUARY

Julianne Bell
30.5.1940–27.1.2017

Julianne Bell, dedicated and courageous protector of Victoria's parks, public lands and cultural heritage, died on 27 January.

Julianne was variously described as intelligent, fearless, courageous, feisty, witty and "you had better have done your homework on an issue before taking her on". Julianne's death was a shock and profound personal loss to all who knew her.

Julianne grew up in Camberwell, attending Fintona Girls' School. As a schoolgirl, she was a champion horsewoman, Victorian backstroke champion and later a black-run skier and a yoga teacher. She travelled overseas often, teaching English in Greece and pursuing her interest in history.

Her last job before retirement was working with Minister Gerry Hand in the Immigration Department.

Julianne went down to the Franklin River blockade in Tasmania in 1982. From there she became an ardent defender of Melbourne's green heritage, including Royal Park, a core factor in the city's global reputation as the world's most livable city.

In 1996 she was a founding member of the Royal Park Protection Group (RPPG), dedicated to ensuring that any development was consistent with the 1987 Royal Park Master Plan. The park was being neglected and 13 hectares of parkland were cleared for a car park; there were many other threats to Royal Park's future. Julianne served as secretary, convenor and then committee member of RPPG.

The battle to preserve and protect the Royal Park has been ongoing. Julianne worked tirelessly to ensure the master plan was adhered to. In 1998 she was instrumental in the 'discovery' of Walmsley House. This historic iron house was saved and listed on the State Heritage Register and National Trust heritage listing. The golden wych elm in the grounds was listed on the Significant Tree Register of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

In 1999, battles over the location of the State Netball Hockey Centre (SNHC) were lost after legislation permitted its establishment. However, through Julianne's efforts, the existing buildings were returned to parkland rather than parking lots.

Julianne led the campaign to save the Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital and its beautiful grounds, coordinating the efforts of environmentalists, local residents, unionists and politicians. This campaign was lost when legislation was introduced for the Commonwealth Games.

In 2005, a successful campaign ensured that the new Royal Children's Hospital did not result in any net loss to Royal Park.

Julianne recognised the need to preserve Victoria's heritage of public spaces and land from the pressures of an increasing population



Julianne in familiar pose campaigning to save Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital from development in 2002

Photo: James Boddington

and in 2003 founded an incorporated body for this purpose named Protectors of Public Lands (Victoria). This organisation operates as a coalition of Melbourne and statewide groups, overseeing and caring for public assets in their localities. Its slogan is "Keep public lands in public hands". Julianne served as secretary until her death.

Julianne saw her greatest victory as stopping the East West Link in 2016. She was present for every minute of the six-week hearing, supporting the barrister whom PPL (Victoria) and RPPG had engaged to present the case against the project. This commitment took a toll on her health. The battle against a freeway through the park had commenced in 1999.

She continued to battle for Royal Park up to her death, objecting to a new permanent sports field with a pavilion and lights on Flemington Road and increased parking taking over more parkland.

Julianne's PPL campaigns included saving Port Campbell's fragile cliffs and war memorial reserve from an oversized development, and Camperdown's historic elm avenue of 500 trees. The attempts to save Gough Whitlam's home and the 110-year-old Flemington Road lemon-scented gum failed, but not through lack of endeavour.

Julianne was presented with certificates from the RPPG for her enormous dedication to the protection of parks and heritage, and she received a special PPL 'Golden Possum Award'. Julianne's work to protect the possums of St Kilda's Catani Gardens was legendary.

Julianne's funeral service was held on 3 February at St Michael's Anglican Church in Princes Hill, with a large attendance of family, friends, statewide activist colleagues and local, state and federal politicians from all political parties.

Julianne had initiative, confidence and integrity of purpose. Her mentoring of a statewide network of activists in advocacy and political lobbying will ensure that developers and politicians continue to be held to account. Her legacy and spirit live on.

Anne Phefley compiled this tribute with help from many members of PPL (Victoria) and Royal Park Protection Group.

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Spinifex Press casts its seeds further afield

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

A prime long-term advocate for women's rights, **Spinifex Press** is moving house, from Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, to warehouse premises in Geelong.

Biologist and social scientist **Renate Klein, PhD**, and author **Susan Hawthorne, PhD**, have transitioned their business over the past year or so while moving their personal home to North Queensland's Mission Beach.

In a fundamental lifestyle change the publishers are deserting Melbourne's inclement weather and incessant inflation to live in quiet peace, presumably to follow the writers' lifestyle they've long sought.

Not that local conditions have mitigated their individual productivity. In addition to their career catalogues each has a substantial new volume dealing with matters of critical concern due for release this coming August.

Klein's *Surrogacy: A Human Rights Violation* reports pro-surrogacy groups in rich nations such as Australia and throughout Western Europe lobbying for a statutory and

operational shift to commercial fertility.

"Surrogacy is heavily promoted by the stagnating IVF industry," Dr Klein claims.

"IVF is seeking new markets for women over 40 years, as well as gay men who believe they have a 'right' to their own children and 'family foundation'."

She details her objections to surrogacy by examining the short- and long-term harm done to so-called surrogate mothers, their egg providers and the third axis of this trilogy, the female partner/wife in the heterosexual couple who've commissioned the newborn.

Klein also looks at the individual child's rights, comparing surrogacy to what she terms forced adoption practices. She concludes that surrogacy — whether so-called altruistic or commercial — can never be ethical, outlining forms of resistance advocated by the Stop Surrogacy Now campaign.

Having worked as a biologist in Switzerland until 1972, Renate then moved to pursue women's studies at California's Berkeley University, before taking her doctorate in the Sociology of Education from University of London:

"That was when I started to work as the editor of an academic journal, *Women's Studies International Forum*, before transferring to Deakin Uni in 1986 to teach women's studies." It was a momentous move as the next year she met Susan Hawthorne.

"I have what's called a 'portfolio career'," jokes Hawthorne. "I taught swimming, taught philosophy, taught Koori students who needed back-up and taught English to Arabic-speaking workers at Brunswick Neighbourhood House."

"Then, because I'd been unemployed for some time around those jobs, I was eligible to apply for the writing music theatre coordinator at Women 150, which was celebrating 150 years after the establishment of Victoria, but I had to 'subvert' it. I wanted to involve Aboriginal, migrant, working chicks and lesbians across all those art forms."

"Then I met my publishers — a job at Penguin — and realised over four years there that it was my real work choice. When I left there I was a senior editor."

"Then in 1991 we jointly set up Spinifex," she says, and Renate gives her a warm hug.

The pair take pains to emphasise that

Spinifex Press is not going away. "It's *all* continuing," they shout in unison. "Just the address is changing, but maybe it'll work a little more efficiently if we don't have to drag down to Melbourne from North Queensland all the time," says Klein, gratefully.

"We're feeling quite okay; in fact, we're proud to have been here as long as 25 years," she says, 25 years being several lifetimes for most independent publishers in Australia. "We've been joint owners, directors, publishers, writers, general dogsbodies — and partners — for 25 years with Spinifex, but together for 30."

So finally the time's come to take some time for themselves.

"But," says Klein, "we'll have our dispatch and orders and general office in Geelong, then in Queensland we'll do all our editorial work, as well as continuation of our promotional works. Many of our employees will still work from their homes, as they've done in the Spinifex system for years."

"This will be ideal for our office manager, Maralann Damiano, who's been travelling from Geelong to Queensberry Street for at least 10 years. Now she'll have a 10-minute trip from home to work."

Proof that there'll be no stop to the Spinifex output is the continuation of new titles. Also released during August will be Dr Hawthorne's *Dark Matters: A Novel* in which hidden histories of organised violence are uncovered.

Hawthorne traces fear and uncertainty, while delivering a narrative of resilience created through the writing of poems. One of *Dark Matters'* fundamental concerns is how we pass on stories hidden by shame and our community's overwhelming resistance to shame.

Written in Susan's usual evocatively poetic prose, this novel is suitably terrifying.

But the Spinifex Press publishing partnership is seemingly more concerned with promoting its about-to-be-released works by other writers. One of these is *Gardasil: Fast-Tracked and Flawed* by independent health researcher Helen Lobato.

Lobato's background in critical-care nursing and her extensive secondary career presenting community radio sessions on women's health and rights have well equipped her to argue the case against widespread inoculation with the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine.

Her worry about the lack of evidence of the HPV vaccine's effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer is well supported by its recorded harmful effects. In the nine years since experimental HPV vaccination programs began, there have been 255 associated deaths reported worldwide and 43,000 adverse events.

Gardasil was fast-tracked through the US Food and Drug Administration, a process usually reserved for serious diseases where a new drug is required to meet an unmet and urgent medical need. But the incidence of cervical cancer had already been markedly in decline due to Pap smear programs.

Another work they laud is *The End of Patriarchy: Radical Feminism for Men* by Robert Jensen, in which he argues the case for radical feminism as a framework of critique and how men might engage and support women against violence and misogyny.

Jensen is a professor in the school of journalism at Texas University's Austin campus, where he teaches courses in media law, ethics and politics. He has won the Regents' Outstanding Teacher Award. *The End of Patriarchy* delivers a powerful argument that any just society needs nothing less than a radical feminist overhaul of its dominant patriarchal structures.

The Spinifex women love this man's work. It's only taken the odd generation or two, but there is now real awareness of the need for social equity. We can thank Spinifex Press for its unceasing contribution to this process.



Renate Klein (left) and Susan Hawthorne

Photo: Jim Weatherill

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

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

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

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



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



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Centre Adventures (Day Field Trips)

Time: Fourth Tuesday monthly
9am – 5pm
Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession* #
Meet at: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in Morning Teas

Cost: \$4 per session
Time: First Tuesday monthly
10am – 12 noon
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Errol’s Angels Community Choir and Beginners Singing

Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm
Membership: \$167.50 / \$103 concession* per term
Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre,
505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne

FOUNDATION SKILLS

Career Planning and Advice

Time: By appointment
Cost: \$96 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**Home Away From Homework Club
Primary (Grades 4–6)**

Time: Wednesday 3.30 – 5pm

Secondary (Grades 7–12)

Time: Tuesday 3.30 – 5pm
Cost: \$36 / \$26 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

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Communications or Compliance
Frameworks or Understanding Workplace
Documents and Processes**

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

Financial Literacy

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: Free for those sleeping rough,
others \$55
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Job Seeker Skills

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: Free for those sleeping rough
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Basic Skills

Time: Friday 1pm – 2pm
Cost: Free for those sleeping rough
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Return to Study and Study Support

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$96 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**Self-development Short Courses:
Human Resources for Small Business
Quality Customer Service**

Time: Wednesday 6pm – 9pm
(two sessions)
Cost: \$96 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

EMPLOYABILITY AND
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

**Asthma Management or Anaphylaxis
Management or First Aid
or Food Handling**

Time: 9am – 4pm quarterly
(two sessions with pre-reading)
Cost: \$149, \$95 Food Handling
Dates: Once each term subject to demand
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**Conservation and Land Management –
Certificate II**

Time: Wednesday 9.30am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$1195 / \$539 concession* plus
\$650 additional cost for field trip
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**Core Skills for Work – Vocational
Preparation**

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

**Education Support: Teacher’s Aide or
Certificate III**

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
Cost: \$1505 / \$705 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Event Management

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

Venue and Facilities Management

Time: On-the-job training
Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession*
or free internship
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Journalism, Media and Printing

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$133 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Train the Trainer

Time: Monday 6pm – 9pm
(three sessions)
Cost: \$475 / \$375 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

INFORMATION, DIGITAL
MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

Information, Digital Media and Technology:

First Steps

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon

One Step Further

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

Computer Skills: INTEL® Easy Steps

Time: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Cost: \$133 / \$105 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in One to One Sessions

One-on-one training arranged with instructor
Time: By appointment, bring your
own device(s)
Cost: First four hours \$105 and
thereafter \$55 per session
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Technology

Bring your own iPad or iPhone or laptop to
class to learn.
Time: Wednesday 10am – 12 noon
(four sessions in group setting)
Cost: \$105 / \$55 concession*
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Active at Any Age

Time: First, second and third
Tuesday monthly #
10am – 12 noon
Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession*
Venue: North Melbourne Library

Pilates:

Venues: ¹The Meat Market,
Blackwood Street, or
²The Legion, Little Errol Street
(behind The Centre)

Absolute Beginners/Rehab

Time: Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30pm¹

Beginners

Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm¹

General Class for any level

Time: Tuesday 5.30 – 6.30pm¹
Wednesday 9.15 – 10.15am²

Intermediate

Time: Thursday 7.30 – 8.30pm¹

Intermediate Plus

Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm¹

Mums and Bubs

Time: Wednesday 11.15am – 12.15pm²

Men’s Class

Time: Tuesday 7.30 – 8.30pm¹

Exercise for Older Adults

Time: Wednesday 10.15 – 11.15am²

Cost for Pilates and Exercise for Older
Adults programs:
\$185 / \$135 concession*

Mums and Bubs: \$22 per class

ART AND CRAFT

Art Therapy

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

Photoshop and Your Photography

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

* subject to conditions
subject to staff–student ratios

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS
ON:

**Discovery Walks – Art, Architecture and
History Walking Group**
Ready, Steady – Walk Docklands
Basic Self-Defence
Volunteering

Volunteer and Internship Program

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

- Spring Fling Festival, third Sunday in
October annually
- Spanish Language Fiesta, second Saturday
in April
- Writing and editing *NWM News*
- *News* distribution
- Tutoring or teacher’s aide
- Office and business administration
- Venue and facilities management
- Community development work
- Business promotion and development
- Other events

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

Get ready for the next Spanish Language Fiesta!



Photos: Jim Weatherill



Tatiana Echeverri

Time flies and there are only a few weeks left before the second Spanish Language Fiesta in North Melbourne. Last year we successfully hosted the first fiesta to wide acceptance by the community, and now we are getting ready to present an even better event.

The Spanish Language Fiesta celebrates Spanish Language Day, officially 23 April, the day Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra died. Cervantes is Spain's most famous author and is a key historical figure in the enhancement of the Spanish language. Our own celebration in his honour takes place on the second Saturday in April.

Through music, dance, art and literature we're bringing the traditions of Hispanic countries to Melbourne.

Last April people of all ages and from various backgrounds enthusiastically joined us for a day of fun and to enjoy all that this beautiful culture has to offer. So put the day in your diary to make sure you don't miss out:

**Saturday 8 April 2017, 10.00am to 6.00pm,
George Johnson Lane, North Melbourne**
Celebrate the culture, traditions and lan-

guage of Spain and Latin America with cultural and educational activities throughout the day:

- Spanish book swap
- Arts & crafts
- Spanish storytelling
- Music, dance & culinary workshops
- Spanish photo booth
- Language wall
- Spanish cinema
- Face painting
- Art exhibition
- Food stalls
- Live music

We are calling on stallholders, performers, food truck operators and other participants to submit an expression of interest in getting involved in this vibrant event. The community is also welcome to present ideas on different ways to contribute to the fiesta.

Get in touch with us for more information:

The Centre, 58 Errol Street
North Melbourne 3051
Website: www.centre.org.au
Email: staff@centre.org.au
Phone: (03) 9328 1126
Mobile: 0432 086 133
Fax: (03) 9328 4812

Getting through tertiary education

Dan Tutas

This autumn, many university students have just commenced tertiary study after completing Year 12. Others have returned to university after a time away or are continuing what may well be a gruelling challenge to complete a three, four or even a six-year course. It's always important to stay on track rather than giving up and forgoing all that hard work.

A recent report in *The Age* (18/1/17) revealed that one in three students drop out of university, unable to complete their studies within six years. Statistics also showed that a third of students who commenced studies in 2009 would drop out by 2014. Males were more likely to drop out than females, with only 40.6 per cent of males completing their studies compared to 48 per cent of females. Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges had a higher retention rate for males, 43.3 per cent compared to 36.2 per cent for females, over a four-year time frame.

One in three students drop out of university, unable to complete their studies within six years.

These rates are attributed to students choosing the wrong course and, more worryingly, the study-work balance that often shifted towards an equivalent of full-time work whilst also studying full-time, according to *The New Daily* (9/3/15). Students would often skip lectures and tutorials and miss out on important content in favour of earning an income or other living priorities.

Australian students are eligible for the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) scheme and, although this can mean they don't need to pay full fees up-front, they may not be as motivated as their international counterparts. International students, however, often find it daunting to cover up-front fees as well as working part-time to help pay these costs.

Such additional pressures to succeed have been cited as motivation for alleged cheating. Candidates, it has been reported, seek someone 'outside the arena' to do the work for them for a price rather than seeking extra assistance within the study group. Universities do respond to this behaviour very seriously, recognising its potential impact upon standards. Penalties for cheating are in place, deterring students from potential breaches.

To buck these trends, this recent graduate warns that falling behind in your studies is ill-advised as it can be very difficult to catch



Image: Wikimedia Commons

up and can mean losing touch with your ambitions and dreams.

It's important to be connected — forging new friendships and maintaining relationships by attending lectures, tutorials and classes and social events offered by the institution, especially during orientation, creates better networks. Student services on campuses are advanced, practical and supportive, and are highly experienced. Gaining an understanding of the various assistance networks during O-week can be invaluable. Clubs and societies are the mainstay of university social life. There are many choices for all interests — get involved!

Online students could stay socially connected by perhaps organising to catch up over coffee every so often to discuss the work at hand. Efforts in this area create opportunity and promote the best outcomes for your education and long-term goals.

Additionally, stay on track with the guidelines that the university or TAFE provides on your pathway to completing your course. You

may find you will be using your time less effectively if you deviate from this path. Perhaps even more important is to choose a course that will live up to your aspirations, be suitably aligned with your expectations, and possibly fulfil some personal goal.

Attending lectures, tutorials and classes and social events offered by the institution creates better networks.

If you're not entirely sure where you see yourself at the completion of your studies, it might be a good idea to enrol in a general course such as a Bachelor of Arts at university or a general training course at TAFE.

There is much advice and many helpful hints to be found online. For example, Youth Central Victoria (www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/studying-training/tertiary-study/tafe-training)

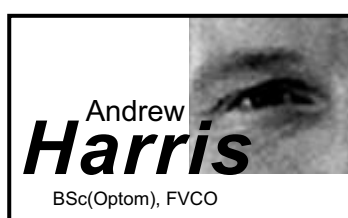
has some excellent tips for getting through tertiary studies and includes a helpline.

The Centre in North Melbourne provides Certificate III and IV courses, and staff members are more than happy to answer your call if you would like to get some help and advice. The Centre can be reached weekdays on 9328 1126 and you are also welcome to visit Shop 58, Errol Street.

How we fulfil our career aspirations via tertiary education is really up to us as individuals. Assistance is always readily at hand, helping to ensure that we receive the best education possible. There of course needs to be a balance in study, in work and in life. Higher education can be a gateway to many wonderful discoveries.

Friendships and connections made on campus continue after study, in careers and among alumni groups and ongoing affiliations, and the establishment of a meaningful career can be one of the most rewarding investments we ever make.

OPTOMETRIST



Hours

9–5 Mon–Fri
10–12.30 Sat
After Hours by Appointment

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How technology shaped the classroom

Ian Truong

Many of us would remember and miss the days when teaching and learning was simple and straightforward. Without electronic devices, teaching back then happened mostly verbally, or with a few charts for visual explanation.

More than 20 years after the first computers appeared in schools, which were generally used for data and document processing, this technology started to change the way students were learning, and computer classes became common, not just for young children but for adults too.

With the ever-evolving technology, those who adopted it found it gradually becoming immersed in their lives as their dependency on it grew. How long will it be before this technology totally takes over the classroom? Investments and funding are constantly being directed towards making education screen-based.

Technology has also changed and shaped the form in which individuals use their devices. Desktop computers (and later laptops), brick-sized monochrome mobile phones and pocket-sized stylus tablets were the trend back in the 1990s and 2000s, but a revolution came with the tablet, namely the iPad. Apple Inc first introduced their iPad model in 2010, after their initial successful venture into the smartphone market in 2007, under the watchful eye of the late Steve Jobs.

Since then, iPads and tablets have become

the most used devices in the classroom.

The fact that the iPad was targeted by many governments for funding as an education tool barely one year after its initial release tells us something about those governments' vision of the future classroom, such as the iPads for Learning program in Victoria (www.ipadsforeducation.vic.edu.au).

In addition to the evolution of the tablet, there are numerous applications (commonly known as apps) designed to assist students with their homework or studies. There are also Virtual Teacher apps that help teach students literacy and numeracy and assist with learning other languages, such as Duolingo. Today's apps are much more than a tool to process work, and devices are not just for reading and watching, as originally devised.

While we complain about the virtual taking over the reality as people spend more time on screen than actually communicating face-to-face, technology companies have merged the two into one by naming it Virtual Reality (VR).

One suburban school has taken things to a whole new level. St Agatha's Primary School in Cranbourne was the first to incorporate these VR classes in its science program (*Cranbourne Leader*, 22/9/16). They include a wide range of activities, videos and interactive games that help with a student's learning.

Inspired by a VR event hosted by Google in May last year, which welcomed developers, retailers, users and educators promoting their up-and-coming VR devices, it is no exaggeration to say the world has some



Google Daydream View VR (virtual reality) Headset

Photo: Ian Truong

exciting times ahead. There could be new markets for entertainment and solutions to help under-resourced schools address overcrowded classrooms, as students could take classes without a teacher being present and could, for instance, watch their own personal lesson about ancient civilisations in high definition!

The biggest challenge for a high-tech classroom is the cost. For many schools, upgrading to new technology such as VR is totally out-of-reality. Not to mention potential wellbeing issues facing individuals,

such as motion sickness or visual or hearing impairments.

If the use of an iPad in the classroom arguably increases inequality, being unaffordable for some but not others, then VR would further discriminate against people with special needs. The outcome for most devices has surpassed the expectation of their original purpose. However, when VR becomes popular, it should provide a solution to problems with delivering education, and not just be a new device to distract us.

Make a positive impact on a young person's future!

Zange Oldfield

Whitelion is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services to young people from diverse backgrounds. The organisation, whose head office is in West Melbourne, has a number of mentoring programs that reach young people who are involved with the Out-of-Home Care and Youth Justice systems.

Mentoring focuses on purposeful voluntary relationships in which dedicated mentors help young people develop a positive sense of self whilst building supportive and useful connections with their community.

Whitelion is constantly recruiting enthusiastic individuals to support vulnerable young people. These mentors provide the guidance and encouragement often missing from a young person's life. Whitelion's one-to-one mentoring programs empower young people through sustained connection, reassuring them that people care, even when life seems overwhelming.

The many benefits of mentoring for young people include greater connection with the community, strengthened personal relationships, improved self-esteem and a sense of stability. The young people are matched with appropriately skilled mentors who are able to provide advice and encouragement in their employment and education goals.

One young woman described a great experience with her mentor: "The highlight of our match was when Anne came with me to the first ultrasound for my baby."

Being a mentor is often a rewarding experience. In the words of one such volunteer: "It's the ability to support another person throughout their journey and providing them with stability and hope. Providing them with the tools and support network so that they can be the best they can be."

All Whitelion volunteers complete a screening and training process before being matched with a young person, with ongoing



A young person and his mentor at one of Whitelion's many community events

Photo: courtesy Whitelion

support for the duration of the mentoring relationship.

To find out more, go along to a volunteer recruitment information session!

Whitelion runs four recruitment rounds every year. The remaining information sessions this year will be in April, July and October.

Please phone the mentoring admin team for

more details on (03) 8354 0800 or email mentoring@whitelion.asn.au.

Zange Oldfield is a mentor coordinator at Whitelion.

Supportive learning environment for new arrivals

Cliff Rundle

North Melbourne Language and Learning Inc (NMLL) is an Adult Learning Centre and Neighbourhood House tucked away on the ground floor of the northernmost tower of the public housing estate at 33 Alfred Street, North Melbourne.

NMLL has been working with the diverse communities of North Melbourne for more than 25 years, offering English language courses and a variety of other courses addressing local needs, and staging community events.

In 2017 NMLL is offering English language courses for those who are starting to learn the language through to those who are proficient

but want to improve. Beginner and introductory computer courses and a range of community events and activities are also on offer. (See NMLL's separate article in this edition about the community events coming up.)

The events and courses are available for those who live in North Melbourne and surrounding suburbs. People who have recently or newly arrived in Melbourne, including people seeking asylum, are also very welcome. NMLL also provides training for long-term unemployed people who are referred from Job Active services.

Classes and events are stimulating, fun and supportive and designed to connect and engage students with the local and broader community.

The main courses on offer are:

- Courses in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) at the preliminary level and levels I, II and III. Students are assessed and placed in the correct course according to their skills;
- the Australian Migrant Education Program (AMEP), which provides education for new and recent arrivals who meet the eligibility requirements; and
- the Skills for Education and Employment program (SEE), which is for unemployed people referred by Job Active services.

The AMEP and SEE courses are free for eligible students. Fees apply for the CSWE courses. The fees payable are determined by the student's circumstances and eligibility for a government-funded place. Most students pay the concession fee of \$120 for the year.

Those who would like to volunteer are also welcome. There are opportunities to volunteer in the classroom as a teacher's assistant, as a one-on-one tutor and for special events. These are skilled roles so training is provided.

More information and images of NMLL are available from the NMLL website at www.nmll.org.au and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/vNMLL/

NMLL can also be contacted by email at enquiries@nmll.org.au or by calling Marie or Tewodros on 9326 7447.

We pride ourselves on being friendly and helpful. If you think we can help you or a friend, please get in touch.

Cliff Rundle is the general manager at North Melbourne Language and Learning.



Students outside North Melbourne Language and Learning in Alfred Street

Photo: courtesy NMLL

Errol Street Medical

General Practice, Specialists & Allied Health Centre

We welcome our new podiatrist, **Sam Besnek**.

Sam has extensive experience in podiatry and can offer a wide range of services including diabetes assessments, dry needling, nail care and orthotics. Bulk-billing is available for patients under the Enhanced Primary Care Plan.

OPENING HOURS: Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm
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SPORT & HEALTH

Voices, vision, action for global public health

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Public health threats to the Western world differ markedly from those in the Third World in both their capacity for outbreak and potential for treatment, but neither their occurrence nor effects should ever be assumed unlikely anywhere on the planet.

Thousands of international health specialists are Melbourne-bound for the 15th World Congress on Public Health, 3–7 April, to examine the effective translation of evidence-based science into active treatment and cures.

This is Australia's first hosting of the congress, which has been booked for Melbourne Convention Centre by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA).

WFPHA president Michael Moore, who holds a Masters in Population Health, believes the congress will highlight his career's themes. These are to engage medical professionals' diverse voices, ideas, visions and actions with their patients' concerns to strengthen and transform global public health efforts.

Also the CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia, Mr Moore is a PhD scholar at

the University of Canberra. A former minister for health and community care in the ACT Legislative Assembly, he holds the distinction of being Australia's first elected independent minister in either a state or federal parliament. He held his seat for four consecutive terms from 1989 to 2001.

He was elected WFPHA president in 2016.

Aiming to analyse and share local, regional and global public health lessons, particularly on gender and discrimination, congress speakers span the gamut of public health operators. They include the 1996 Nobel Medicine winner, Melbourne University Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, who now spends part of each year at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, where he continues his research into preventing the severe effects of influenza virus infection in juniors.

World Health Organisation department of nutrition medical officer Dr Alessandro Demaio trained at Melbourne's Alfred hospital. While practising, he also completed his Masters in Public Health, including diabetes fieldwork in Cambodia. Dr Demaio co-founded the millennial global social movement NCDFREE in 2013.

"Congress will examine effectively translat-

ing evidence-based scientific research into real action," Mr Moore explained, before detailing objectives for the expected 2500 congress participants.

"Threats to health are the same everywhere, so the major focus has always been on sickness care. That's treatment and resolution of sicknesses, but we want to switch the focus to sickness prevention. Sure, outcomes often take five to 10 years to record, but results are very broad and often more positive.

"Clean water and sanitation are major needs in the developing world," he said, grimacing. "It's hardly relevant in Australia — except for many Aboriginal communities — but water and sanitation are fundamental needs everywhere for the maintenance of public health."

Congress organisers received some 2000 submissions for paper delivery. "But the common, the universal, underlying theme for those papers was that wealth breeds health," said Mr Moore. "There's a straight line on all our graphs between the capacity to handle any disease and the amount of money — the amount of effort — that's invested in its eradication.

"Congress's concern with capacity is supported by the remote chances of an outbreak of the Ebola virus in Australia. It's minimal here,

thank God, but in West Africa, where the lack of capacity to handle it was mammoth, the disease was horrendously fatal.

"We want to understand what is needed to prevent these diseases so we can enact those prevention steps in primary health care," he said.

Capacity, information and good governance were also needed here, the president claimed. "We should question corporate donations to political parties by pharmaceutical companies, amongst others, and also the influence those donors have. For instance, how do the vested interests of alcohol, tobacco and gambling steer our governments away from evidence-based public health policy?" he queried.

Smoking's hazards and the benefits of its cessation will be measured by several speakers, who will argue that the enormous revenue from worldwide tobacco taxation absolutely must leverage a new angle on comprehensive tobacco control.

Among myriad other public health matters the congress will learn about pathways to health equity in the Asia-Pacific region; violence against women and girls; sexual and reproductive health; and the campaign to eradicate HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B by 2030.

TRAVEL & FOOD

World champion in both life and the ring

Sarah Biron

World karate and kickboxing champion Sam Greco attributes part of his success to having being bullied at school as a small boy. "The taunts were mostly racist. I was excluded from traditional Australian sports because I was 'just a wog'," he said.

"My experience with other kids early on set a mindset that I would always defend myself. In my day, we didn't necessarily report teasing and bullying to teachers, rather I was taught by Dad that I had to back myself. It was always emphasised to me that I should never instigate confrontation but rather ensure that I wasn't weak if faced with challenges."

Growing up in Brunswick, his Italian-born father, Vittorio, encouraged him to play soccer at an early age.

The owner of Don Camillo Cafe and Restaurant in West Melbourne, Greco is surrounded by hundreds of sporting memorabilia from AFL, boxing, kickboxing, soccer and athletics. Most pieces are priceless, personally signed by the athlete, he said.

"For example, I have a signed picture of Dermott Brereton in the '99 grand final when he broke his ribs. The image shows him being held by his trainer in a moment of anguish, refusing to leave the field.

"I am surrounded by images of victory and hard work, whether they be Mohammed Ali, the footy legends of old and every other athlete who has put his heart and body on the line for their sport. In moments of stress, I only need to look at the walls for inspiration and motivation."

He is involved in every aspect of his business from ordering produce to taking orders and cleaning tables.

Greco did not like karate at first and only participated because it reflected many of his father's principles of discipline, hard work and focus. He went on to play soccer for Brunswick Juventus for 10 years. This was part of the National Soccer League, the equivalent of the A-League today.

"It was an amazing time. I would play then race home after school and watch a replay of the game on SBS. I was the little school hero



It's hands-on for Sam Greco, owner of Don Camillo Cafe

Photo: Jim Weatherill

and suddenly my ethnicity was irrelevant to my peers because I was good at something."

With his unstoppable mindset, Greco won the Karate World Cup championship a thousand times in his imagination before he even stepped into the ring but it still made him feel on top of the world.

"All of a sudden my hard work, dedication and focus had paid off."

He sees winning the super heavyweight kickboxing championships as an achievement equal to his spectacular karate success.

"You see, what I perhaps more valued is the fight that qualified me to enter the championships, or the very first fight I won when I

changed disciplines. The journey was ultimately more valuable than the end achievements regardless of the discipline. In some ways my success in kickboxing gives me a sense of pride because I know how hard I worked to transition into sport, then achieve success and finally recognition."

Reflecting on his acting career, which included a small part in *Underbelly*, Greco said he enjoyed the ability to be somebody else.

"To tap into a side of myself that I rarely showed anyone outside my inner circle. I mostly enjoyed the comedy parts I played because it was such a juxtaposition. This big, burly guy who looked mean acting silly and soft rather

than menacing. I found this a lot of fun."

Greco attributes his drive to a deep-seated dislike of complacency.

"I have always wanted success, regardless of the arena or setting. I love the challenge and overcoming something I find difficult or that others think I cannot achieve. I thrive on pushing myself... You achieve nothing in a comfort zone."

He believes other people would describe him as "unexpected".

"Physically they have said I look mean, aggressive or tough. After speaking to me, numerous people have expressed their surprise that I am not a meat-head and that I can actually think and express myself at the same time!"

"How I see myself lacks controversy or surprise. I am a fighter. It is in my blood. I fight for myself, against myself, for others and with others. I fight adversity, oppression and bullying. I embody everything that a fighter is, not in the physical sense, but in the sense of mental fortitude, focus, willpower, honesty and integrity," he explained.

"I am disciplined and still value the power inherent in not instigating fights, though ensuring I am strong enough to withstand the pressure if faced with a challenge. Whether the challenge is financial, emotional or physical, I am a fighter and will always stand up."

Greco's philosophy of life includes being accountable for his actions and making the world a better place.

"I have been blessed in so many ways.

That doesn't make me better than anyone else but rather puts me in a position laden with the responsibility of helping others with less strength or fortitude than I.

"I am a fighter and my philosophy is that we are all fighters if we look deep within ourselves. I consider family, health and good company the most important things and in that order."

Greco is starting a new campaign, 'I AM A FIGHTER'. The goal is to "empower others through various avenues, whether it be individually, with groups or as a community campaign". His website will be launched at the end of this month informing people about the various businesses he is involved in such as personal training, public speaking and community fundraising.

Pinoy magic for *our* tastebuds and *their* youth

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Wide assortments of style and finesse stroll along Errol these warm autumn afternoons, many souls sauntering idly past number 50, **Reynaldo's Grills and Sizzles**, their senses tempted by the sight, sound and smell of sumptuous Philippine — or Pinoy — cuisine served within.

That assortment is not necessarily wallet-driven folk: loaded with individuality and modish expression, they're best observed from Reynaldo's interior, or under the cover of its umbrella-ed pavement tables.

Those idling dandies and their ladies would be well advised to join the growing number of locals and visitors lured by master chef **Reynaldo Aban**'s delicious, healthy and cost-effective Pinoy tastes.

Sited within a few doors of The Centre, adjacent to the Lithuanian Club and directly opposite Parkhill Cellars, this restaurant's massive, dark-tinted windows front spotless, stylish premises open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The water is chilled and chef Reynaldo's cuisine is good, authentically good. This writer is well acquainted with a variety of Pinoy tastes, having survived several editorial stints in that country pre, during and post Cory Aquino's insurrection as president of The Philippines from 1986 to 1992.

Whilst fortunate back then, the mandatory passage of long-term martial-law dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the mid-1980s, and then the assumption of power by Aquino as Asia's first female head of state, failed to deliver more than an inkling of the political or social freedoms dreamt of for generations by Pinoys.

Among The Philippines' current 103.1 million population (correct at 21 January 2017 based on latest UN estimates) settled on some 2000 habitable islands, rampant poverty remains entrenched.

Spread over 300,000 square kilometres — or 115,831 square miles — The Philippines' archipelago formally comprises 7107 islands in total, which are divided into three main geographic regions: the northern Luzon, central Visayas and southern Mindanao regions.

Reynaldo's culinary flavours draw widely on his native land's climatic and taste varieties. Several authentic starters, such as Kalabasa sa Gata, a creamy pumpkin, ginger, garlic and coconut milk soup, truly whet the appetite for this master's main courses.

And later, his luscious desserts — for those who've starved before dining to fit them in — including the classic Leche Elan, Halo Halo and Turones de Saging, or slices of banana and jackfruit in crepe, bring dinner to a delicious conclusion.

Chef Reynaldo, now 62, is a lifelong cook,

having prepared family meals with his mother since his seventh birthday, always following family rules of freshness, taste and variety.

His main course specialties include Crispy Pata, or pork legs; American Beef Ribs; Slow-cooked Duck in Orange; Chicken Adobo; and Kare Kare, or oxtail, each exploding with flavour and all accompanied by healthy noodles with vegetables or salad.

But there's more to this place than just superb taste, style and comfort. Reynaldo's life partner and mother of his two sons, wife **Dory Aban**, greets customers just like a national promotion. The former assistant nursing unit manager at Western Hospital in Sunshine is the joint founder of **Hope of Melbourne Colleges Foundation (HoM)**.

Established in 2007 by locally resident Philippine teachers and business people, it provides aid funding to house and school peniless senior secondary students back in their homeland.

Awaiting registration as a charity with ASIC and already holding an ABN, the foundation operates in Pangasinan Province on the island of Luzon, several hours' drive north of Manila, the capital. Most of its current students are fully sponsored by HoM scholarships.

The foundation launched with 90 students; it has nearly doubled in size since, currently graduating 175 students each year. No government funding is available for such programs in The Philippines, so foundation teachers, administrators, pastoral care advisors, finance and HR officers and cleaners, as well as two assistants, survive on HoM donations.

Melbourne businesses are also donors. Melton Health donated 30 of its used computers, which Dory then shipped to the college in Umingan city for student use.

HoM's aim is to educate these intellectually gifted students to the level where they can enrol in information technology or hospitality courses for two years in preparation for full-time employment.

TESDA — the local Technical Education and Skills Development Authority — then gives students funding for its special 45-day IT course, through which many HoM graduates have qualified.

"There's massive demand for both IT workers and tourism specialists throughout both The Philippines and the rest of the world," Dory explains, "but relatively few opportunities for the great majority of our Pinoy youngsters to achieve any definitive education or training."

Hunching over a polished stone table during the restaurant's post-lunch lull, this glorious lady demonstrates the nurse she must have been. Caringly concerned, inquisitive, efficient, exacting and highly effective, her medical and social consciousness takes over. "These kids have had to battle their entire



Restaurateurs and philanthropists Dory and Reynaldo Aban

Photo: Jim Weatherill

lives," she frowns.

"Living in villages of thatched huts, sleeping on cardboard 'sheets' and using their arms as pillows, everything is hand-me-down. That's everything from clothes and toys to school books and homewares, from the odd blanket on cold nights to personal combs or brushes."

Caressing her hand, her husband adds: "They have nothing of their own and we couldn't allow it to continue. We couldn't turn a blind eye ..."

Reynaldo and Dory took two weeks' leave in January to visit family and friends back in The Philippines, along with overseeing the start of the school year for their resident year 11 and 12 students at HoM's Umingan campus.

"They come to us in such a shocking state, both physically and emotionally, yet they are so naturally clever and so determined to succeed that it is impossible to deny them the chance to follow those dreams. Every youngster should be allowed to dream," Dory pleads.

"These young people are the life and soul of Pinoy future, so for it to ever develop an equal, a fair, or democratic society, it must be run

by people who truly understand the pain, the need, the fight to survive that's fought daily by some 85 per cent of their population," she says.

"And to understand that pain," her husband interjects, "they must have lived it."

The caring nurse remembers the agony of seeing young people's stomachs bloated from malnutrition: "That's deathly hunger, but if they survive it's a pain those kids never forget."

Reynaldo again: "And when they recover — with Dory's group's support — memory of their terrible battle with poverty might allow our home country to develop into a much fairer society in every way. That means with money, with schooling for everyone — like here in Australia — and maybe even political fairness. What a dream."

Simultaneously reaching for the other's hand, this pair have a true partnership.

Donations to Hope of Melbourne School of Arts & Trade Foundation, c/o Dory Aban, may be forwarded to 50 Errol Street, North Melbourne, and will be gratefully receipted.

Recipe: Crispy skin salmon and caponata salad

by Ian Truong

A traditional Italian salad goes with a beloved Atlantic fish! A dish that is fancy enough to be served in any fine dining place but also simple enough to cook at home. With 30 minutes prepping and cooking time and a bottle of wine, a weekend dinner for two is set!

Ingredients (serves two people)

2 pieces of salmon fillet with skin on (approximately 150g each)
3 capsicums with different colours
1 large eggplant
1 bunch of fresh basil
1 red onion
3 gloves of garlic
Capers
Lime or lemon
Vegetable oil/extra virgin olive oil, salt, pepper
Optional: 1 bunch of asparagus

Preparation and cooking

1. Brush vegetable oil on capsicums then roast with garlic in oven at 200°C for 20 minutes.
2. Apply salt on salmon skin and rub in well. Leave at room temperature.
3. Thinly slice red onion and dice eggplant

into cubes. Remove fresh basil leaves for salad topping.

4. Check if capsicums are well roasted then cut in strips and clear all seeds.
5. Heat oil in saucepan over high heat, put salmon fillet in with skin side down, leave for 5–8 minutes then turn to check the crispness. Continue applying high heat for the whole process.
6. If the skin is crispy, turn to the other side and continue applying high heat for another two minutes or more until the salmon flesh becomes firm and colour changes to light pink. Remove salmon and leave it to rest on a plate.
7. Add vegetable oil, eggplant, capers and red onion and stir-fry until eggplant is cooked. Add asparagus if desired.
8. Mix cooked eggplant, capers, red onion and capsicum with extra virgin olive oil then add salt/pepper to taste.
9. Plate up salmon and the caponata salad, topping with fresh basil leaves and lime or lemon juice.
10. Enjoy!

4 Weeks of FREE Zumba

No catches, no fine print, no excuses!



What: FREE Zumba dance-inspired fitness classes, for everybody including beginners
Where: SOKOL House, 497 Queensberry Street, NORTH MELBOURNE
When: First class is Monday 20 March 2017 @ 6.30pm
Why: We are launching Zumba Night and we want to get fit and party with YOU
How: Book yourself in and out of any class at www.facebook.com/MyBodyBuddyAUS/
Info: www.shanmaxwell.zumba.com

NB: The MBB 4 weeks of free Zumba classes trial is available from 20 March to 10 April 2017 inclusive. Classes will resume on 24 April 2017 at a special introductory rate (under \$10 per class).

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Between the Covers

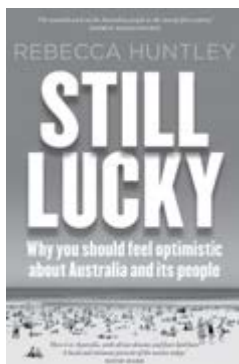
Chris Saliba

Margaret the First
Danielle Dutton
(Scribe. RRP: \$29.99)

Margaret Cavendish (1623–1673) was an English aristocrat, poet, scientist, playwright and philosopher. An early feminist figure, she wrote that she would be remembered as Margaret the First, just as King Charles was called Charles the First. She is considered to be the first woman who penned books under her own name (women usually published anonymously) and her prose tale *The Blazing World* (1666) is one of the earliest examples of science fiction.

In *Margaret the First*, American novelist Danielle Dutton has written a fictional account of the trailblazing Cavendish. Written at a cracking pace, this is a dizzying ride through 17th century intellectual, scientific and cultural life. Cavendish was active in philosophical circles, engaging with such leading figures as Thomas Hobbes, René Descartes and Robert Boyle. She was the first woman to attend the Royal Society of London, an event wonderfully re-created by Dutton.

Margaret the First provides a vibrant and colourful imagining of Margaret Cavendish's life and times. Dutton throws in many fascinating details and descriptions — of food, dress and domestic arrangements — that make the story leap off the page. Ultimately, there is a pathos to Dutton's Cavendish: an energetic intellectual spirit, shackled by the times, ridiculed, who died before her time and underappreciated.

Still Lucky
Rebecca Huntley
(Viking. RRP: \$35)

Dr Rebecca Huntley is one of Australia's leading social researchers. Huntley visits the homes of Australians from all over the continent, sits with them in groups and then simply listens. In *Still Lucky: Why you should feel optimistic about Australia and its people*, Huntley paints a nuanced picture of the nation's mood. What do we fear, what are we optimistic about, where do we think the country is going?

The results make for fascinating reading. Despite the way we are reflected in the media as mad-as-hell voters who've had it up to here, in research groups we're a nervy, anxious, pessimistic lot, worried about where technology, increased population growth and competition from China are taking us.

Interestingly, for a country where the economy is thought to be everything, we feel more emphasis needs to be put on social values. We grumble about difficult changes that need to be made, but would prefer that our loathed politicians implement unpopular laws to force us to meet the challenges we face.

Still Lucky is valuable reading. It shows that underneath the griping and perennial worrying we value fairness and community. If our politics seems stuck at the moment, it's because we need to give our politicians some more leeway.

Boo!
Ben Newman
(Flying Eye Books. RRP: \$24.99)

"Hey! Would you like to know a secret?" asks a tiny mouse. "No one is as brave as me and nothing scares me ... you'll see!" Turn the page and Boo! A big owl has descended. The cute little mouse is scared indeed and makes a run for it. Now it's the owl's turn to gloat. "Hoot Hoot! Bravery is my middle name and nothing scares me ... you'll see!"

Turn the page and Boo! A monkey has appeared to scare the owl! And on and on it goes — a crocodile says Boo! to the monkey, a tiger says Boo! to the crocodile, an elephant says Boo! to the tiger. What could possibly scare an elephant, the biggest animal of them all? Boo! The little mouse of course.

From the illustrator of *Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space* comes this children's picture book with a big surprise and infectious laugh on each page. The excitement builds as you try to figure out which animal it is hiding in the shadows, ready to pounce. The illustrations are bright, bold and colourful, sure to delight children and adults alike. The clever cover features two cut-out Os that actually reveal themselves to be crocodile eyes when you open the book.

Ages 3+

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

More migrant turmoil

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Ken's *Quest* is transitional: it traces the financially stressed journey of a Chinese engineer who emigrates to his idyllic resources-rich, politically stable, racially tolerant 'land down under' to achieve his life's dream — to provide unlimited wealth and its lifestyle ease for himself and his family.

Intending to sponsor their move to his new land centred in West Brunswick and Footscray, Ken — or Wei Da, as his parents named him — needs residency papers, their work permits stipulating youthful applicants and/or an Aussie partner to marry and build a new life.

Having lost his first wife to cancer when their second child, a daughter, was a baby, middle-aged Ken is slowly developing a single-parent mentality, having left the children with his older brother at his mother's home in Shanghai.

Simultaneously coming to terms with widowhood, his daughter's disability and his young son's homosexual tendencies and too-friendly behaviour with a primary-school friend, Ken's tertiary degree and career credentials are not accepted here. His plan has hit immigration reality, these circumstances highlighting conditions experienced by many, but their acute individual effects are well documented here by author Cher Chidzey.

Having arrived from Singapore as a student in 1975, Cher graduated with a Bachelor of Sciences from Monash University, then took her masters from the University of Melbourne, before teaching secondary and tertiary mathematics. She wrote curriculum and conducted workshops for TAFE teachers from 1990 to 2000.

This young lecturer took pride in nurturing students' inherent problem-solving skills, encouraging them to explore different cultures throughout their youth before considering the complexity of human relationships "and the tribal voice in their hearts", a voice she argues we should all appreciate.

As now an Asian 'new' Australian of more than 40 years Cher is well acquainted with the fragility of migrant life — and the plight of asylum seekers, many of whom appear in Footscray and West Brunswick scenes in *Ken's Quest*. And her writing shows her love of the

humble, natural beauty of inner Melbourne's untouched regions, Ken ambling along pristine river trails, hiking along overgrown freeway culverts and watching all sorts of people living their gentle lives in Melbourne's inner north-west.

Those images of the too-good-to-be-true society into which he's attempting to move certainly fail to meet Ken's — or his author's — expectations. "Our cross-cultural, multi-ethnic Australian society provides no platform for genuine communication with people just arrived," Cher frowns, before noting examples of joint discrimination by new settlers and established Aussies.



Author Cher Chidzey

Photo: Jim Weatherill

Cher's *Ken's Quest* volume is a comfy, yet exacting, compilation of one potential migrant's journey through a 'new' life. What it substantially shows is that prejudice is a universal trait unrestricted to yanks, to poms, or wogs, or chinks, to afros or to blacks. All of us need to see through recipient — or victim — eyes and urgently adopt decent attitudes and fair behaviour before we have any notion of a free and equal society.

Ken's Quest by Cher Chidzey is published by Melbourne's Threekookaburras and sells for \$29.95.

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Poets' Page

The Strength of 'Us'

Emily Chan

I left home in Vancouver on a cool night in fall,
All my bags were packed and ready to take on it all.

"It'll be the trip of a lifetime," my friends would say,
They promised that I was going to change, in some way.

As the plane left the tarmac, my heart braced for the change;
But not knowing the changes, and not knowing the range.

My mind has since been racing with concerns of this kind,
Learning that our worst enemy can be our own mind.

Instead of filling with pressure, I filled up with love,
Searching for spaces and places that would rise above.

I've found neighbourhood houses where I love what they do,
Holden Street, The Centre, Collingwood, to name a few.

If there's something to learn, it's that community's key,
They help open hearts and minds to what others can't see.

They create warmth for those who often feel most alone,
Those who have had more strife and hardship than most have known.

It's been hard to follow the recent news in our world,
With elections, war and disasters that make minds swirl.

Each day becomes tougher to avoid feeling dour,
Hearing hateful propaganda by those in power.

When people are told their love, culture or race is wrong,
It is vital for communities to stand up strong.

This is a time where communities have diverse forms,
Online, offline, small or big, they're all changing the norms.

It's the strength of our differences that let us connect,
And flourish communities of care, love and respect.

Trip of a lifetime? My friends need not be corrected;
I'm honoured for friendships and memories collected.

But community is more than an 'I' and a 'you';
With community as 'us', imagine what we could do.

North Melbourne

Sarah Biron

untrammelled light
floods wide, wide streets
room to breathe and dream
shy streets
wild streets
deceptive, sly streets
ordinary and surreal
houses with wrought-iron edges
bogan burgers, stubbies
I unravel my tangled thoughts
and unwind
to the relaxed tempo
life once had

Scratch My Name Into the Feet of Statues

Angus Cameron

Scratch my name into the feet of statues

Around the world; write me into being;

On the spotless walls of the avenues

Re-scrawl my name with love everlasting.

Don't turn me into marble, bronze or gold,

Don't portrait me to then hang on the wall,

Or, worse still, to collect dust and grow old

Lying silently, forgotten to all.

Write, write, write and then rewrite me once more!

For when you revive me I will live on

And on — it's impossible to ignore

What's immortalised in a lexicon.

Time is long and so difficult to best:

I need your help, reader, to stand this test.



SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2017

TOPIC: Your choice

LENGTH: Maximum 2000 words

ELIGIBILITY: Open to non-professional writers only. Not open to members of the News editorial team

DEADLINE: Close of business Monday 24 April 2017

SEND TO: nwmnews@centre.org.au with "Short story competition" in the subject line. Submit as a Word document typed in 1.5 line spacing. Include your name, address and telephone number

FIRST PRIZE: Best entry will receive a \$500 cash prize

ENQUIRIES: The Centre, 9328 1126

The winning entry will be published in the Winter 2017 edition of NWMN.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Incorporating UnitingCare Hotham Mission

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday: April 13 7.30pm

Good Friday: April 14 10.00am

Easter Vigil Service: Saturday April 15 8.00pm

Easter Day Service: April 16 10.00am with Eucharist

Our next study series will be on

"Praying the Psalms: Engaging Scripture and the Life of the Spirit"

You are very welcome to join us at Sunday worship
and in our study groups!

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 provides early intervention and prevention support for youth and families experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation. Programs include educational support (homework club, the mess club early intervention program), material aid assistance for high school students, food security assistance and research, advocacy and support.

To volunteer or for more information:

enquiries@hothammission.org.au,

9326 8245, or

www.hothammission.org.au

Hidden treasures in our midst

Frances McMillan

Rosemary Johns, a North Melbourne resident for the past 12 years, walked through the door of The Centre to become a tutor in the Home Away From Home-work Club a year or so ago.

Rosemary Johns' acclaimed play *As Told by the Boys Who Fed Me Apples* depicts the poignant story of Sandy, one of 136,000 warhorses sent to the WW1 battlefields, and his close and enduring bonds with the men he served with overseas.

Rosemary believes that Sandy's story in fact 'found her' through a conversation with the grand-daughter of a man whose warhorse wasn't repatriated. The story of Sandy epitomises the rollicking companionship and tender relationships between the men and their horses in the most horrific circumstances.

Under the direction of Greg Carroll, with just two actors (André Jewson and Miklos Gerey) on a patch of sand, we are taken on a journey to the heart of the companionship, tenderness and love that existed between the different men and Sandy the horse as they shared and endured the horrors and deep wounds of war.

The story we witness is heart-wrenchingly sad and yet life-affirming. The profundity of the emotional landscape explored in the play is magnified by the simplicity of the set and design and the haunting soundtrack created by Michael Havir (of Melbourne Ska Orchestra).

Sandy was the only warhorse to be returned alive to Australia.

Supported by the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund, Rosemary's research involved tracing the odyssey of this one horse right back to his birth in Tallangatta in 1907. The O'Donnell brothers, local brickmakers, donated Sandy to the Australian effort upon the outbreak of WW1.

Sandy made his way, by ship, to Alexandria, Egypt, and due to his gentle nature was chosen by Major General Sir William Bridges as his favourite. Man and horse became well known to the troops as a formidable pair until Bridges went to Gallipoli. There shot and killed by a Turkish sniper, his dying wish was for the horse to be returned to Duntroon.

Sandy didn't make it to Duntroon but he was the only warhorse to be returned alive to Australia.

The next chapter charts Sandy's turn as a working horse at the veterinary hospital in Calais. As part of the veterinary unit Sandy was not sent to the front but was ridden out to shelled villages by vets trying to reach wounded animals.



North Melbourne playwright Rosemary Johns
Photo: courtesy Rosemary Johns

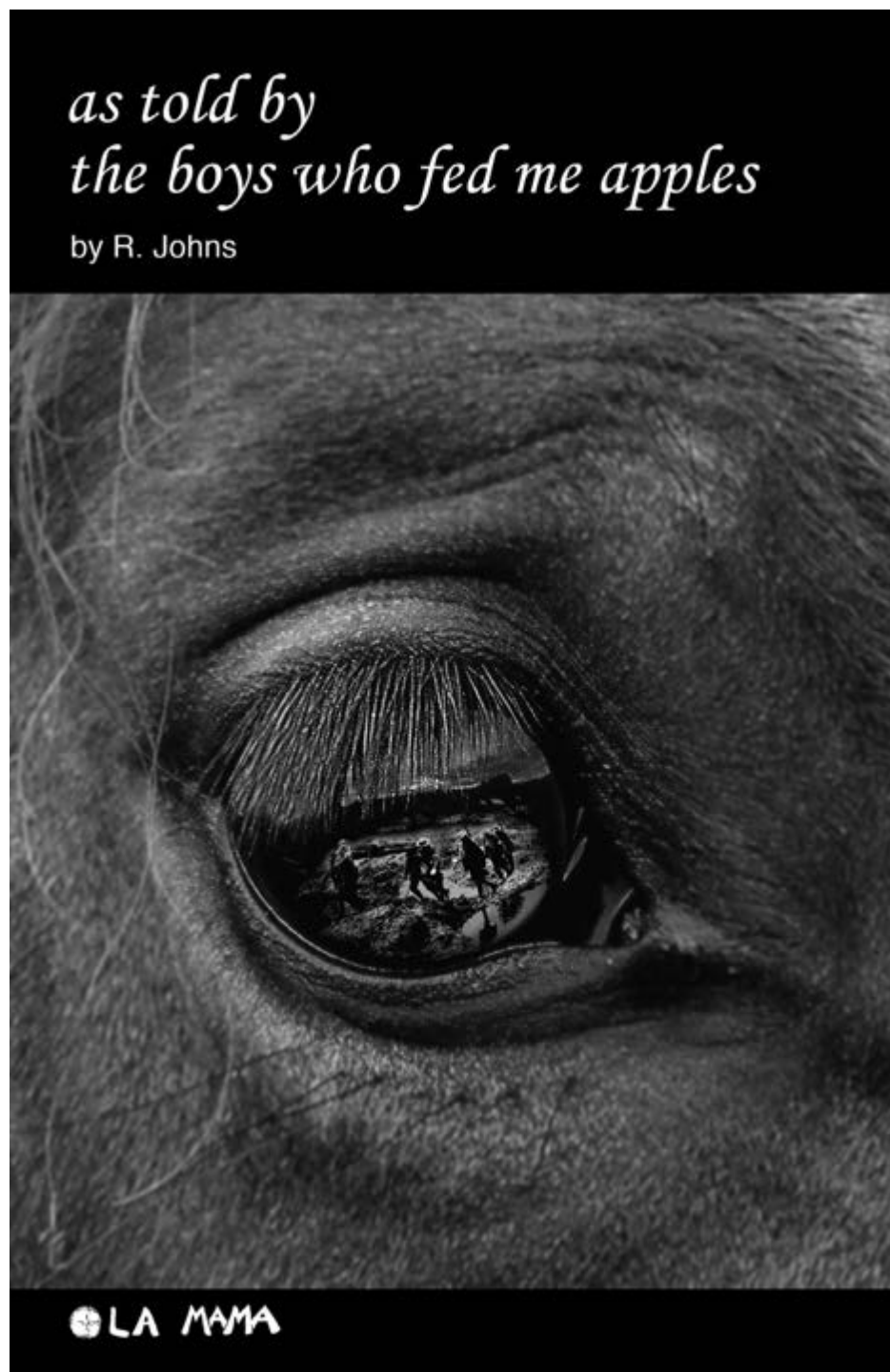
Sandy returned to Melbourne in November 1918, now 11 years old, accompanied by his groom, Private Archibald Jordan. Sandy was retired to the Maribyrnong Remount Depot where he "grazed and lazed" until he died a legend in 1923. Private Jordan died just three months later of tuberculosis, or a broken heart, and lies in an unmarked grave in Box Hill Cemetery.

Rosemary Johns discovered a group named Friends of Sandy and the Australian Light Horse, which is determined to preserve and honour Sandy and other Australian warhorses. Members of this group have fought for over 25 years to commemorate these equine warriors and recently received a grant from the Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund to commission a sculpture of Sandy, to be placed at the old stables behind the Maribyrnong Community Centre.

All these layers, forgotten stories and forgotten people are brought to light in Rosemary's powerful play.

The Friends of Sandy and the Australian Light Horse gave their full support and provided research material for *As Told by the Boys Who Fed Me Apples*, and all these layers, forgotten stories and forgotten people are brought to light in Rosemary's powerful play.

The play was nominated for a 2016 AWGIE award and has been selected for study in the VCE Drama and Theatre Studies Playlist for 2017.



La Mama flyer for the play

Image: courtesy La Mama Theatre

Rosemary's plays have been produced at Carlton's La Mama, Fortyfivedownstairs, Playbox and Footscray's Big West Festival, as well as Sydney's New Theatre and Twelfth Night Theatre in Brisbane. Some have been presented in

Stockholm, Mumbai and Athens.

As Told by the Boys Who Fed Me Apples is playing at La Mama Courthouse from 22 March to 2 April. For bookings phone Maureen Hartley on 9347 6948.



Dr Margaret McDowell
Dr Alan Underwood
Dr Paul O'Keefe (Osteopath)

We are delighted to welcome to the practice our new GP, Dr Jane Habib.



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Jane loves her job and enjoys all aspects of General Practice. Her primary interests include Women's Health, Mental Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Palliative Care, Integrative Medicine and Education.



Dr Jane Habib
General Practitioner

Upcoming Events

www.northandwestmelbournenews.com

FREE EVENTS

The Women Behind The Women's | The Royal Women's Hospital Atrium | 8 March – 1 June | All Day | www.thewomens.org.au

Farmers' Market at the University of Melbourne | Union Lawn, Parkville | 8 March – 29 November | 10:30am – 2:30pm, Wednesdays during semester | www.mfm.com.au/markets/university-melbourne

Community Harvest Festival | North Melbourne Language & Learning | 23 March | 4:00pm – 6:00pm | www.facebook.com/vNMLL

Cultural Diversity Week & Victoria's Multicultural Festival | Fed Square | 25 March | noon – 9:00pm | www.culturaldiversityweek.vic.gov.au

Spanish Language Fiesta | George Johnson Lane, North Melbourne | 8 April | 10:00am – 6:00pm | www.centre.org.au/whats_on

Australian Youth Dance Festival launch | Testing Grounds, Southbank | 14 April | 6:30pm – 8:00pm | www.ausdancevic.com.au/aydf

Anzac Day Commemoration | Cnr King & Victoria Streets, North Melbourne | 23 April | 2:00pm | www.centre.org.au/whats_on

SHORE | Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall | 6 – 14 May | www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-house

MUSIC

Diplo | Festival Hall | 18 March | 7:30pm | www.festivalhall.com.au/events/725

A Weekend in the Gardens | Royal Botanic Gardens | 10 – 12 March | 4:00pm | www.aweekend.com.au

A Musical Soirée presented by Errol's Angels Community Choir | Lulu Cafe & Gallery, 506 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne | 2 April | 5:30pm | www.facebook.com/ErrolsAngels

Patti Smith and her band: last Australian concert | Festival Hall | 20 April | 8:00pm | www.festivalhall.com.au/events/784

The Wombats | Festival Hall | 3 May | 8:30pm | www.festivalhall.com.au/events/802

EXHIBITIONS

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show | Royal Exhibition Building | 29 March – 2 April | 9:00am – 5:00pm | www.melbflowershow.com.au

Melbourne International Coffee Expo | Melbourne Showgrounds | 30 March – 1 April | www.internationalcoffeeexpo.com

Dog Lovers Show | Royal Exhibition Building | 5 – 7 May | 9:30am – 5:00pm | www.dogloversshow.com.au/melbourne

The Violence of Denial | Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall | 6 – 14 May | 9:00am – 5:00pm | www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-house

Our Odyssey: Ithacans in Melbourne | Until 4 June | 10:00am – 5:00pm | www.museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum

FESTIVALS

Brunswick Music Festival | various venues | 5 – 19 March | www.brunswickmusicfestival.com.au

Alliance Française French Film Festival 2017 | various cinemas | 8 – 30 March | www.affrenchfilmfestival.org

Melbourne Queer Film Festival | ACMI, Fed Square | 16 – 27 March | 6:00pm – late | www.mqff.com.au

Melbourne International Comedy Festival | various venues | 29 March – 23 April | www.comedyfestival.com.au

Melbourne Food & Wine Festival | various venues & events | 31 March – 9 April | www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au

Wine & Cheese Festival | Meat Market, North Melbourne | 2 April | 11:30am – 5:30pm | www.wineandcheesefest.com.au

Good Beer Week 2017 | various venues & events | 12 – 21 May | www.goodbeerweek.com.au

Mind, Body, Spirit Festival | Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre | 9 – 12 June | www.mbsfestival.com.au

THEATRE

Dance Massive at Arts House 2017 | North Melbourne Town Hall | 14 – 26 March | various times | www.dancemassive.com.au

Deep Sea Dances | Meat Market | 22 – 26 March | 8:15pm | www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-house

Cockfight | Meat Market | 24 – 26 March | various times | www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-house

In Your Hands | Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall | 20 & 21 May | 10:00am – 6:00pm | www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-house

COMEDY

Comedy Festival 3 for 1 | The Comics Lounge | 29 March – 1 April | 8:00pm | www.thecomicslounge.com.au

Danny McGinlay | The Comics Lounge | 2, 9, 16 & 23 April | 7:30pm | www.thecomicslounge.com.au

To have your event listed here in the June 2017 edition, please email us at nwmnews@centre.org.au