

40 years

## Sun shines on third Spanish Language Fiesta



The Supay Trio entertained festival-goers with their tango and Argentinian-inspired music with a modern folk twist

Photo: Jim Weatherill

### Tatiana Echeverri

On Saturday 7 April, a kaleidoscope of colours, music, food and activities greeted people of all ages and backgrounds as they joined us to celebrate the culture, traditions and language of Spain and Latin America in the third edition of the Spanish Language Fiesta.

The Spanish Language Fiesta (SLF) was developed to celebrate Spanish Language Day and honour the famous author Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who contributed so much to the history of the Spanish language. While

celebrating the language, the SLF embraces Melbourne's diversity by inviting our wider community to come together to learn about the rich traditions of this culture.

The fiesta is an annual event organised by The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc and takes place in George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street.

What made the 2018 Spanish Language Fiesta different from other Latin festivals in Melbourne? Well, people might think it was just another excuse to dance, party and enjoy music and good food! And yes, while we did have all those things, that was not our main focus.

We promoted the Spanish language in all its forms through an educational program that looked at culture and language from different angles, taking a comprehensive approach. Activities included a writing workshop, a Spanish class, poetry performance, theatre monologue, cinema, an art exhibition, art intervention and a book swap.

Saturday 7 April was a beautiful day, not only because the sun was shining with a top of 25 degrees but also because everything went better than we could have hoped for. We are very grateful to our sponsors, partner organisations, donors, volunteers and attendees for making this an unforgettable day.

Special thanks go to the State Government of Victoria, City West Water, Mortiz, United Spanish Latin-American Welfare Centre Inc, Farolito Spanish Language School, Melbourne Filmoteca, Ventana Fiesta, Pastuso restaurant and Versent. We are also most grateful for all the contributions from the community.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year. Save the date — the 2019 Spanish Language Fiesta is scheduled for Saturday 6 April.

For enquiries and expressions of interest please contact The Centre on (03) 9328 1126 or at [admin@centre.org.au](mailto:admin@centre.org.au).

## 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 40th year of production. Readers' contributions are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles and advertisements considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

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

**Finance**

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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.

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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:** Ragn Hannah

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*North and West Melbourne News* is available online at The Centre's website:

[www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au)

**NEWS DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED!**

If you enjoy receiving a copy of the *News* delivered to your home every quarter, you might like to think about joining the team of volunteers who make sure the paper finds its way into almost every letterbox in North and West Melbourne.

Please email **Distribution Coordinator Dan Tuturas** at [nwmnews@centre.org.au](mailto:nwmnews@centre.org.au) if you are able to assist.

**Annual General Meeting of The Centre**

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc to be held on Monday 24 September 2018 at the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women, 16 Little Errol Street, North Melbourne.

New members are welcome.

**Time:** 6.30pm — please join us for refreshments afterwards.

**RSVP:** 17 September 2018

**Email:** [admin@centre.org.au](mailto:admin@centre.org.au)

**Phone:** 9328 1126

**BOOK LAUNCH**

June McIntosh is staging a book launch to celebrate the release of two junior fiction novels. The event will take place at Mr Price's Food Store on Sunday 8 July between 1.00pm and 4.00pm.

Signed copies of the books, *Jasper Jett & the Breach of the Sixth Crystal* and *Jasper Jett & the Sceptre of Selenite*, will be available for purchase at the event.

June will be joined by special guest Richard Piper. The North Melbourne stage actor will be making a speech at 2.00pm.

Mr Price's Food Store is located at 502 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.

**Welcome to North Melbourne!**

As new apartments are completed and occupied, the population of North Melbourne is changing, and so, on May Day, recent and longer-term residents of Hotham Hill dropped into Gardiner Reserve expressly to introduce themselves to each other.

We are hoping that informal spontaneous gatherings will pop up in the park over winter, and in spring there will be early-evening barbecues. All events will be self-organising, so please bring your own food.



Photo: Marg Leser

**News from North Melbourne Library****From Humbug Reach to Rotten Row: Getting around Fishermans Bend**

Librarians Heather and Tom will tell you about the many and varied activities on an area once considered a wasteland and industrial site. With car racing, an airfield and a dock, it was a hive of activity.

**Tuesday 26 June at 6.00pm**

**Room booking requests at North Melbourne Library**

The process to book the Hotham Room at North Melbourne Library has changed. All booking requests are to be made online via the [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries) webpage.

**North Melbourne Book Group titles**

Book Group meets third Monday of every month at 6.00pm

<b>16 July</b>	<i>Rich People Problems</i>	Kevin Kwan
<b>20 August</b>	<i>Goodbye, Vitamin</i>	Rachel Khong
<b>17 September</b>	<i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i>	George Saunders
<b>15 October</b>	<i>Exit West</i>	Mohsin Hamid
<b>19 November</b>	<i>Taboo</i>	Kim Scott
<b>17 December</b>	Favourite book this year / favourite Book Group book this year	

**All welcome — no bookings required**

**Contact the library on 9658 9700 for enquiries**

**North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne**

**Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek****Dig in for National Tree Day at Travancore Park Playground**

Join us for Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature-care event! Since starting in 1996, National Tree Day has seen more than 3 million people plant over 23 million seedlings — that's a lot of trees!

National Tree Day is a special day for all Australians to dig in and do something positive for the environment, and Moonee Valley Council and Planet Ark invite you to join in the fun. This year, there'll be tree planting, fun activities for the kids, free bicycle safety checks from our friends at Wocle, and delicious crepes from Crepes for Change. Crepes for Change even donate 100 per cent of their profits to youth homelessness.

So grab your gardening gloves, trusty trowel and water bottle and get to know people in your neighbouring suburb whilst making a difference that will last for generations to come.

Please note limited parking is available. We encourage you to consider travelling via sustainable transport. Wocle will be on hand to offer a free bicycle safety check to all participants who cycle to the event.

**Date and time:** Sunday 29 July, 10.00am – 1.00pm

**Location:** Travancore Park Playground, 62 Mount Alexander Road, Travancore 3032

**Website:** [www.mooneepondscreek.org.au/calendar/](http://www.mooneepondscreek.org.au/calendar/)

**PROTECT ABBOTSFORD STREET ESTATE****PUBLIC MEETING**

**Wednesday 18 July 2018, 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

**North Melbourne Library — speakers to be confirmed**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT PUBLIC HOUSING RENEWAL PROGRAM?**

- Do you support the selling-off of public housing land for private housing?
- Is this the best way to fund new public housing?
- Is a 10% increase in public housing enough to justify developers making a profit from prime government land?
- Does loss of open space matter to you?
- Does overshadowing and increased height and density in our neighbourhood worry you?
- Does the waiting list for public housing, which includes 25,000 children, concern you?
- Is it okay that the Planning Minister has taken over planning powers from our elected council?
- Do you think the government has been open enough on its public housing renewal policy?

**Contact us via email:** [ProtectAbbotsfordStreetEstate@gmail.com](mailto:ProtectAbbotsfordStreetEstate@gmail.com)

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## COMMUNITY

# Their time in their words

**Sari Wawn**

The life stories of North Melbourne Elderly Citizens Club members born between 1903 and 1920 were transcribed by John Irving for a Melbourne City Council publication as part of Victoria's 150th anniversary in 1985.

They were published as a booklet titled *In Our Time* to accompany the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre mural featured in the last edition of *NWMN*.

One of the questions they were asked was what they thought were the biggest changes in Melbourne during their lifetime. "I'd say the buildings are the biggest changes ... It's just that I like old things," Beryl Dick answered, recalling her time working at Buckley & Nunn, a well-known Melbourne department store that was taken over by David Jones in 1982.

Other changes often mentioned included the increase in traffic. Cars were a rarity in the streets of North Melbourne during the citizens' childhoods.

"Families don't stick together like they used to," said Doris Lyons, and she was not the only one to note the changing role of the family. Large close-knit families were the lot of a fortunate few and in all cases family and work were central.

The range of experience of the 14 individuals included: leaving family overseas and bringing only traditions and other languages with them; moving around rural Australia in search of work; strict and limited schooling; and social lives centring around family and church. Dealing with the impact of war and the Great Depression affected the lives of many families, while seeing Halley's Comet in 1910 also made a big impression.

The stories focused on the details of everyday life, while historical events were also mentioned in passing. For example, Honor Hubbard's Irish grandparents came to Australia during the 1850s gold rushes. Beryl Dick, born in 1914, thought she was the cause of World War I.

The stories are too long to reproduce in full, however the following excerpts are moments from the storytellers' reflections on those years from 1900 to 1985. In some cases, I have made minor alterations to the transcription for the sake of clarity.

Doris Cassidy's family moved to North Melbourne when she was three. "I was living in Hardwicke Street from 1914 to 1924, so you could say I had my childhood in that street. I could write a book about half that street." What follows is not the whole of her story, but it sets the tone for life in North Melbourne in her time.

*Oh, I had a marvellous childhood. Of course there were no cars, it was all horses. We made our own fun — you had to make your own fun, there was no wireless, no TV. We had marvellous times. When the war was on I was about seven when my father died. Friends of ours had a long veranda and we used to have paper caps on with a red cross on. We were nurses and the boys used to be soldiers and if they got into trouble we used to nurse them.*

*In those days your mum would 'book up' the groceries and have a weekly account. Every time you went to pay the bill you always got a paper cone of broken biscuits and boiled lollies given to you.*

*I went to Errol Street until I was 14. Then I went to Montague Domestic Arts School until I was 16. The Repat has these schools. My brother he went to West Melbourne Technical School ... I did dressmaking so when you turned 16 they found you employment. They found this dressmaking work for me and they found my brother engineering work. I was still living at home when I started work. I got about 30 shillings a week.*

*Then came the Depression like rationed for food, you could only get a certain amount of goods. I was laid off work ... I was the youngest ... from then on I stayed home with my mum. She wasn't in the best of health.*

*I was brought up in the Salvation Army in which I was dedicated. My mother's brother, my uncle, married a girl and her brother was a Salvation Army Officer so we had a bit of a link in the Army.*

*In 1962 I worked in the Alcoholics Centre. I worked there for seven years amongst those men, cleaning, and they were seven happy years. I had some lovely friends there amongst those men ... I can honestly tell you when my husband died they were very good to me. It doesn't matter who you are or what you are. They never knock you back.*

Doris was also keen on footy: "Sat out for finals tickets many times. Football crowds are no different to when I was 14 or 15 years old."

Others had fond memories of the horse-drawn tram to the zoo and family picnics. My favourite quote about childhood, however, comes from Frank Gordon, who said: "Well if you didn't go to the movies on Saturday afternoon well you wasn't a kid."

When asked what advice they had for others, helping people was a common response.



**Garden State collage by Beryl Dick**

*Photos: Jim Weatherill*

James Paterson, like most, left school at 14. His advice was to "get the best education you can". Rose Sanders, who came here from England during the Depression, said: "Help somebody while you can. It's no good buying them a wreath after they're dead, is it?"

In many ways the document helps to create an image of a simpler life, although this is probably misleading. It is typed and then reproduced on a Roneo machine on foolscap paper and has a line drawing on the cover. John Irving does not tell his own story and acknowledges the assistance of oral historian Morag Loh. John was also supported by the staff of the Arts Branch of Melbourne City Council, and his wife, Erica Wagner, provided the cover design.

Since 1985 Melbourne has changed. After years away in rural Victoria, I returned to Melbourne in 2011 and hardly recognised the city I had once known well. Yet underlying values of community still persist.

Looking back, we might agree with the novelist L.P. Hartley, who said: "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." On the other hand, William Faulkner said:



**Gold Rush fabric appliquéd by Doris Cassidy**

"The past is never dead. It's not even past."

In conclusion, I would suggest that, in spite of the continuing change in our community, it remains strong. But many of us are just like Beryl Dick — we like old things.

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# VERY IMPRESSIVE

Hello from the depths of winter, but let's go back a bit.

## 30 December 2017

Can I tell you an experience? You're the first.

Last night on the way home from Doone's cocktail party, in all the years I've been here living with bats, I heard the leathery wingbeat for the first time.

It was right above my head. Freaky it was.

Australians have all heard it. But we Kiwis only have that one bat, which, unless you live next to one or are a nature documentary maker, most have never even heard of let alone seen. Of course, the world's only flightless bat lives amongst the leaf litter on the floors of New Zealand's forests.

2017 please do go away. And take your horrors, death, hatred, bigoted attitudes and stupidity on climate change with you. Could you also possibly take Donald Trumpet with you?

## 7 January 2018

Event of the century, wasn't it?

The entire *The Ghan* on SBS in one sitting. I did try watching it but got distracted by going off to do some housework.

## White Night 2018

No, I didn't go. I did entirely (accidentally on purpose) forget it was on.

But that's okay, as I'm still spoilt by being one of those extremely fortunate 30,000 that attended the magnificent first one. They have only become increasingly crowded and full of drunken idiots.

But I had a vision last night for my own submission, part of this vision being that it must expand.

Going to talk to the council today to see how I can fund my vision. Surely there's some sort of group that approves and assists with such things.

Taking over Union Lane between Bourke and Little Collins streets. Needs scaffolding. Lights programmed by a computer. Half a dozen drag queens. Hundreds of metres of bubble wrap and the length of the lane in pseudo grass with fake flowers.

Joy, joyous times for all. I can even see it as a thing that could be transposed to other White Nights around the world. Maybe it could make me fabulously famous.

## 11 March 2018

Professor Brian Cox, *Wonders of Life*, 8.30pm Wednesday.

First time I've seen or heard anyone saying that Sir David Attenborough has approved the idea of him, when disastrously a replacement will be required.

Always thought that was only an urban myth. When he does finally go, I believe the world will cry for a year at least; I know that I will.

## 26 March 2018

Now that I've seen tonight's *Four Corners* on Harvey Weinstein I'm feeling sort of complicit and grubby, having loved so many of the films and stars that the bastard created.

### Scandal

*Shakespeare in Love*

*The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*

*Trainspotting*

*Mansfield Park*

*Mrs Brown*

*My Week with Marilyn*

Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

Then there's the idea that seeing this evil prick now, and then pictures of him as a younger man in the 1970s, I really can see him as a living Dorian portrait.

Some of you reading this probably don't have dogs. If you do your dogs are more likely to be ones who, unlike Yarndi, are regularly on



a leash. So you may not have noticed the proliferation of chocolate lying around and about the city recently.

Yarndi and I have. Whereas he's loving it, I'm finding the idiots who are dropping it extremely annoying. It must be that Easter thingy.

## 28 March 2018

Again, I note the oddity of things that go through my head when trying to sleep. George Pell (his Cardinal Holiness). If, as he says, he's innocent, would the Holy See not be sending him to court in robes and finery? It would make great and powerful press — and they could certainly use some of that.

Instead, he continues to turn up in that frumpy beige sports coat, likely tailored of course.

Aren't all cardinals' clothes thus?

Plus, there's part of last week's testimony, that because he was dressed in full ceremonial robbery he couldn't possibly have been sexually abusive. Multi-layered clothing of heavy and ornate fabrication. Such 'incidents' don't happen in colder climates because heavy outdoor clothing would make such an occurrence far too difficult. So of course his Holiness couldn't possibly be doing it in full robes either.

## 8 May 2018

Goodbye Melbourne. I'm leaving you Friday, but not for long.

Going to New Zealand for a much-unanticipated funeral of my Nana Magnificent. She had a stroke on Monday from which she's not likely to recover.

But then, in my trying to be light-hearted rather than crying way, she is 91 this year — plus she has been pickling herself with tobacco since she was maybe 18.

## 29 May 2018

I'm back again now. It's been an extremely eventful couple of weeks.

Far too many events to fully recount here. I flew to New Zealand on a passport that expired September 2017.

Nana died 19 hours after I arrived.

Met relatives and friends I had not seen in many years.

Walked out rear door of an Interislander ferry. Fell back in love with Marlborough, where I grew up.

A thought I've had for a while to end on — reconfirmed last week when staying in a backpackers hostel in Wellington — short people, anyone under six feet, should not be encouraged to be plumbers. They set showerheads and mirrors at their own height.

Five showers on the floor I was on, all with multifunctional modern showerheads. All set at a height that wouldn't come close to wetting my nose without bending into a pretzel.

So, if you want to be a plumber and you're under six feet, to quote *Little Britain*, "no, go away".

# Residents About Integrated Development

**Gary Bateman**

## Residents matter!

RAID 3051 continues to focus on working with other community groups, residents and local government to advocate for physical planning and development that is matched by concomitant social infrastructure that addresses the needs of current and future residents of all ages.

RAID is a non-partisan incorporated local organisation that is committed to open, transparent governance.

## RAID AGM

RAID's sixth Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 13 March in the North Melbourne Recreation Centre auditorium. The meeting confirmed the five main areas that inform RAID's focus:

1. monitoring the Woolworths development
2. assessing the implications of developments on the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan
3. monitoring how the City of Melbourne is dealing with other large-scale developments
4. liaising with other community action groups
5. continuing to work constructively with the City of Melbourne on planning and development matters.

The chair, Peter Hogg, provided an overview of the activities undertaken that aligned with the focus areas, including a report on the Woolworths development and ongoing liaison with representatives of the developer, Hickory Group. He said RAID had met with City of Melbourne councillors, in particular Councillor Nicholas Reece, chair of the Planning Committee, to discuss the status of the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan, Amendment C190 and Amendment C190 (Part 2), and other large-scale planning matters.

Over the past 12 months RAID had engaged with the Gardiner Reserve expansion project; provided submissions to the Social Housing Renewal Standing Advisory Committee (Abbotsford Street Estate) and the Amendment C190 (Part 2) panel hearing; and been an objector to the proposed development at 3–15 Shiel Street.

The guest speaker at the AGM, Councillor Nicholas Reece, gave a presentation and took questions from the floor on updates to Amendment C270, which covers the CBD and provides a visual guide for features that need to be considered. This is currently with the Minister for Planning.

He also discussed Amendment C258, which changes the grading system of heritage buildings from an A–D typology to significant, contributory and non-contributory, and the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan, which was adopted in 2012. Councillor Reece expressed his interest in ongoing dialogue with the community, which was welcomed.

In closing the meeting Peter Hogg acknowledged the North Melbourne Recreation Centre for providing the venue free of charge and advised that they would be formally thanked for this. Members were thanked for their attendance and ongoing support of RAID.

## Shiel Street residential interface controls

As reported in the Autumn edition, RAID made a submission to the Amendment C190 (Part 2) panel hearing in February this year in support of Melbourne City Council's adopted built-form controls for the Shiel Street residential interface, which RAID believes would enable a much more appropriate scale transition to the low-rise 19th-century streetscape than the previous panel-recommended controls.

Council's evidence clearly demonstrated that the previously recommended controls would in fact encourage a 'podium-tower' form of development in Shiel Street, more associated with built form in Melbourne's CBD.

# RAID 3051

**Draft panel report:** Disappointingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, the draft panel report (dated 5 April 2018) for the Shiel Street interface concludes that the panel-recommended 'Residential Street Interface' controls are appropriate for 3–15 Shiel Street (the former Woods Motors site) "given its immediate context". The report adopted the over-used cliché that council's proposed controls would perpetuate a 'wedding-cake' built-form response. The draft report must now gain approval from the Minister for Planning.

## Objection to Planning Minister

RAID then sent a letter to the Minister for Planning urgently requesting him to reject the panel's recommendation in order to preserve the integrity of this sensitive streetscape.

We stressed that a 'podium-tower' form of development with upper level dominance at 3–15 Shiel Street cannot possibly form an appropriate transition to the low-rise heritage residential area on the opposite side of the street.

## VCAT hearing for 3–15 Shiel Street

The VCAT hearing for 3–15 Shiel Street was scheduled for 2–4 May 2018. This has been a protracted saga with the site having had several planning proposals presented, with a VCAT-approved plan from 2014 active. In relation to this current hearing, the developer presented substitute plans less than two days before the commencement date.

On the first morning of the hearing the matter was stood down for two days, allowing the parties to negotiate and present a compromise position that provided some setbacks, a reduced height and a more muted colour scheme to decrease the visual impact. Objectors were the City of Melbourne, RAID and a community member who argued strongly to achieve the compromise position.

## Connect to RAID @ 3051

For further information about RAID, to become a member and receive our e-newsletter, or to offer your assistance, please email [rajd3051@gmail.com](mailto:rajd3051@gmail.com), visit the RAID website at [www.3051-integrated.com](http://www.3051-integrated.com), follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/3051-RAID-126672457437926](http://www.facebook.com/3051-RAID-126672457437926) or write to PO Box 2077, Hotham Hill, Vic 3051.

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# Will heritage listing save Festival Hall?

**Victor McMillan**

Over the past few months a sense of inevitability loomed within the local community over the fate of Festival Hall, with many resigned to the fact that it would be no more. This feeling has been compounded by the steadfast plan of the Hall's ownership and management, who continue to push for the building's demolition.

However, since the planned demolition of the site was announced in January, many have fought to maintain Festival Hall's crucial place in the cultural fabric of Melbourne. Early in May, a proposal was put forward by Heritage Victoria to grant the Hall heritage listing, led by the executive director of Heritage Victoria, Steven Avery.

Once a building is on the register, it then requires special approval by the relevant parties to allow its demolition. This means that if the heritage-listing proposal is successful, Festival Hall could be spared.

The reason for the ownership's position is the increasing competition from larger venues such as Margaret Court and Rod Laver arenas. According to the venue owners, Stadiums Limited, this was causing a financial strain, in turn inhibiting the ability to sustain Festival Hall as a profitable venture.

If current plans go ahead, the main building will be replaced by two 16-storey towers with space for both residential and commercial use.

This type of development in inner-city Melbourne is nothing new, with many sites undergoing significant change as the demand for high-density residential zones continues to surge. In recent years many other historic

venues have been lost to make way for these developments.

To this day, Festival Hall is one of the most iconic live-music venues in the city. A staple of the local West Melbourne and the broader Melbourne community, it has provided an idyllic location for sporting events and international and local music acts for over 100 years. It opened in 1915.

Operating as a concert venue since the 1960s, Festival Hall is steeped in a rich cultural history, hosting international music royalty such as the Beatles, Johnny Cash, Frank Sinatra and many more. The venue has also been an important hub for local acts for over 50 years, showcasing iconic Australian groups like AC/DC, Cold Chisel, the Skyhooks and countless others.

For music-loving Melburnians, Festival Hall holds a special place in their hearts, with the venue often being the site of one of their most memorable concert experiences.

A far cry from today, where acquiring concert tickets requires quick internet and the first place in the website queue, in the past fans would turn out in droves to line up on Dudley Street for hours hoping to secure a spot to see their favourite act.

West Melbourne local Carolyn Thompson fondly recalls some of her trips to the Hall: "My first concert at Festival Hall was the Police in March 1980. While that gig blew my 15-year-old mind, it was the 3XY concert in September 1980 that was particularly memorable. A great Aussie line-up with Cold Chisel as headliners.

"Most kids didn't have school that day, being Melbourne Show Day, but we had to go. A girlfriend and I went to the gig on the way



Photo: Janet Graham

home in our school uniforms. We were a bit too popular for our own good, most people thinking we were seriously cool à la AC/DC."

Stories such as these abound, embedded in the memories of Melburnians and spanning generations of music fans, including anything from the days of early rock 'n' roll to current-day hip-hop gigs. Many have witnessed their favourite groups perform at Festival Hall.

Like many throughout Melbourne, Carolyn would be sad to see it go.

"I'd like to think that Melbourne could maintain its credibility as a live-music venue by maintaining this great dame. I'm one myself now, you see, and I'd hate to see her go."

Victorian State Premier Daniel Andrews has also weighed in on the issue, broadcasting his

public support for the heritage-listing proposal via a post on his Facebook page publicly supporting the Save Festival Hall movement.

At this point, Festival Hall has just a handful of concerts, events or functions planned beyond May 2018. Part-owner and Stadiums Limited director Chris Wren, a grandson of founder John Wren, believes it is time to sell. His cousin and fellow director John Wren agrees.

"It is hard but it's a fact that we've got to move on, and we've made our decision," John Wren told the ABC.

The fate of Festival Hall is yet to be finalised. What is definite, however, is that if Melbourne is to say goodbye to this iconic music venue, many will be sure to miss it.

## Breaking down the barriers to African-Australian employment

**Mitchell Post**

"I think I should change my name to Jason."  
"Why?"

"Why? Because no one wants to hire an Omar."

For Zam-Zam Aden, the referral and placement officer at the Melbourne Employment Forum, this is a common theme among her clients.

Many of the young job-seekers who come into her office in the Kensington Town Hall — often equipped with the relevant degree, diploma or certification — feel estranged from Melbourne's job market on account of their African heritage.

Founded in 2016 by several prominent African-Australian community groups, the Melbourne Employment Forum (MEF) seeks to rectify this sense of marginalisation by providing a range of services and platforms to young African-Australians attempting to enter the workforce.

In recent years, the proliferation of negative media portrayals of young African-Australians has deepened the social marginalisation of the African-Australian community, particularly in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.

The racial and cultural discrimination implicit in this marginalisation is a significant contributor to low employment rates. Yet one of the biggest barriers to African-Australian employment is one faced by nearly all migrant and refugee communities in Australia: they lack the social and economic networks often

needed to gain entry into the workforce.

Aden believes that "employment is central to the social engagement of young African-Australians", and both the MEF's methods and its ambitions reflect a commitment to this belief.

As a grassroots initiative, the MEF's employment services are tailored to the needs of their clients — predominantly young African migrants and refugees. Their front-office work includes career counselling, job application assistance, training and tertiary course referral, as well as the organisation of work experience and internship programs.

In addition to these services, one of the MEF's primary goals is to form partnerships with the government and the private sector to create ongoing employment pathways for young African-Australians. As Aden highlights, by providing concrete employment

opportunities and meaningful career prospects, these MEF partnership programs not only reshape young African-Australians' sense of self-worth, but they also increase their sense of belonging in Australian society.

In only its first two years, the MEF's partnership building program has been highly fruitful. It has forged strong industry relationships in the engineering, transport, finance and banking sectors, as well as with small North and West Melbourne-based businesses. Moreover, many of MEF's employment referrals and work-experience placements have turned into full-time employment or successful professional careers.

An emerging pattern indicates that it is often barriers to entry, rather than a lack of capacity or desire, that keep disengaged and marginal communities from higher employment rates in professional and government sectors.

The value of the MEF's work extends well beyond the individuals who access its services. Many Australians put a lot of moral emphasis on the question of whether or not someone is employed. To earn one's bread and pay one's share is often seen as validating one's place in Australian society.

By demonstrating what African-Australian workers can bring to businesses and government organisations, the MEF dispels the misrepresentation that African migrants and refugee communities are a burden on the economy and replaces it with another, more genuine and representative narrative.

That is one of a hardworking and optimistic community that, if given the means to do so, has a lot to offer Australian workplaces. And if the truth of this narrative can gain the traction it warrants, then perhaps younger generations of African-Australians won't feel that denying their cultural heritage — or changing their name to Jason or Craig or Matt — is a prerequisite to gaining entry to the workforce or acquiring a sense of belonging in Australia.



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# North and West Melbourne Association

## The Association's 2018 AGM

There was a good turnout for the Association's Annual General Meeting on 17 April. The chair, Kevin Chamberlin, summarised some of the NWMA's activities during the 2017 year, including strong representation by our members in other organisations such as the North Melbourne Agency Collective (NAC) and the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority community reference groups.

He said the highlight of the year had been the Association's 50th anniversary celebration dinner in October with Planning Minister Richard Wynne as guest speaker. A personal delight for Kevin had been the opportunity to read the Association's old minute books, brought out of storage for the occasion.

Kevin Chamberlin was re-elected as NWMA chair, and others elected unopposed to the committee were: Sebastian Clark (deputy chair), Jane Poynter (secretary), Michael Horscroft (treasurer), Janet Graham (assistant secretary) and Bill Cook, Jacqueline Stevenson and Geraldine Suter (ordinary committee members).

## Guest speakers at monthly meetings

A feature of NWMA ordinary general meetings (normally held monthly and open to the general public) has been the number of speakers keen to present on matters of interest to the local community. In February there were presentations from the City of Melbourne (CoM)

on the West Melbourne Structure Plan and the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, as reported in the Autumn edition of the *News*.

In May a team from CoM's Traffic Engineering branch talked about traffic flows and speed limits in North and West Melbourne and the impact of the West Gate Tunnel Project. Members have been attempting to get speed limits lowered on our streets in the interests of safety, and the council has been negotiating with VicRoads.

The team agreed that the off-ramps at Dynon Road would have a negative impact on some streets, particularly Hawke and Curzon, which is partly why CoM had opposed the West Gate Tunnel Project. Spencer and King streets south of Hawke Street, however, might actually benefit from reduced vehicle numbers as some traffic would divert along the Wurundjeri Way extension. This is controversial in itself, though, as the extension appears to have scuppered all former plans to develop the E-Gate site.

## Spring Fling 2018

The Association looks forward to taking an active role in the Spring Fling Festival again this year. We have tentative plans for a theme focusing on recycling and waste, a highly topical subject and one taking priority on our local council's agenda with its espousal of the 'refuse, reduce, re-use, recycle' refrain and its recent climate change focus groups. These matters, and the pollution of our air, water-

ways and oceans, are all intricately related.

Congratulations are due to the Errol Street IGA for catching up at last with the 'ban plastic bags' movement. A notice now displayed at the supermarket's entry point reads: "Dear customers, proudly announcing we will no longer stock single-use plastic bags from 30 June 2018." It has to be asked, though, why checkout staff are still putting customers' purchases into carry bags without even asking permission.

## A tale of two small parks

After much construction work the second of two pocket parks in West Melbourne is about to come to fruition. With the acquisition and demolition of the former mechanics workshop at 104 Hawke Street, and expansion towards the centre of the road, the council has doubled the size of the Hawke and Adderley Street Park on that corner.

The recent arrival of three palm trees was a surprise to residents, who feared there would be no shade trees, but several evergreens arrived later. The largest of the palms appeared to settle in well but the smaller pair have taken longer to adapt. Even the smaller ones required huge cranes to lower them into position, as captured on camera (see photo).

Since then, ugly mounds of concrete and earth have magically transformed into children's slides and other play equipment. Paths and steps wind their way through the expanded lawn. There are now picnic tables and park benches for residents and workers to meet or eat their lunch, and plantings have sprung up next to the footpath.

The other park, which opened some time ago, is near North Melbourne Station (future West Melbourne) and is divided into Railway and Miller Street Park and Stawell Street Park (a dog-off-leash area). With the closure of Laurens Street to motor traffic, a surprising amount of space was opened up under and around the Dynon Road bridge, enabling a shared pedestrian-cycle path and a small skate park.

The skate park seems to be difficult to negotiate, judging by the attempts of young people on skateboards. And one wonders how practi-



**A huge crane was needed to install even the smaller palm trees**

*Photo: Bill Cook*

cal the dog park is, since one end is unfenced and perilously close to busy Dynon Road. But the new space will certainly be a welcome addition for residents moving into the area's many new flats.

Meanwhile the North West Patch community garden is getting close to lift-off — read about it elsewhere in this edition.

## Next NWMA meeting

The next ordinary general meeting is on Tuesday 17 July, 7.30pm, at the Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street (enter off Union Street). For information about the Association email [info@nwma.org.au](mailto:info@nwma.org.au).

# Making a real difference to real people: the community lawyer's perspective

## Nadia Morales

Inner Melbourne Community Legal is this year celebrating its 40th anniversary. While uncovering the legal service's long history of fighting for social justice and helping those most vulnerable in North and West Melbourne, some lawyers from the team reflect on their everyday work in the community.

From the organisation's humble beginnings in the church hall on Melrose Street in 1978, the legal centre has come a long way. It has, however, remained dedicated to its original purpose of providing access to justice for the area's most disadvantaged people, staffed by a team of expert community lawyers.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal CEO Dan Stubbs has worked in the community legal sector for nine years, and takes pride in the immediate and practical difference the legal service makes to someone who has come into contact with the justice system.

"I believe community legal centres make a real difference for people when they have contact with the justice system," says Dan. Often people's lives can be negatively impacted by this interaction. Working in the community legal centre allows us to change that, so people end up better off overall. That's really important for me.

"We have a lot of issues that come through our door — different people with different



**Dan Stubbs, CEO of Inner Melbourne Community Legal** *Photo: courtesy IMCL*

legal problems — allowing us to see the application of the law in the real world."

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) also works closely behind the scenes with government to create real change for the community.

"We're in the very powerful and privileged position as community lawyers to take action in individual cases, and to lobby the government for unfair laws to be changed. We take that responsibility very seriously," he reflects.

While Dan Stubbs acknowledges that the individual stories of some of the more difficult clients can be challenging for IMCL's lawyers, he says they are always rewarding.

"We're only human. I work hard to remember



**Nadia Morales, senior lawyer at IMCL** *Photo: courtesy IMCL*

the positive impact that we're having, that we're securing fairer legal outcomes for individuals and that we're changing the system so it operates more fairly. And what we know is that this also improves people's health.

"Some particularly tough cases we see are those of women who are experiencing or escaping family violence. Securing safe outcomes for them and their children makes the difficult work worthwhile," Dan explains.

Dan's colleague Nadia Morales is a senior lawyer at IMCL and manages legal education and communications for the organisation. Nadia's passion for the law and her work with the local community are centred on people and their stories, and using those stories to build

awareness and advocate for legal reform.

"Coming out of university, I finally understood what the law meant for people's day-to-day lives, and from that point on I realised that was the sort of law that I wanted to do — law that is connected to *real* people and *real* stories, and not just something that you do on paper," Nadia explains.

"While my work within the law is about helping individuals, beyond that it is also about having an eye to systemic issues.

"The law isn't just about control — it's also a really powerful tool for social change. The law can be used to change systems, to change attitudes and behaviours, and ultimately to change people's lives."

*This year Inner Melbourne Community Legal is celebrating 40 years of fighting for social justice and helping those most vulnerable. Former staff members, volunteers, clients and interested community members are asked to make contact to join in the celebrations. For more details, visit [www.imcl.org.au/40-years/attend-the-40th-celebration](http://www.imcl.org.au/40-years/attend-the-40th-celebration).*

*IMCL is a not-for-profit community legal centre that provides legal assistance to people experiencing disadvantage in the City of Melbourne area, including the CBD, Docklands, West Melbourne, North Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville. IMCL has been assisting inner-northern suburbs for 40 years.*

# Sally Capp elected Melbourne's Lord Mayor

Conall Batch

In early May, the City of Melbourne voted for its new Lord Mayor and elected independent Sally Capp with 53 per cent of the vote.

Capp is the first female Lord Mayor in 30 years, and her victory comes in the wake of sexual harassment allegations that forced former office-holder Robert Doyle to resign in March. The election campaign centred on multiple issues, including the proposed Vic Market redevelopment and controversies surrounding voting eligibility and campaign influence.

Capp, a prominent businesswoman who has held numerous posts including, most recently, chair of the Property Council of Victoria, was the clear frontrunner throughout the campaign. Labor-backed candidate Jennifer Yang, a former mayor of Manningham Council, received a surge in support and finished with 46 per cent of the vote.

City of Melbourne Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, who was initially expected to come in second and challenge Capp, finished third after running a strong community-centric platform, in line with his criticism of Melbourne's current development trajectory.

Capp has held a range of business roles, including as the head of the Property Council of Victoria development lobbying group; executive at the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and other roles with KPMG accounting firm, ANZ Bank and not-for-profit Melbourne planning advisory council Committee for Melbourne.

Capp stated during the campaign that she would not accept any campaign donations from property development groups and took leave from her role at the Property Council, a move that came amid scrutiny of the City of Melbourne's voter eligibility rules. Local residents now make up less than half of enrolled

voters at 40 per cent and many feel they have already lost control of their town hall.

Non-resident property investors, whose numbers have grown exponentially to 44 per cent of enrolled voters, are eligible to vote in the election, while businesses within the electorate may cast two votes. Although Capp won with 53 per cent of the vote after preferences, her primary vote was only 25 per cent.

Concerns over these voting rules, as well as calls for transparent, community-focused governance, began during Doyle's tenure as lord mayor and are likely to escalate. The vote share of local residents is dwindling, and Capp's perceived pro-business, pro-development affiliation is in stark contrast with resident views on new development.

Several prominent issues featured in the lead-up to the election, including the proposed Queen Victoria Market redevelopment. There has been widespread disagreement over the modernisation of the market, which many worry would destroy its heritage and feel, as well as controversy over the potential exhumation of bodies buried under the current site.

Youth homelessness was another feature of the mayoral campaign, with candidates promising extra funding for new overnight accommodation and youth education centres.

Other significant issues included the fast pace of development, the lack of affordable housing, and low-quality apartments. Public safety, the night-time economy and sustainability also saw competing pledges such as the extension of the free tram zone.

Capp's own platform includes the installation of a \$250-million, 2.5-kilometre walking track along the Yarra River and promises to tackle homelessness. She was also one of only two candidates to support the proposed Apple store at Federation Square.

The direct election of a woman has been lauded as a positive step towards changing the culture that saw Robert Doyle accused of



Lord Mayor Sally Capp

Photo: Facebook

City of Melbourne residents will now see how their community develops in line with Capp's vision and election pledges.

As the heart of Greater Melbourne, governance of the City of Melbourne affects all members of the Melbourne community, beyond local residents, businesses and property investors. The policies that Capp implements, as well as the way that City of Melbourne voting rules and town hall culture evolve, will have implications far beyond the immediate electorate.

## North West Patch finds a home in time for spring

Catherine McLeod

North and West Melbourne's first publicly accessible community garden is set to open, just in time for spring. Housed in the North Melbourne Meat Market, the North West Patch will offer many locals the chance to participate in a shared green space for the first time.

The Patch is the brainchild of Bridget Macwhirter, a resident of West Melbourne who was frustrated with the lack of green spaces in the area.

She began seriously considering a shared garden three years ago, after discovering the North and West Melbourne Association and becoming heartened by the sense of community she found in the group. A professional artist, Bridget has been dedicating her spare time and days off to the Patch ever since.

Plans for the Patch were put in place back in 2015 but were stalled by difficulties in finding a home for the garden. "I had a chat with the local council," Bridget explained, "and they straight-up said to me, there's no room in North or West Melbourne for that sort of thing."

Jane Poynter, secretary of the North and West Melbourne Association, gave Bridget the idea of the Meat Market, after talking with then-venue manager Adrian Nunes. Located on Blackwood Street, North Melbourne, it was the only free council-owned space. Up until May this year the Meat Market was closed to the general public, only accessible by workers or patrons of private functions.

"It will be great to open up that space for everyone," Bridget said.

The Meat Market is a hub for arts events, from live performances to workshops, and its spaces are also available for private functions. In order to accommodate the foot traffic this brings, the Patch's garden beds will be in movable boxes fitted with wheel brackets. If an event is on, the garden will be easily movable to a corner of the car park.

The Patch had another win in 2018, being selected for a Stronger Communities grant and receiving \$7000 from the office of Adam Bandt, Federal MP for Melbourne, at the start of the year. The money, which has to be matched in kind by donations, went towards buying the garden beds.

The Patch still needs donations of soil and scoria — a type of volcanic rock — to line the boxes. The team are also looking for shovels and other gardening tools, though there are talks of an application to Bunnings. In addition, the Patch will need volunteer labour to help establish the beds.

North West Patch is now an incorporated association with a recently appointed committee, and membership opened to the wider community in June. There is a \$25 flat fee for those who wish to join, or a gold coin donation for concession card holders and the homeless. There is currently no cap on membership. The Patch will also be accessible by the public during daylight hours, for those who wish to experience the garden without planting or harvesting produce.

As there are just 10 garden boxes at this stage, they will be shared between all members



Bridget (left) and Kate of North West Patch at the garden's future site

Photo: Catherine McLeod

instead of being privately owned plots. And, unlike some other communal gardens, if a member leaves the area they will be required to give up their space to allow for turnover. The group hope to see the Patch attract too many members for its current capacity to sustain, creating the possibility of expanding the garden.

Many of us who live in the inner city are disconnected from green spaces and the chance to plant and grow things. There is a detachment between the produce city-dwellers consume and where it comes from, but shared

gardens like the Patch are a good way for residents to combat this and to experience otherwise missed opportunities.

Eventually Bridget hopes to see more gardens in the area, particularly in West Melbourne. "I'd like to make starting such a space in the inner city easier," she said, "and to see more produce being grown here."

You can keep up to date with North West Patch on social media. Find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/NWPatch](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NWPatch) and Instagram @northwestpatch

40 YEARS OF THE NEWS

## Government should fix dangerous buildings

**Ellen Sandell,  
State Member for Melbourne**

**E**veryone should feel safe in their home. But a government oversight has left many in the inner city, including North and West Melbourne, worried that they're living in homes with flammable cladding.

After a 2014 fire ripped through the Lacrosse tower in Docklands, the Victorian Building Authority found 51 per cent of Melbourne's newest high-rises also had cladding that did not meet regulations.

The Ombudsman and Victorian Auditor-General both released scathing reports into the issue, but the Andrews Labor Government has not acted fast enough.

It has been a year since we witnessed the awful Grenfell Tower blaze in London, which killed 71 people, including two Australians. It was fuelled by the same cladding found in the Royal Women's and Royal Melbourne hospitals.

The City of Melbourne says at least 17 residential buildings are also unsafe, and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

The Victorian Building Authority recently issued a product safety alert to builders and surveyors that flammable cladding cannot be used in residential buildings above three storeys, bringing Victoria's regulations into line with Australian building standards, and some money was in the state Budget to increase compliance inspections.

But all this doesn't help the owners, who are now having to take financial responsibility for fixing unsafe buildings and homes they bought in good faith, believing the buildings met safety regulations.

Owners corporations are having to take on all the risk, when it was a failure of government regulation and building surveyors (which have been privatised) that caused the problem in the first place. If owners and owners corporations are unable to take this burden of risk or unable to afford safety improvements, then residents could be required to leave their homes.

Instead of pushing this risk onto residents and owners, the government should urgently step in and fix these flammable buildings, and then recoup the costs from developers or those responsible for the problem. Governments have far more ability than residents or owners to accept this risk, put up the capital to retrofit buildings, and recover the costs later on.

Building surveyors should also be brought back under public control.

*If you have concerns about your home's building standards or the standard of development in North and West Melbourne, get in touch with my office at office@ellensandell.com.*

## Does Queen Vic Market history repeat itself?

The following are brief excerpts from a comprehensive article written by Eric Benjamin, chairman of the Victoria Market Centenary Committee, which was formed on 20 May 1977, one year before the market's centenary. The article appeared in the *North Melbourne News*, Issue No. 11, August–September 1980.

After quoting extensively from the National Trust Newsletter of June 1971 on the history of Queen Victoria Market, Mr Benjamin writes more generally on the use of the market and then about a 1971 'redevelopment' plan, which may resonate with present-day readers!

### “USE OF THE MARKET”

Generations of Victorians have bought and sold at the Market. Wave after wave of immigrants found their necessities here and shopped in their own language. Stall holders at first sold their own produce; but the division between wholesalers and retail traders goes back a long way. Serving in the Market in all weather is a hard life, getting up long before dawn, setting up stalls, coping with noise, competition and the losses due to the problem of storage, packing away at the end of trading, and so on. Yet behind some stalls there are now fourth generation stall keepers. I know of some 30 families with members who between them served three or more generations in the Market.

Shoppers come from all over Melbourne and even from the country. In 1971, a study financed by the City Council established that some 75,000 people shopped at this Market per week. Nearly nine years later, with the open times on Sundays, the number could easily be greater.

For many people below the poverty line, and for recent immigrants, the Market is a dire necessity, for others a sheer delight, because of its variety, colour, scents and views. It has been called an 'uncontrived Moomba'.”



## KEEP VICTORIA MARKET



**Keep all of it !**

### “REDEVELOPMENT”

By 1971, some years after a separate wholesale market was established in Footscray Road, the State Government and the Melbourne City Council agreed on a plan to 'redevelop' the Market. At a cost of \$100,000 at 1971 value, a feasibility study was made, and a decision reached for the leasing of some 22 acres for high rise building. This would have included all of the Market and an area to Capel Street. It was to be known as the 'Victoria Centre' and to include a 60 storey office tower, motels, hotels, and parking spaces for 5,000 cars. (See illustration at left.)

A small section was to be left for market purposes. Someone commented that such a market was likely to sell souvenirs and luxury fruit, elegantly packed.”

A Keep Victoria Market Association (KVMA) was formed in 1971 and a public meeting was held at 44 Errol Street, North Melbourne, where:

“It was resolved that 'The aim of the Association should be to maintain and further retail marketing at the site of the Queen Victoria Market in its present size, structure and form'.”

The KVMA soon had 1200 members and then collected 27,000 signatures to a petition that was submitted to the Lord Mayor and Councillors of the City of Melbourne, but with little effect.

“Then we found support from such a wide range of organisations as the National Trust and the Builders' Labourers, the A.L.P. and the D.L.P., the Combined Pensioners' Association, the Carlton Association, the North Melbourne Association and the Parkville Association, and others. Eventually on 17th February, 1976, the then Member for Melbourne, Mr Barry Jones, introduced a deputation to the Premier, Mr Hamer, who assured that the Market is safe. The current plan to erect a Museum and Library on the market site was not mentioned. We understood the Premier to say that he was 'convinced of the value of the Market and like the Association wishes the retail market to be preserved as a whole'.”

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# Queen Victoria Market's future still unclear



Queen Victoria Market today

Photo: John Torcasio

## Charlie Phillips

**C**ontroversial plans to redevelop the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) are likely to be re-examined after the recent Melbourne City Council by-election saw Sally Capp take the office of Lord Mayor.

A formal Liberal Party member and executive director of influential development lobby group the Property Council of Victoria, Capp was a vocal supporter of the market's original redevelopment plans, introduced under the leadership of former lord mayor Robert Doyle.

Much of the media attention on the council's \$250-million QVM proposal has focused on the market's sheds, their heritage status and perhaps the loss of 'vibe' if they were to be removed. Yet their removal also foreshadows large-scale underground works, temporary pavilions and 'event spaces' aimed at servicing Melbourne's rapidly expanding population and city skyline.

It's no surprise that Capp is a supporter of Doyle's market proposal and even less surprising that she won the election so comfortably. With her Property Council past, Capp was an attractive candidate for investors and business owners.

Unusually and arguably undemocratically, the City Council awards businesses and property investors the right to vote, effectively handing business owners and investors living in the Melbourne electorate two votes to a resident's mere one.

Moreover, property investors and business owners are not required to be residents in order to vote, allowing many to have their say despite living nowhere near the CBD. In 2016, it was estimated that local residents made up

only 40 per cent of the roll, with businesses and property investors holding the majority at 60 per cent.

This explains how Capp comfortably beat Labor-backed Jennifer Yang by a margin of 6 per cent, despite running an electoral campaign in Australia's most progressive city. City councillors are understandably beholden to commercial interests, especially when planning a site like the QVM, which attracts roughly 10 million visitors each year.

Heritage Victoria has already scuppered the council's original plans, however, refusing its application to remove four of the historic market sheds for restoration and build three levels of underground parking and storage facilities. Heritage Victoria stated that the removal of the 19th-century sheds would be "unacceptably detrimental" and would have a "severe impact" on the culturally significant market.

The council has begrudgingly accepted Heritage Victoria's decision and is now considering several alternative redevelopment proposals. The council's plan to construct a \$7.4-million temporary greenhouse pavilion is also dead in the water.

The pavilion was planned to house trader stalls displaced by the removal of the sheds, with a second storey accommodating a public greenhouse intended to promote environmental awareness. Designed by architecture firm Breathe, the pavilion was designed to span 111 metres along Queen Street and would have required seven plane trees to be cut down.

Meanwhile, the adjacent \$450-million 'Munro' site development has recently been given the green light by State Planning Minister Richard Wynne. The 'mixed use' development will include the construction of a boutique hotel and small-scale retail shops, 360

new apartments — including 56 affordable housing units — and a number of childcare and community facilities.

Both the State Government and Melbourne City Council are determined to extensively overhaul the area, in anticipation of the projected population explosion in the Melbourne CBD. Twenty-two thousand new residents are expected to be living in the central city area within the next five years.

Minister Wynne, who has publicly stated he will "never compromise" the QVM, included in the Munro approval a ban on any supermarkets or large retailers opening on the site in a bid to block any competition to the market traders.

Community groups opposed to redevelopment of the market-proper, like Friends of Queen Victoria Market (FOQVM) and Stall Holders Action Group (STAG), have also released their own plans for revamping the market, although these remain uncosted.

Architect John McNabb was commissioned by FOQVM to design a proposal that left the heritage sheds untouched and avoided any underground construction. McNabb also argued that the original City Council plans would seriously disrupt traffic and increase congestion in the area due to works on Peel and Victoria streets.

His alternative design includes an elevated 'green space' above the existing car park, which according to FOQVM would allow for the retention of existing car parks for shoppers, as well as new public areas for residents.

Working closely with FOQVM were outsider mayoral candidates Sally Warhaft and Gary Morgan. Warhaft, an anthropologist and ABC broadcaster, and Morgan, the executive chairman of Roy Morgan Research, formed an election alliance in an attempt to halt the council's

original mega-development. "We believe this election should be a referendum on the Queen Victoria Market," said Warhaft.

Although both Warhaft and Morgan publicly stated their hopes to win the election, the pair probably used their electoral campaigns to centre the redevelopment proposal as a leading issue in the mayoral race, in turn prompting better-resourced candidates — such as Ken Ong, Sally Capp, Rohan Leppert and Jennifer Yang — to take a public and clear stance regarding the proposal.

Although Ong later unveiled his 'Plan B' proposal, which would leave the heritage sheds untouched and instead opts for more amenities for stallholders, Yang, Capp and Leppert all maintained their support of the original proposal whilst vaguely pledging to consult with traders.

Upon reading the August–September 1980 edition of the *News* (see accompanying article), it seems we've come a long way since 1971. A proposal anything like that of 47 years ago would spell political doom for Spring Street and the City Council.

Now, Sally Capp's win raises a number of questions regarding the future of the Queen Victoria Market. Although all parties involved agree that some kind of redevelopment is necessary, it remains hotly debated how this should be done. In the coming months Capp and her fellow councillors may struggle to come up with a design that will please all parties.

With the Greens and Trades Hall staying at arm's length from the issue, and a state election on the horizon, our new Lord Mayor could become wedged between her pro-development voter base and well-organised community groups backed by a sympathetic State Government.

**ADAM BANDT MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

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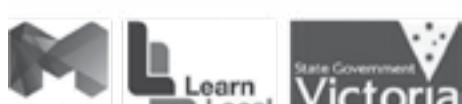
**North Melbourne Library**  
 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051  
 Tel: (03) 9658 9700

**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!)



## ART AND CRAFT

**Art Therapy**  
 Time: Tuesday 1pm – 3pm  
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession\*  
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**Photoshop and Your Photography**  
 Time: Tuesday 10am – 12 noon  
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession\*  
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**  
**Centre Adventures (Day Field Trips)**  
 Time: Fourth Tuesday monthly  
 9am – 5pm  
 Cost: \$41 / \$31 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: \$173 / \$106 concession\* per term  
 Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne

### Spanish Language

Time: Tuesday 6.30pm – 8pm (five-week program)  
 Cost: \$173 / \$106 concession\*  
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Volunteer and Internship Program

We have a wide range of structured learning 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

## 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: \$155, \$108 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: \$1232 / \$555 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: \$137 / \$108 concession\*  
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Education Support: Teacher's Aide or Certificate III

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm  
 Cost: \$1552 / \$727 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: \$137 / \$108 concession\*  
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Retail Operations NEW

Time: Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm (five sessions)  
 Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession\*

### Train the Trainer

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

## FOUNDATION SKILLS

### Career Planning and Advice

Time: By appointment  
 Cost: \$99 / \$55 concession\*  
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Home Away From Homework Club

#### Primary (Grades 4–6)

Time: Wednesday 3.30pm – 5pm

#### Secondary (Grades 7–12)

Time: Tuesday 3.30pm – 5pm

Cost: \$37 / \$27 concession\*

Venue: North Melbourne Library

#### Open (Grades 4–10)

Time: Thursday 3.30pm – 5pm

Cost: Free to City of Hobsons Bay residents

Venue: Altona North Community Library

### Management Studies: Business Communications or Compliance

### Frameworks or Understanding Workplace Documents and Processes

Time: Wednesday 12.30pm – 3.30pm or 6pm – 9pm

Cost: \$137 / \$108 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: Friday 1pm – 3pm

Cost: \$99 / \$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: \$99 / \$55 concession\*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Active at Any Age

Time: Second and third Tuesday monthly #

10am – 12 noon

Cost: \$41 / \$31 concession\*

Venue: North Melbourne Library

### Pilates:

Venues: <sup>1</sup>The Meat Market, Blackwood Street, or

<sup>2</sup>The Legion, Little Errol Street (behind The Centre)

Cost: Pilates and Exercise for Older Adults programs: \$190 / \$139 concession\*

### Beginners

Time: Thursday 5.30pm – 6.30pm<sup>1</sup>

### Exercise for Older Adults

Time: Wednesday 10.15am – 11.15am<sup>2</sup>

### General Classes for any level

Time: Tuesday 5.30pm – 6.30pm<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday 9.15am – 10.15am<sup>2</sup>

### Intermediate

Time: Thursday 7.30pm – 8.30pm<sup>1</sup>

### Intermediate Plus

Time: Thursday 6.30pm – 7.30pm<sup>1</sup>

## INFORMATION, DIGITAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

### Information, Digital Media and Technology

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon

Wednesday 10am – 12 noon /

1pm – 3pm / 6.30pm – 8.30pm #

Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession\*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Computer Skills: INTEL® Easy Steps

Time: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm

Cost: \$137 / \$108 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 \$108 and thereafter \$56 per session

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Introduction to Technology

Bring your own iPad, iPhone, smartphone or laptop to class to learn.

Time: Wednesday 10am – 12 noon / 6.30pm – 8.30pm # (four sessions in group setting)

Cost: \$108 / \$56 concession\*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\* subject to conditions

# subject to staff-student ratios

## CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS ON:

### Spoken and Written English Courses

### Discovery Walks – Art, Architecture and History Walking Group

### Ready, Steady – Walk Docklands

### Basic Self-Defence

### Volunteering

# North West Women's Cuppa Club

**Ilana Kosakiewicz**

We have had three wonderful turnouts for North West Women's Cuppa Club so far this year. There have been around 40 fabulous women from all generations, backgrounds and cultures attending from the North and West Melbourne community.

The theme of our Women's Cuppa Club is simple: to connect, share and support women in our community over a cup of tea or coffee, while enjoying delicious homemade scones donated by Lulu Cafe and Gallery in Queensberry Street.

At our first event, one of North Melbourne's wise women, Lorna, blessed us all with some stories of the history of women in our area and shared a beautiful quote by Ruth Crow that

"when people came together over a cup of tea, they could go on to do great things".

Everyone has enjoyed the community morning tea so much that it has now become a monthly event. We meet at Lulu Cafe and Gallery on the second Thursday of every month. The next date is 12 July at 10.00am. The cost of the Cuppa Club is \$10 a session and all profits are donated to The Centre on Errol Street.

So, women of North and West Melbourne, join us! Simply turn up and enjoy a cup of goodness with meaningful conversations.

*The organiser, Ilana from Ilana K Kinesiology in North Melbourne, also holds a monthly Women's Circle on the third Wednesday of the month from 7.00pm. For more details on the Women's Cuppa Club or the North West Women's Circle please contact Ilana on 0401 384 903 or email [ilana@ilanak.com.au](mailto:ilana@ilanak.com.au).*

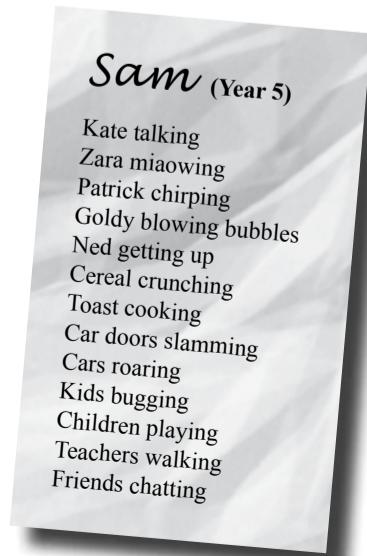
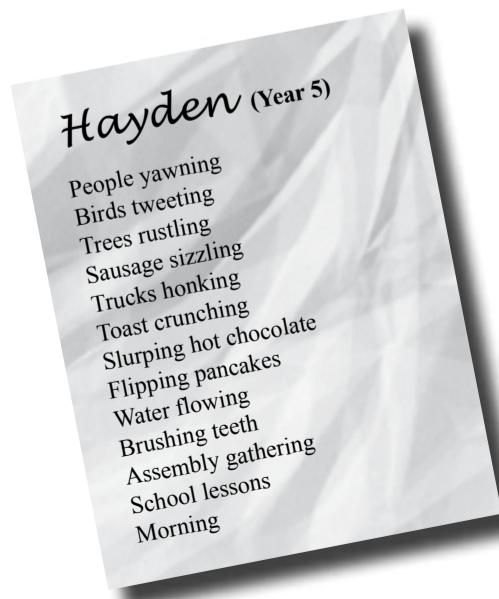
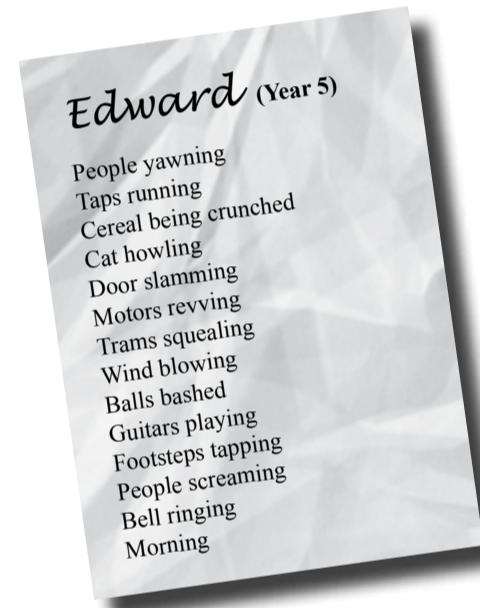
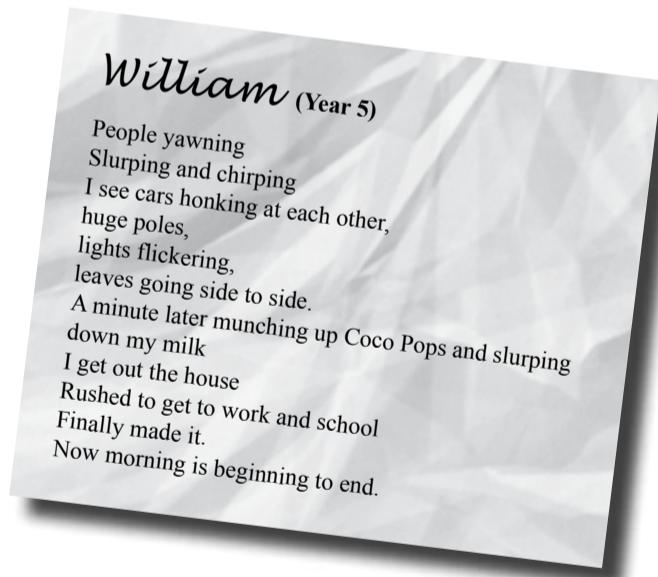


Connecting, sharing and supporting at the Women's Cuppa Club Photo: Ilana Kosakiewicz

## Morning in North Melbourne

**Frances McMillan**

In our **Home Away From Homework Club** we often do activities together when the students have completed their homework tasks. Below is a set of poems about 'Morning' that were written following a model of a poem about 'Night'. The students worked hard thinking about the sights and sounds of morning and finding the best words to describe them. You will enjoy reading these with your morning cuppa.



# Retiring Centre director not so retiring

**Katrina Kincade-Sharkey**

**D**ense, small-print pages of academic credits and professional expertise detail Michael J. Halls's acute work-life at the crux of planning, delivery and assessment of community education.

Transitioning away from directing The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc, Michael is truly due an extended holiday after 44 years helping people pass on their social skills and awareness to colleagues, students and friends.

"Passing on this passion to our new director has been a little busier than I expected," he concedes, with a wry smile.

That busyness passing on to his successor, Thomas Seddon, includes — with a degree of urgency — ensuring and managing Centre funding to cover annual expenditure between \$500,000 and \$600,000, along with managing the quality of that funding's programs and activities.

"The reason I approached The Centre six years ago was because it was almost dead at that time," Michael remembers, shaking his head. "City boundaries had changed in 2008–09 and three new community centres had come online, so the City of Melbourne decided to reduce our funding.

"Therefore my initial strategy was to rebuild The Centre to its former level of activity and importance for our local residents." That successful planning has now achieved registrations in the vicinity of 700 participants, as well as 120 to 200 volunteers, depending on particular programs being run.

"Our funding sources include fees and charges we raise ourselves for the courses and programs we provide the community. Then there's a block from our City of Melbourne Strategic Partnership Grant, currently \$92,000.

"We're also allotted funds by the Department of Education and Training for our North & West Melbourne Community College, as well as from the Department of Health and Human Services to provide Neighbourhood House programs for community engagement activities, which are open to all people in our region."

Two particular aspects of The Centre's recent activities jump to Michael's mind: "As a measure of our community activity we had 95 volunteers conducting myriad activities during last year's fantastic Spring Fling; then the Homework Club consistently has 35 volunteer tutors helping our multi-ethnic primary and secondary school students.

"It genuinely produces better, happier, more scholastic students, which means they can achieve more in all their pursuits, and those participant involvement numbers are truly phenomenal.

"I think my most interesting program involves the two Hong Kong Baptist University students we have on placement each year. They're generally second-year arts, business — a variety of disciplines they come from. And we've been well supplied by Victoria Uni and Monash with their placements," he says, gratefully.

It is hardly surprising that Michael has drawn tertiary support. His academic background includes more than one dozen post-graduate qualifications, those awarded after his BA in 1978, but his managerial expertise has turned proverbial gold for The Centre.

"We treat every program similarly with regard to costs. If the paper makes an income, then it must pay a percentage of Centre overheads. Now, if it's only made 1 per cent of our income, then it only contributes 1 per cent of the overheads.

"We divide expenditure into main areas, they being program costs and operating expenditure," Michael explains. "We started off with real deficits five years ago, yet we're now making a very modest profit. But this business is very cyclical. We have several employees and several contractors, but that's cyclical."

Michael told The Centre's board right from his start date in 2011 that he would not take a full-time appointment. "My opinion is these sorts of centres should not have lifelong appointments, so my job was always going to be to appoint my successor.

"I couldn't be more delighted that we've secured such a great personality as Tom — and someone with such a different background and attitude to my own," he chuffs.

Yet these two specialist, directional men certainly have stylistic similarities. Each proceeds with a degree of exacting, calm control and dedication, while truly welcoming all participants, volunteers and staff to their fold.

Michael is "pretty certain I was working full-time for The Centre from the start, while operating my own business, MBG Education Pty Ltd, along with intense involvement with the Freemasons and other charity work".

"I like to think the best thing I've done with The Centre has been to significantly increase community engagement in programs, activities and civic events, as well as really developing a definite village here in North and West Melbourne," he says, before reflecting on local social realignments.

"It's my belief North Melbourne's centre will move closer to the location of the new railway station. The coming massive development of the railway station site and railroads that will cover those hectares of tracks with housing and business will bring in a massive and completely new community," he says.

Turning to other matters of prime consciousness for this adept community leader, Michael is concerned for the inter-relationship between



**Michael Halls hands over The Centre's directorship after six years at the helm**

*Photo: Jim Weatherill*

the community centre and its precinct traders.

"I think they could capitalise on far more leveraging from each other than they do. You can see that on Spring Fling days, when businesses make themselves far more welcoming and join in activities, have displays, family photography, leading-edge food and drink, all sorts of things," he says enthusiastically.

"We even had a bank signing up new customers on the sidewalk — that was business actually engaging the community, not just a sales ploy!"

Michael's attitudes have been activated by marketing concepts throughout his career — "I guess because when I left school I went into retail before uni, so I am very aware of the relationship between services and sales".

"People become involved — they buy — because of the relationship between service and sales, so that relationship *must* be genuine. It must have real feeling ... otherwise, how would you sustain 20 cafes?" he asks.

Reflecting on other groups nurtured by The Centre, he explains: "I thought it was really important that I maintain existing flagship programs, if they could be. Our organisation grew out of what is now called a Homework Club. After that it was Spring Fling, so I think we quickly became known as supportive of community groups, and one of the first was the group that set up the *News* in 1978.

"We've also supported groups like the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women, North & West Melbourne branch. We helped them with their memorial days — which also formally acknowledged women, like here at The Centre.

"I'd like to think I've had a hand in working with members to keep this place going. They put their trust in one to get the place back to the successful organisation it had been."

He did, we did, and The Centre remains eternally grateful to Michael Halls.

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# More than a sporting chance

**Katrina Kincade-Sharkey**

Transferring his sporting addictions from Yankee gridiron to British rugby was but one fundamental change of consciousness adopted by Thomas Seddon, BA JD, 53, The Centre's recently appointed director.

Highly appreciative of his new workplace, Tom ("I answer to anything bar Tommy!") especially likes "the collection of activities — services if you like — and the way we commit to the community here is everything from one-to-one personal to a newspaper that prints 6000 to 7000 copies".

"Our mission is enough to find new ways to approach this community and I like that," he says, eyes flashing.

Born in Indiana, Tom "grew up next door in Ohio", taking an arts degree that majored in Cold War history from Ohio State University's Columbus campus, before reading law for his Juris Doctor at the University of Cincinnati.

The new director is still an active member of the State Bar of California, "but mainly online and on the net these days", he explains, before noting his legal days are now restricted to researching matters of personal interest.

Tom's deep inclination to sports probably led to his eventual Australian landing: "I was introduced to rugby union in London by Australians there with whom I'd been on a uni [archaeological] dig on the Peloponnesian coast in Greece during a semester break.

"I was studying history at the time and that was a good opportunity to travel. With rugby I'd found a sport I loved. It got me to New Zealand in 1987, where I played for Victoria Uni in Wellington for three months in the middle of law school," the solid lock or second-rower explains.

One more lifelong love was born a couple of years later when Tom was a practising solicitor with Melbourne partners Arthur Robinson & Hedderwick, now Allens. "Robert Niemann started at the same law firm where I was working and in a few months we were dating," he remembers, lovingly.

If maintaining any relationship is difficult across practices or jurisdictions, hand it to this couple. They are still together after decades, with periods of distance separation and a complete change of nationality thrown in.

"I'd seriously considered moving to New Zealand, but Wellington where I'd played seemed a little small for a securities lawyer," he remembers, "so I flipped a coin between Sydney and Melbourne. Between 1992 and 2004 we had homes in both cities and flew back and forth before settling in Melbourne."

The second half of this well-credentialled executive's life has been based in Australia, from 2005 to 2014 as CEO with The Bendigo Trust and director of the Discovery Science &

Technology Centre (DSTC). Those positions entailed intense concurrent works as charitable operator of the DSTC, the Central Deborah Gold Mine, Bendigo Tramways and Bendigo Tramways Heritage Rail Workshop.

Yet these were merely a portion of his workload. Tom also directed and managed Bendigo 976 Tram Restaurant, Bendigo Joss House Temple, Victoria Hill heritage goldfields reserve and Bendigo Gasworks, together utilising a paid staff of 95 and a similar number of volunteers across four worksites.

Thomas Seddon can obviously handle major workloads. "I arrived in June 2005 to find fires burning everywhere I looked," he groans, detailing the Trust's condition on his appointment.

"A proposal to extend the tramway through a busy city park in 2002 had led to three years' community protest and the termination of the project in February '05 with the cancellation of \$9 million state and federal funding plus a state government auditor-general's investigation," he says.

"The tramway workshop had closed in February, with 11 roles made redundant. Bendigo's tram restaurant had closed the year before, while tram services relied on loaned Melbourne trams, as Bendigo's fleet was unroadworthy. Central Deborah Gold Mine was under threat of closure due to safety concerns, while Discovery Science Centre was tired, friendless at town hall and widely seen as a lost cause.

"Across the organisation visitation had been falling for years," he grimaces, remembering the massive task confronting him.

The next decade was professionally intense, but those Trust businesses were all effectively re-engineered. "I rebuilt relations in the community, at Bendigo Council and in state government," he says, proudly.

Under his direction Bendigo Trust invested in training, marketing, new products and revenue streams, raising \$8 million from government and foundations to fund improvement projects. After a decade — and three contract renewals — he stepped down.

Tom's achievements during those contract extensions obviously benefited his negotiations with The Centre's committee of management, but one might argue that his people skills were just as vital to their decision — and to the Trust's renovated reputation. Successful ventures during his Bendigo career include:

- Discovery created Bendigo Planetarium and The Lab, and introduced science shows and in-class science education kits for schools. Visitor numbers increased from 13,000 in 2005 to 30,000 in 2015.
- Central Deborah's underground workings were extensively improved, a new underground adventure tour was opened, and the mine entered the Victorian Tourism Hall of Fame.

- Thirteen Bendigo fleet trams were restored, while track and/or tram-pole replacement occurred along half of the 4.2-kilometre tramline.
- The tramway workshop reopened and secured the work of rebuilding Melbourne's City Circle fleet, as well as interstate and international work.
- The Trust took over Bendigo's Chinese temple in 2007. Visitors in 2006: 2000; in 2013: 6300.
- A new Bendigo Trust Foundation was launched with a \$100,000 donation in Tom's final month there.
- Revenue in 2005 was \$1.7 million, in 2013 \$4 million.

Financial wizard? Probably, yet this man (who stills wears the body of a gridiron linebacker or rugby lock) has achieved myriad other CV notations, including director (CEO) of the 18th World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, Melbourne 2002–2004, where he led a secretariat of 20 staff and 140 volunteers, reporting to local and international boards, with a budget of \$3.5 million.

"In all, we attracted 2500 proposals for presentation of research at the conference and 3009 delegates from 105 countries, both results double that of the previous conference

(Paris 2001)."

Tom had assumed that international health promotion and education role immediately after his successful coordination as CEO of the Sixth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific held in Melbourne in 2001.

That sixth congress engaged "all levels of health service delivery, research and testing, prevention, advocacy and community education and outreach", he remembers. "It attracted new government, multilateral, clinical, UN system and philanthropic participants, its cultural program being the largest exploration of AIDS from an arts perspective ever mounted in Australia.

"With 1000 more abstract submissions and 700 more participants than the prior congress, 4200 delegates attended, including royals, ministers and first ladies from more than 40 countries. The arts program was a large part of the 2001 Melbourne Fringe."

Add those successful professional roles to Tom's simultaneous consultation with private clients, sitting on and chairing corporate, educational and tourism boards, as well as his editorial contributions to *The Laws of Australia* (Thomson Reuters) 1996, and you may appreciate The Centre's luck in welcoming him to the fold.



The Centre's new director, Tom Seddon

Photo: Jim Weatherill

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# North Melbourne Primary School opens a hospital — for bikes

**Bart Sbeghen**

**N**orth Melbourne Primary School has started its own hospital. But it doesn't accept human patients.

It's a Bicycle Hospital that recycles and repairs bikes so that every child has a working bicycle. The Bicycle Hospital is run by parent volunteers and is part of the growing Dr Cranky's network of schools across Melbourne that has so far recycled or repaired over 1000 bikes at 11 schools.

I'm excited to have the school join the bicycle recycle revolution. Our motto is Bikes for Kids. There are so many schoolchildren that cannot afford a bike but at the same time so many unused bikes sitting in garages or sheds. By bringing the two together we reduce waste and get more people riding. But even more importantly we make connections at schools and bring people together.

Nick Oliver, one of the parent volunteers, agrees. "Already I've met so many new people at the school, coming to check out the Bicycle Hospital, donating bikes or looking for bikes. It's a real conversation starter," he says.

Will, another parent volunteer, adds: "I love

being involved in something at school that helps the local community."

Teacher Jack Williams is a keen supporter. "It's a great way to get the school community engaged in active transport, recycling and sustainability," he says. "The more children riding and walking to school the better, and Dr Cranky's fits in well with our school values. Plus the kids love it."

Dr Cranky's started in 2014 as a bicycle recycling program at Flemington Primary School, where I am a parent. It was so successful I decided to see if it would work at other schools. North Melbourne is an example of what is possible — we've already done more than 20 bikes here. The smiles on the kids' faces are priceless.

For more information see [www.drcrankys.com.au](http://www.drcrankys.com.au) or look up Bicycle Hospital or Dr Cranky's on Facebook.

*Bart Sbeghen is the founder of Dr Cranky's.*



Dr Cranky's founder, Bart Sbeghen (far left), with happy recyclers

Photo: Jamie Chang

# Pathways: educational and others

**Cliff Rundle**

**N**orth Melbourne Language & Learning Inc (NMLL) works with adults from the diverse communities of North Melbourne, assisting people to develop their English language skills and become engaged in the local community.

In an article last year I mentioned that the vast majority are seeking employment and a steady, adequate income. Those not seeking employment are generally at retirement age.

As we all know, getting a job is not easy. Most unemployed people face many challenges and take some time to find another job. The average period of unemployment for an adult 35–44 years old was nearly 50 weeks in September 2015 (source: ABS, *Labour force, detailed - electronic delivery, Sep 2015*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001). For people who have recently arrived in Australia the difficulties are compounded, even for those with professional qualifications.

At a recent seminar NMLL was asked about the thinking behind the microbusiness project. People seemed interested in the approach so we have decided to share it here. The accompanying diagram summarises the idea neatly. As illustrated, the microbusiness project is one strategy amongst several responding to the expressed needs of the communities.

The guiding idea is that NMLL, as a single, small organisation, does not have the resources to address large social problems. However, NMLL has, firstly, some capacity to work with employers, addressing their needs and creating opportunities along the way. Secondly, NMLL has the capacity to work with and channel the skills and creativity of our constituents. The overarching strategy is "... external adaption and internal cohesion".

As the diagram illustrates, there are four linked pathways or strategies. To some extent all four have been in place at NMLL for years. We are now filling the gaps to make the pathways work more effectively.

The first pathway is about building relation-

ships, to help people get engaged in the local communities, to link with local services, and for their needs to be understood. Once needs are understood then the appropriate assistance can be organised.

The second pathway is to engage in education. For many this means developing English language skills including any or all of speaking, reading, writing and comprehension. In our society relatively high levels of skill are required in each dimension in order to apply for a job, to gain a qualification and to progress in a career. At NMLL we assist people to progress from where they are towards their goal.

People's progress is shown by increased skills and confidence, their willingness to take on new challenges, their efforts to earn an income and, for some, embracing opportunities to gain formal qualifications.

The third pathway is about seeking employment. Most people seek employment by applying for an advertised vacancy. This can be an intimidating experience, even for those of us who are employed and have been through the process. For a new arrival it is often a new experience for which they are unprepared. For this reason NMLL offers workshops about how to prepare a job application, including the cover letter, the résumé and preparing for interview.

Others are interested in starting a small business. For those people NMLL offers a short course in establishing a microbusiness. The course, called Everybody's Business, is accompanied by business support staff and volunteers. They assist with developing business opportunities, sound business practices, marketing and surviving the first 12 months.

To date, two courses have run and 23 women have graduated. A third course commences in mid-August and is for men and women. It will be advertised on Facebook, at NMLL and at local community facilities.

Nearly half of all job vacancies are not advertised. Instead they are filled through networking and word of mouth. For that reason the fourth pathway is about developing a

network through volunteering in appropriate organisations.

NMLL will be offering a new course later this year which will pass on networking techniques and encourage people to volunteer in selected organisations. This strategy is successfully used in many professions, so there is reason to be optimistic it will produce results for some NMLL students.

The diagram also illustrates the links between the pathways. From our students' perspective these are about linking people with emerging opportunities and/or skilling people for emerging opportunities. An example might be helping a microbusiness student with a catering business to quote for the work. From an organisational perspective it's about internal relationships between the staff groupings.

There is no doubt that getting a job can be difficult. The reality is that there are more job seekers than jobs. On the other hand, the job market is dynamic, shrinking in some areas and growing in others. That movement creates opportunities but the reality is that getting

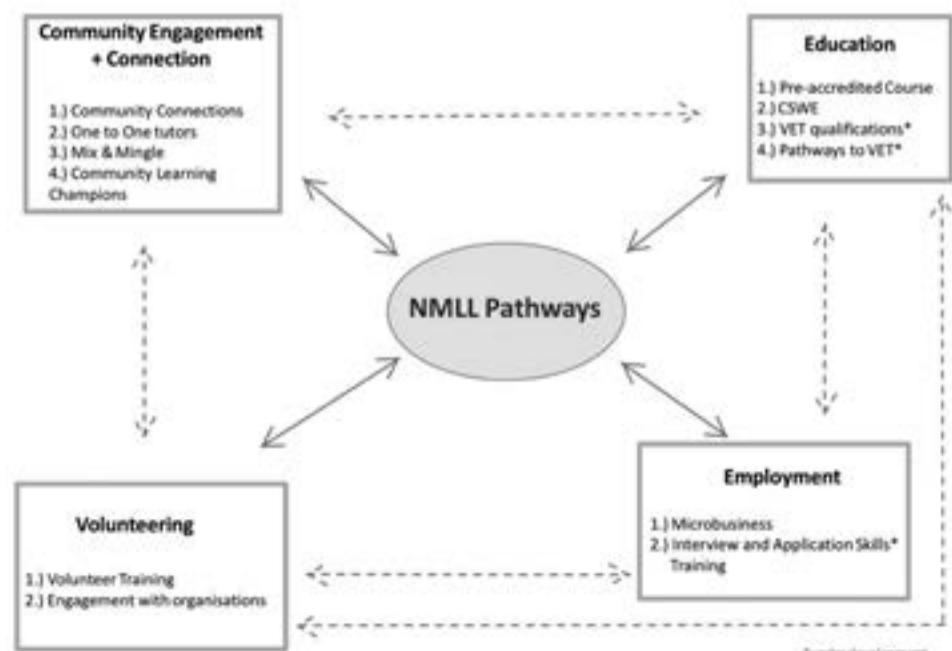
a job is and will always be a competitive process.

Those who understand the process and are prepared and skilled are most likely to succeed. NMLL is about helping people to find opportunities and make the most of those opportunities.

NMLL knows the pathways are working for some members of the community. People are getting Australian qualifications, establishing microbusinesses and getting into the workforce. It's encouraging and exciting to know that we can make a difference.

If you or your organisation would like to assist please get in contact. In particular we are seeking entry-level administrative jobs and supported opportunities for volunteers to develop work skills in various organisations. In the meantime please like us on Facebook so that we can continue to grow and reach people who can assist.

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



NMLL Pathways: strategies to respond to challenges

Graphic: Marie Toga

# Stories without Borders: building bridges to cultural harmony in North Melbourne

**Nikki Blanch**

**S**torytelling is the oldest art form known to humankind, and the most powerful form of education used by all cultures. People across the world have always used stories as a way to pass on cultural beliefs, traditions and family histories to future generations.

They are the primary way we store information in the brain (*Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom*, Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss, 2005). And stories have the power to connect across cultures, by bringing us into a shared experience and understanding of what makes us all human.

We have only to look at the rising popularity of storytelling podcasts and live storytelling events popping up all over the world as evidence that people crave the connection to each other that stories can bring.

There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates the effects of telling stories, not only on the audience, but on the storyteller themselves. When we tell stories, whether it is a prepared story or improvised, we learn about ourselves through the process — we could call it a creative process of reflection that helps us to create meaning.

The audience who are engaged in listening are in an interactive process of empathising, supporting or reacting to the story being told. Neuroscience research has shown that listening to others tell a story activates several parts of the brain, depending on the story being told.

If it is a story about food, for example, the primary olfactory cortex lights up as we imagine a smell or taste. Essentially, whatever ex-

perience is being described, our brains are being activated as if we were going through the experience ourselves. This is why storytelling can have such a powerful effect on connecting an audience with the storyteller.

*Stories without Borders* is a community development project using the medium of storytelling to create and nurture strong intercultural, intergenerational and interfaith connections between the diverse communities residing in and around North Melbourne. North Melbourne Language & Learning (NMLL) is the lead agency in this project, with connections to community groups and members from an identified 33 different countries.

Over the course of this project we will collaborate with local community groups and agencies, local Elders, artists and the wider community to develop and deliver a series of storytelling sessions based on themes that have been developed by participants. These themes will guide the conversations and stories for each session, and be a starting point for sharing and learning about each other's cultural practices and traditions.

Some of the suggestions so far have been traditional clothing and costumes, home life, and cultural practices related to religious and spiritual beliefs.

The storytelling sessions will be well documented through photography and video, so that these stories can be shared on a platform that is designed and directed by the community members involved. We will be assembling a team of young people to be the film crew, and they will receive some training and mentoring in the use of digital SLR cameras, so that they can film the stories, ensuring that the commu-



Amal Ahmed reads a traditional children's story

Photo: Wagner Shintani

nity tell their stories in their own way.

This project will also be utilising the creative skills of artists to facilitate Story Workshops, where the documented stories will be referenced and used to develop a community-led, co-created response to the stories shared. This response will be developed into a community offering such as a performance piece, art exhibition or multimedia platform to share the results of this community collaboration.

This will then be performed or displayed as a part of *Refuge* (multi-year project) at the Arts House, and also at the 2018 Spring Fling Festival.

If you would like to get involved, and for further information regarding the dates for upcoming storytelling sessions, please contact

Nikki Blanch at NMLL on 9326 7447 or at [cdevents@nml.org.au](mailto:cdevents@nml.org.au). We welcome all ages and all language and literacy abilities. Interpreters can be arranged so that community members can share their stories in their languages.

A key objective of *Stories without Borders* is data collection to create a longitudinal study into the real and perceived barriers that diverse community groups and individuals experience to social cohesion. We aim to collate and use this information in the development and design of all future projects at NMLL, to positively impact on our ability to support cultural harmony.

Nikki Blanch is the community development project officer at North Melbourne Language & Learning.

## COMMUNITY

# Bishop Venner visits Abbeyfield House

**Liz Clifford**

**T**he Abbeyfield House in Brougham Street recently welcomed some international visitors.

Bishop Stephen Venner, a member and trustee of The Abbeyfield Society board in the United Kingdom, and his wife, Judy, were in Melbourne visiting family and took the opportunity to visit some local houses during their stay. The Abbeyfield North Melbourne House

was delighted to be asked to host them.

Bishop Venner has had a long and distinguished career within the Church of England, and has also had a strong involvement in school and university education in the UK. Mrs Venner has also had a long career in education.

Bishop Venner is now retired, but continues to be involved in the Abbeyfield movement in the UK and internationally, and during his visit was particularly interested to meet with residents and staff to gain an understanding of the similarities and the differences between local

and overseas Abbeyfield houses.

Dimitri Kiriacoulacos, acting CEO of Abbeyfield Australia, accompanied the bishop.

*Liz Clifford is president of the North Melbourne Abbeyfield committee.*



Bishop Venner and his wife, Judy, with Abbeyfield secretary Lavinia Verduci and housekeeper Carol McLaren

Photo: Dimitri Kiriacoulacos



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# North Melbourne man aids angelic transport

**Katrina Kincade-Sharkey**

**S**tormy arrivals and windswept departures mean nothing to Angel Flight, a national charity that coordinates non-emergency air-travel to help sick country people deal with the triple trouble of bad health, poor finances and daunting distance to their specialist medical care.

Angel Flight pilots volunteer their time — and aircraft — to transport rural patients and their carers from the nearest country airstrip to capital-city medical facilities. They fly into Melbourne's Essendon, Sydney's Bankstown, Brisbane's Archerfield and Perth's Jandakot, as well as South Australia's Parafield GA (general aviation) and Adelaide airports.

Angel Flight volunteer pilots are not medically trained, nor do they carry aeromedical staff or medical equipment, so they don't act in place of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) or Air Ambulance.

Ground transport volunteers complement the service by meeting flights and driving patients in their own cars between airports and hospitals in major towns and capital cities.

While the service may not be anywhere near as well-known as RFDS or Air Ambulance, Angel Flight's help is just as socially important and medically necessary. The organisation's pilots have top aeronautical qualifications, as well as displaying A-grade personal care for the patients they have carried on more than 22,000 flights over the past 15 years since Angel Flight Australia was established in 2003.

Angel Flight Australia (AFA) was the initiative of Bill Bristow AM, an experienced businessman and pilot, and proud winner of the Australian of the Year Award – Queensland in 2005. In 2009 he was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for service to rural and remote communities through the establishment of AFA and for his support of charitable organisations.

"All flights are free, assisting patients and their carers travelling to and/or from medical facilities almost anywhere in Australia," says Angel Flight CEO Marjorie Pagani from its headquarters in the Brisbane suburb of Forti-

tude Valley.

"Angel Flight has 3258 volunteer pilots currently registered across the nation and at any time we'd have 50 to 100 on active rotation, depending on their location," she says proudly.

Angel Flight is funded by private donations from individuals, service clubs and groups, companies of all sizes and deceased estates. AFA has a strict policy not to follow donors for more money. It has no fundraising budget, nor does it utilise marketing or fundraising organisations for support.

Donations to AFA are used to pay for:

- fuel used during flight missions
- discounted commercial air-travel when poor weather prevents light aircraft flights
- the Angel Flight Support Centre, which runs on a minute infrastructure, with four mission coordinators and two administrators.

Angel Flight transports people who need medical attention that cannot be accessed near their rural homes. Those patients' medical conditions mean they cannot withstand road trips often covering hundreds of kilometres to reach specialist health care available only in major cities.

Pilot Greg Patten, 50, recently flew his single-engine, four-seat Mooney M20J from its Essendon Airport base to Orbost, in East Gippsland, to collect 70-year-old David Smooker and his wife, Flora. That was a journey of nearly 400 kilometres each way.

A former plant operator and truck driver who worked until he was diagnosed with an aggressive small cell lung cancer last October, David had to attend the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre for seven days' treatment with new chemotherapy in late May.

"There is no way we could have done this trip by car," explains Flora, on arrival at Essendon. "It would have been exhausting for David and badly affected his uptake of the new chemo."

The couple were driven from the airport to the cancer centre by another Angel Flight volunteer, Robert Carty, 61, who lives in North Melbourne. Like pilot Patten, he has transported the Smookers previously, so is familiar to them.

"We cannot thank enough the staff, the



Angel Flight pilot Greg Patten (centre) arrives at Essendon Airport with his passengers



Angel Flight driver Robert Carty (left) with David Smooker and his wife, Flora

Photos: Jim Weatherill

ground transport volunteers and the pilots," says Flora. "This is an amazing service to help sick people in need of long-distance transport to hospital."

"Both Greg and Robert have been so good to us," she continues, gratefully. "They have transported us on all our three trips with Angel Flight. It is such an enormous help to us that

these men are so willing and happy to donate their valuable time to help us on this long, long distance for critical hospital care."

That caring calm from both pilot and driver may well have proven positive for 'their' patient. At last report, David is progressing well.

Donations to Angel Flight Australia may be made through the website [angelflight.org.au](http://angelflight.org.au).

## Moomba Monday lawn bowls comp a winner

**Gary Dowling**

**C**ity of Melbourne Bowls Club (CoMBC) hosted a very successful City Mazda Moomba Monday Tournament attracting 100 bowlers and spectators from across regional and metropolitan Victoria.

The tournament was sponsored by City Mazda South Melbourne and continues the longstanding partnership that CoMBC enjoys with City Mazda.

Bowls Australia, Carlton Football Club, North Melbourne Football Club, Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens and Lucy and Frank Fedele from the Royal Standard Hotel also supported the tournament by contributing items for the charity auction.

Club member David Loader acted as the charity auctioneer, and through the generosity of individuals who bid for items a total of \$3000 was raised for VincentCare's Ozanam Community Centre.

The charity auction is a very important part of the City Mazda Moomba Monday Tournament and the club was delighted with the support the auction received.

The winners of the tournament were a combined team from Flemington & Kensington Bowling Club and CoMBC. Congratulations

to the successful team, undefeated on the day, namely Marcelle Davis, Oliver Warren, Grant Banks and Linas Kalade.

In other news CoMBC recently committed to the Victorian Government-sponsored Good Sports Program. The aim of the program is to assist clubs to attain three levels of accreditation focusing on improving responsible serving of alcohol.

While CoMBC already had excellent alcohol management practices in place, participation in the Good Sports Program provided the board and club manager with an ideal opportunity to review our practices against contemporary benchmarks.

The club has now been successful in attaining the full suite of Good Sports accreditation, levels 1, 2 and 3, and we would like to recognise and thank Samantha Rioli, Good Sports community development officer, for her assistance in the process.

The 2017–18 summer bowls season has come and gone and Saturday Pennant bowls will resume on Saturday 6 October. In what was an outstanding achievement the CoMBC Division 7 team were successful in winning the 2017–18 Bowls Victoria Division 7 Premiership.

It was a proud moment for the club to see the Division 7 team not only elevated to Divi-

sion 6 next season but also winning the club's first summer Pennant premiership in over a decade. What made the Division 7 achievement all the more special was that the team had a significant number of new bowlers.

If you are interested in learning more about

the game of lawn bowls, head down to Flagstaff Gardens on a Monday night from 4.30pm, where our members and accredited coaches will make you feel most welcome.

Gary Dowling is vice chair of City of Melbourne Bowls Club.



City Mazda Moomba Monday Tournament winners (from left): Marcelle Davis, Oliver Warren, Grant Banks and Linas Kalade

Photo: Jeff Attard

# A royal wedding in Tokyo

**Suzie Luddon**

I'm no monarchist, but the royals know how to rock a good wedding, so when Harry and Meghan set the date I was slightly concerned that it clashed with our holiday. Turned out we would be in Tokyo on Saturday 19 May, having arrived there the night before.

I wasn't sure if the Japanese networks would screen it, but I was sure that even if they did I didn't want to watch it with Japanese commentary or, worse, dubbing. So my holiday planning turned to finding out where in Tokyo we could watch Harry and Meghan tie the knot. I soon settled on the Hobgoblin Pub, one of the many English bars in Tokyo's vibrant and bustling entertainment district, Shibuya.

The day dawned sunny and warm in Tokyo as it did in Windsor. The wedding coverage was due to start at 8.00pm Tokyo time, and we arranged to meet our friend Hiro, a Tokyo native, in the late afternoon.

We slowly headed in the direction of Shibuya, stopping to take in the cosplay (an activity where people dress up in costumes) and *kawaii* (Japanese for 'cute') vibe of Takeshita Street in Harajuku, one of the epicentres of Tokyo youth culture. We then

moved on to the more refined and hip Omotesando, where highly curated vintage meets high-end fashion, and the people-watching doesn't get any better.

But there was no time to linger. We had a wedding to get to, so we hastened along to Shibuya's famous scramble crossing to meet Hiro at the Hachiko statue, a representation of Japan's most loyal dog, which on that day was adorned with a couple of *kawaii* cats.

We eagerly made our way to the Hobgoblin, a traditional-looking pub on the third floor of a venue-packed building in the midst of the labyrinth of laneways around Shibuya Station.

Finding a table in a prime spot in front of the big screen, which was disturbingly showing a soccer match, we ordered some sake and beer and settled in for the evening. Hiro looked bemused at the steady stream of foreigners coming through the door. He knew nothing about the British royals, or the royal wedding, but seemed happy enough to watch it play out over a few drinks.

The TV finally found its way to the BBC — "There's Oprah! And Serena! And look at Amal Clooney!" — but it took a bit of prodding by some fellow Australians to get the staff to turn the sound up. No sooner had they done that than the streaming started freezing up, causing mild panic among the nevertheless

good-natured patrons.

They finally found a reliable stream, just in time for us to see the groom and best man arrive ("They are brothers?" asked Hiro), followed by the other royals. By this time the colour and camaraderie in the room were high, and we were all enjoying the spectacle and betting on the dress and hairstyle. The bride then made her elegant entrance, and the wedding was underway.

People were still coming into the bar, and Hiro was one of a handful of Japanese patrons there. "I feel like a tourist," he said, incredulous at the number of people showing up to watch a wedding.

So far, so royal — until the Americans took over the proceedings and the wedding became much more entertaining. The preacher spoke with almighty passion, for what seemed to be an almighty long time. Even Harry and Meghan looked bemused.

When the gospel choir started singing 'Stand By Me', Hiro found his mojo. He knew this song, and he grabbed a water bottle as a microphone and started belting out the song in true karaoke style. Within seconds everyone in the bar was singing along with the gospel choir and with Hiro, and we all felt the love and the humour.

We'll never know Harry and Meghan, but



**Japan's famous Hachiko statue, with two *kawaii* cats sleeping on it**

*Photo: Suzie Luddon*

we wish them well and will never forget the night we witnessed their wedding in a Tokyo bar — and our friend Hiro will always remember the night he sang at the royal wedding.

# London and Melbourne: on everyone's list

**Florence Chan**

**S**crap the lists pitting cities against each other! Here are five ways that London and Melbourne, listed in no particular order, are like rival siblings who have more in common than they would like to admit.

## Each city has its own observation wheel

Our very own Melbourne Star Observation Wheel, which reopened to the public in 2013, is hardly as iconic to our city as the London Eye is to the British capital's skyline. I begrudgingly discovered from a local Londoner that calling the London Eye a ferris wheel is incorrect. It is, in fact, an observation wheel, as the capsules are on the outside of the rimmed structure.

The panoramic views of London from the capsules on the observation wheel are well worth the long, winding queues, and it's a bucket-list item that you will not have any regrets for ticking off.

## Forget the murkiness and go on a cruise!

While London is home to the River Thames (pronounced 'Tems'), Melbourne has its own Yarra River. Both flow through their respective city centres. The Yarra was incorrectly named by European explorers from the Aboriginal Wurundjeri term *yarro-yarro*, which means 'it flows'. The river is a maligned shade of muddy brown due to the easily eroded clay soils of the water catchment.

The Thames, however, undoubtedly wins the award for being the murkier of the two, due to the tidal movement that disrupts a significant amount of sediment.

You can take in beautiful, scenic city views and locate iconic landmarks by cruising both rivers. A trip along the Thames at the beginning of your stay in London will help you form good geographical awareness of the city's many sights — which you will surely visit during your time in this incredible city — and also minimise the likelihood of getting lost, which, to be fair, is an adventure in itself.

## Not all public transport has good reception

I was starry-eyed as I examined a map of the Tube, London's extremely extensive underground transport system, which has a total of 270 stations. It was opened in 1863 and is the world's oldest underground railway network system. I suppose this explains why you will be hard-pressed to find any phone or internet reception when commuting under the city.

Based on personal experience, riding on Melbourne's City Loop provides no excuse to cut short a phone call from your mother, as it now has great phone and internet reception. It must be acknowledged, though, that, as with Melbourne's metro trains, the Tube is currently experiencing significant construction works within the city's central business district as part of a multibillion-pound program investing in the future efficiency of London's transport network.

One development is the installation of an internet system that will provide passengers with Wi-Fi at over 260 Tube stations. However, it remains unclear whether this extends to Wi-Fi on moving trains. A lack of connection is therefore still a valid reason for not returning those five missed calls from your mother back home while travelling on the Tube.

## Ding-dong! It's maintenance time!

There are several iconic clocks scattered around the city of Melbourne. Flinders Street Station features two of those distinctive clocks, the more infamous one being located on the face of the main dome entrance — although it hardly springs to mind when you are listing tourist attractions in Melbourne.

Meanwhile, at the north end of the Palace of Westminster, Big Ben, perhaps London's most famous symbol, stands idle.

An obvious similarity between the Melbourne and London clocks is the constant maintenance needed to minimise the effects of time and natural wear and tear. The main entrance to Flinders Street Station is now covered in scaffolding to allow repainting in a lighter stone colour, complete with dark maroon sections and green trimmings. At least its forecast completion date is not four years away!

In contrast, Londoners listened to Big Ben ringing its last peal in August 2017 and will not expect to hear that sound again until the renovation's anticipated finishing date in 2021. The scaffolding makes for a pretty disappointing photo and certainly doesn't help convince your friends that you are having the best time in London.

## Take your pick: coffee or tea?

Melburnians pride themselves on having the 'best coffee' in Australia — and perhaps the world. Whilst this is a bold claim to make, it certainly doesn't stop Melbourne globetrotters telling anyone who will listen. I have to confess that I am not much of a coffee-drinker and prefer an English breakfast tea every morning (side note: water before milk, always).

A traditional blend, the English breakfast tea is quintessentially embedded in British tea cul-

ture, evident as the Buckingham Palace shop reeled me in to buy a year's supply of teabags. Both beverages are unique and delicious in their own right, so I will leave it to you to try both and make your own choice!

Overall, I personally have whittled the comparison down to two somewhat frivolous but justifiably necessary factors: the city that provides an unlimited, cost-effective supply of English breakfast teabags, versus the one with really great and reliable reception that enables a scroll through social media channels while commuting on public transport.

One of the perks of travelling to new places is being able to make your own list of a destination's memorable quirks, and these are just a few of mine!

So start making your list — your packing list for London!



**A spectacular view of London and the Houses of Parliament from the London Eye**

*Photo: Florence Chan*

## HISTORY

# An invitation from the Hotham History Project

## Mary Kehoe

The Hotham History Project Inc is a group of North and West Melbourne residents and friends interested in researching the history of the local area and sharing this research by publishing books and conducting walks and talks.

For more information or to purchase any of our publications please check our website at [www.hothamhistory.org.au](http://www.hothamhistory.org.au).

### Recent past event

Read Lorraine Siska's report on a recent visit to Jack's Magazine and learn more about this intriguing but little-known structure.

### Some future events

#### Tuesday 26 June at 7.30pm

**Talk:** The Crutchy Push, by Blair Gardiner  
Hotham Room, North Melbourne Library  
The Crutchy Push was a notorious gang of disabled larrikins who terrorised the streets of North Melbourne in the early 1900s, using their crutches to attack their unsuspecting victims.

#### Saturday 25 August at 2.00pm

**Annual General Meeting**  
Venue to be confirmed  
The guest speaker, Professor Janet McCalman AC, will talk about her recent research on Tasmanian convicts and World War I diggers.

#### Tuesday 25 September at 7.30pm

**Talk:** Ferguson & Urie, stained-glass craftsmen, by Ray Brown  
Venue to be confirmed  
Ferguson & Urie, colonial Victoria's leading producers of stained-glass windows, began in Curzon Street, North Melbourne, in 1853. The factory building, now apartments, was the first stained-glass workshop in Australia, where thousands of magnificent stained-glass windows were created for installation in churches, public buildings and private homes in Melbourne and across Australia. It operated until the firm closed in 1899.



# Hotham History visits Jack's Magazine

## Lorraine Siska

In March, Hotham History Project members found their way to this remarkable 19th-century edifice that nestles inside impressive bluestone walls on the banks of the Maribyrnong River.

### What is Jack's Magazine?

It is the largest magazine complex ever built in Victoria and opened in 1878 to provide safe storage for gunpowder imported into the colony of Victoria. It was used up until the 1990s, mainly as storage for the nearby ammunition and ordinance factories that employed thousands of men and women at the height of World War II.

Sitting empty for quite some time and with a new housing estate hedging it at the top of the escarpment, this historic survivor is now managed by a self-funded and not-for-profit group, Working Heritage, who look after diverse historic places and find new uses for them.

Our guide for this tour was Andy Calvert, a personable, knowledgeable man who began his working life as an apprentice at the ammunition factory, which used to be adjacent to Jack's Magazine and has had an ongoing association with the site since that time.

Jack's Magazine consists of several buildings, such as the small arms ammunition store and the examining room, but the two identical gunpowder magazines are the most remarkable.

Like the 900-metre-long perimeter walls, they are built of bluestone blocks. The raw basalt was dug out of the escarpment and fashioned and then the massive buildings were built into the two furrows excavated.

Everything was designed to manage an explosion, from the placing of these buildings deep-set into furrows with earth ramparts between and surrounding them, to the insides, where there were double-slotted vents (just in case a stray bullet should be fired towards an opening), strong bluestone walls and a lightweight roof. In the event of an explosion the blast would go upward rather than outward, which would have caused a greater catastrophe.

Barges brought the gunpowder barrels to the site from Port Phillip Bay, along the Maribyrnong River and up the canal connecting the river to the loading dock.

After being hauled up to the loading dock, the barrels were pushed on trolleys around the site's tramway. The trolleys were pushed by human power, not horses, as it was considered that men could jump out of the way if a trolley overturned but harnessed horses might bolt and create a much bigger hazard.

The interiors of these gunpowder storage buildings were again designed to prevent



The examining room



One of two identical magazines



Part of the bluestone wall that surrounds

Jack's Magazine

Photos: Janet Graham

explosions, the barrels of gunpowder being stored along the sides of the interconnecting vaults with their concave ceilings.

The timber floors were made from both softwood and hardwood, the latter being used in the centre. The wainscoting — that is, the panels lining the lower part of the walls — was also of softwood, which better absorbed knocks by the barrels. Now long empty, the magazines evoke awe and a haunting beauty both inside and out.

### Oh, and why is it called Jack's Magazine?

This place has had many names: Saltwater River Powder Magazine, Footscray Powder Magazine and the Maribyrnong Magazines. A man named Wally Jack was foreman there from World War I until 1943. It is said that he had a fearsome reputation and ruled it like his own kingdom. It became known as Jack's Magazine and the name has stuck until this day.

*Tours of Jack's Magazine are conducted regularly. Contact Clare Chandler, the project officer at Working Heritage, by emailing [c.chandler@workingheritage.com.au](mailto:c.chandler@workingheritage.com.au).*



Inside the west gunpowder magazine

Photo: Peter Casamento, with the permission of Working Heritage



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# The freedom of art: why Melrose artists paint

**Sari Wawn**

**I**t is almost impossible to express in words the many reasons why we paint. However, others, like myself, may find it simply to be the joy of creating an image or recapturing a lasting impression of a memorable place.

When I joined the Melrose Art Group at the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre last year I wasn't sure what to expect. I had no previous experience or training; I just thought it would be fun to have a go at painting.

When we paint we become immersed in adventures with colour that are enormously satisfying.

All it takes to get started is gathering together a few simple materials that are readily available from any art or craft shop. When it comes to brushes for special effects, Melrose Art Group member Nelida has made many of her own by recycling household materials.

You can arrive with an idea already in mind of what you want to paint. Otherwise, you will find a starting point once you set yourself up at the table alongside others at work. The most important thing to do is to take up the opportunity.

When I asked Juan what he liked about painting with the group, he said: "It's the freedom." Everyone follows their own direction and there are no mistakes, only opportunities. Trying out new ways of doing things is the best way to develop your skills. "It all comes from your mind. It's about ideas," says Nelida.

The artworks by the Melrose Art Group

members vary in their subject matter, style and materials. Mina is working on an abstract of roses in pastels, while Frances is channelling Monet in a landscape with two figures in a field of flowers. Angie displayed a series of abstracts painted with acrylics at last year's exhibition but continues to try different styles.

Nick's paintings are based on memories of early family life in Ukraine. Janna likes to work in oils because they don't dry too quickly, and Theresa has been working on cityscapes using a mixture of acrylic and watercolour. Anna has produced some miniatures of landscapes, flowers and birds; birds or animals often find their way into Anna's designs.

Pat, Melrose's secretary, is our most experienced painter while also acting as a mentor from time to time. While there is no substitute for actually doing a painting, I find our monthly tutorials extremely useful for learning new ways to improve my artwork.

The emphasis is on cheerful subjects. Our paintings are designed to hang on our friends' walls rather than in galleries. It is also satisfying to be able to give someone a card you have painted especially for them.

It has often been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Jim's photographs show how much the artists are enjoying themselves.

The quality and diversity of the actual paintings are best appreciated by attending the upcoming exhibition at the Kensington Town Hall, showing from 27 October to 29 October, 10.00am to 4.00pm. See you there or at Melrose Street.



Pat Duncan capturing a streetscape

Photo: Jim Weatherill

## New books, old haunts

**Elliott Binks**

**J**une McIntosh grew up in North Melbourne, learning to read in the library on Errol Street. Today we meet in a cafe, opposite that very same library, and again she's here with books in hand. This time, though, they're her own.

June is celebrating the release of two junior fiction novels: *Jasper Jett & the Breach of the Sixth Crystal* and *Jasper Jett & the Sceptre of Selenite*. A book launch will be held at 1.00pm on Sunday 8 July (see Noticeboard for more details).

"It's around at Mr Price's Food Store. Have you been there?" June asks me. "It's the best little shop."

June will be joined at Mr Price's by two very special guests. "My husband," she says, "he teaches keyboard, and there's a grand piano there, so he's going to play."

"And I've got my mum — she's got a lot of neighbours who are actors — so one of them is going to talk for me. He's read both the books. Richard Piper his name is."

June's mother, Nancy, has always been a driving force behind her daughter's lifelong love of books. Gazing out of the cafe window towards the North Melbourne Library, June recalls her childhood visits there while her mother shopped on Errol Street.

"Mum would go shopping, and she really liked to shop, so she'd take me to the library upstairs, just above that North Melbourne sign, and I'd sit in that corner and read."

"There was this young lady who was the kids' librarian at the time. She taught me to appreciate different genres and authors, and I probably did that from when I was five until I was about 14."

Reading remained a major part of June's life as she ventured into adulthood. She travelled extensively through Europe, Asia and America

in her twenties. But despite being thousands of miles from home, she was never far from her books.

"When you travel, you read. I used to try to read a lot of the local books."

Back in Australia, June settled down and became a primary school teacher. It was a natural transition, given her upbringing. "I was maths/science coordinator and I was a drama teacher at one stage, but literacy was always my greatest love," she says.

What followed was a 35-year teaching career, during which June read countless stories to her pupils.

"There's nothing better, on a weekday afternoon, inter-school sports being cancelled, they're all dreary and dull, and I'd say, 'Okay, lie down on the floor,' and I'd read them a book."

After a lifetime spent reading in the library, in classrooms and right across the globe, June turned to writing her own stories. And of all the novels she's encountered over the years, it's the ones from her earliest days that were as influential as any.

"I loved Ivan Southall as a kid," she recalls, "all those Australian novels, I read all of those. *The Little Bush Maid* and the rest of the *Billabong* series [by Mary Grant Bruce]."

After all, it can be difficult for a child to relate to those northern hemisphere novels, with their January winters and August summer holidays. June says herself: "I didn't like when they said it was a cold January day. I thought: 'No, that's not right.'

"So it's nice to have an Australian character who's on his summer holidays in January. I've made it very localised for here."

The stories are so localised that they are set in a town in the Yarra Valley where June regularly holidayed for some 20 years. Both books follow the adventures of 12-year-old Jasper Jett who, alongside his best friend, Sam, stumbles across an undiscovered world beneath the



June with one of her new novels at North Melbourne Library

Photo: Elliott Binks

surface of the earth.

The descriptions of the places above ground are all real but the rest is, in June's words, "pure fantasy".

"What I've tried with these books is to take them out of the real world totally," she continues. "It's something they can picture in their own head. I've described things to a point but then I've left room for them to picture things

for themselves. Because that's important too, I think. Imagining what could be."

"With all the technology around, I want to open up this world of literature to them."

A world that June, now more than ever, is very much a part of.

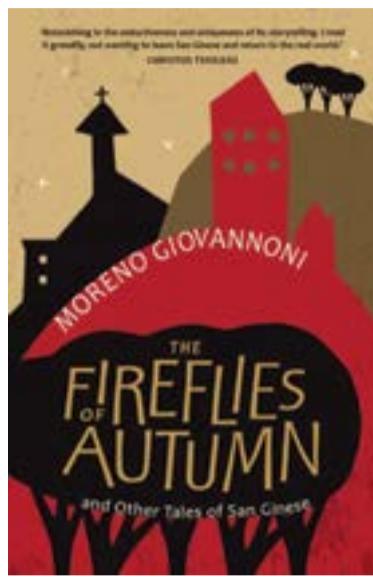
For more information on June and her books visit [www.junemcintoshauthor.com.au](http://www.junemcintoshauthor.com.au).

## Between the Covers

Chris Saliba

### The Fireflies of Autumn

Moreno Giovannoni  
(Black Inc. \$29.99)



Writer and translator Moreno Giovannoni starts his collection of interconnected short stories with a character named Ugo. Ugo is 90 years old, born in the Tuscan village of San Ginese in 1927 and migrating to Australia in 1957. He tells the reader that he has written the following stories himself, with a few contributions from fellow villagers, and had them translated into English. His own writing skills are fairly rudimentary, he confesses, but assures us that the translator has added some literary finesse.

Village life in San Ginese is noisy, earthy and gossipy. The agricultural clock governs everything: sowing vegetables, tending animals, working olive groves, separating wheat from chaff by hand. The sweet fecundity of the earth is matched by its opposite: cesspits, fertiliser and excrement. (In one story the noxious gases from so much bodily waste create an explosion.)

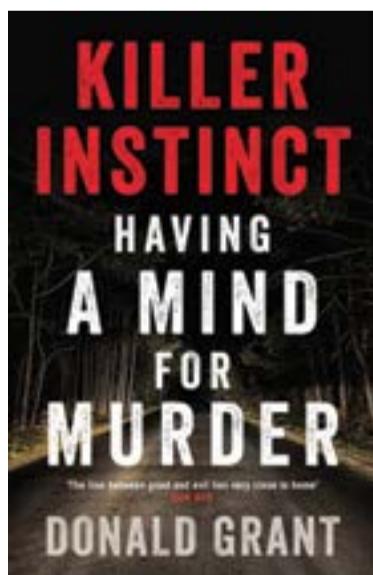
Life may be poor, but it is also good, full of wine, wheels of pecorino, slabs of polenta and dried figs. Populating this rich, fertile land is a colourful cast of characters, everyone from pig merchants to chaplains.

*The Fireflies of Autumn*, Giovannoni's debut work of fiction, is wonderfully accomplished, creating a fully realised, self-contained world. The prose is gently ironic and rich. Readers longing for a transformative experience will find it in spades here.

Release date: 2 July

### Killer Instinct: Having a Mind for Murder

Donald Grant  
(Melbourne University Press. \$34.99)



Why do people commit murder? What are the triggers that set off a murderous rampage? Are the causes psychological, the result of bad brain chemistry, an abusive childhood?

All these questions and more are answered in forensic psychiatrist Donald Grant's *Killer Instinct: Having a Mind for Murder*.

Grant discusses 10 real-life murder cases in which he has interviewed the killers. The murders examined vary widely and are full of bizarre details.

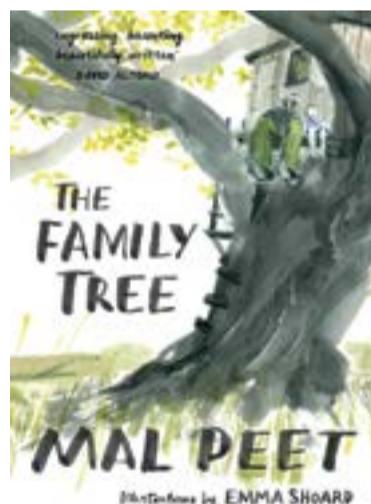
One woman, inhabited by multiple personalities, brutally stabs a complete stranger; a man who fantasises about being sexually humiliated kills for sexual gratification; a husband bashes his wife's head while she sleeps because she was too controlling; and a devoted son takes his mother, who is suffering from dementia, into the bush and kills her.

Despite all we know about the brain, what's striking about the cases outlined is how elusive the motives for killing can be. Many murderers are defensive and clam up when interviewed about why they kill. Some say they simply can't remember the event.

Mixing shock value and the rigours of psychiatric science, *Killer Instinct* is an unnerving trip to the darker, unfathomable recesses of the human psyche. Disturbing true crime cases that will keep you compulsively reading late into the night.

### The Family Tree

Mal Peet  
(Barrington Stoke. \$16.99)



A young man, Ben, is driving in a part of town he doesn't usually visit, a place where his childhood home still stands. On a whim, he decides to make a turn and visit his old house. He immediately regrets his decision as painful memories come rushing back. He remembers his mother and father and their difficult relationship, which ended while they were living in the house.

Ben especially remembers the treehouse outside, called 'The Nest'. His father built it for him and spent much time there himself, trying to escape his problems. When Ben looks over The Nest, now belonging to a new family who have bought the property, he is dismayed at how run-down it has become. It obviously has no value for the new family, but it means so much to Ben.

*The Family Tree*, a novella for young adult readers, is a sensitive and heart-wrenching story of family breakdown and the special childhood places that can offer solace from a world of troubles. Mal Peet has written a sparse yet emotionally resonant story, capturing the trauma of watching one's parents' marriage disintegrate. Emma Shoard's painterly, expressionistic illustrations provide a perfect match for Peet's sparse prose.

## The sound of life

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

**M**usical magic beats forth from concert halls, clubs and home quad systems, but you wouldn't expect raunchy jazz riffs from a Maori barista pulling your early-morning coffee.

That quiet, uncivilised 6.35am time was probably why Glen Fraser, 38, felt free to deliver a few unaccompanied bars over the whirring of his three-pull Black Eagle machine. Apart from this maudlin, pre-dawn refugee on a freezing June morn, Errol's was empty.

This coffee-pulling entertainer has had an active work-life, graduating from the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) in Hastings, New Zealand, before performing in musical theatre, first in New Zealand and then on the Gold Coast after his Australian arrival in 2002.

Rapidly becoming lead singer in a nine-piece jazz band, Glen sang "all the classics", including "Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Al Green, the Commodores — all the 1960s and '70s vintage that I love", he says, his black Rotoruan eyes flashing.

Glen accumulated some \$25,000 from winnings at singing competitions over an 18-month period. The largest of those wins was a \$10,000 first prize, which allowed him to settle in Melbourne nine years ago. But when frustrations with the infrequency of Australian singing performances mounted, he probably found physical relief in his six-year semi-professional fighting career in mixed martial arts (MMA) and kickboxing on the Gold Coast.

Now instructing MMA, he's delighted that his students include "corporate blokes, tradespeople, all sorts". "There's guys and girls — 75 per cent male — and they're all ages, although here in Victoria students must be 18 years plus.

"I was a karate instructor on the Gold Coast, then I saw kickboxing on TV and thought 'I'll give that a try'.

"What I find continually is a misconception that most fighters are violent, but they're actually the opposite. My team has several people who are definitely pacifists. Some are vegans and they wouldn't hurt a soul, but they certainly could if they wanted to," he whispers, glancing out to city workers huddling in saturating rain waiting for their tram.

Given his busy work trifecta, it's fortunate Glen is suitably fit. Apart from using his muscled arms to pull superb coffees and train kickboxers, he also plays guitar and sings at

several local pubs in areas close to the CBD.

Cradling his coffee in a corner of Errol's, he says: "I first started singing in my final year of high school when I joined the choir. Then I was introduced to musical theatre, where I did four amateur shows back-to-back, one of those shows being *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

"My singing teacher at the time, Evelyn Falconer, then suggested I audition for a performing arts school in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, which I did and then completed my Diploma in Performing Arts at EIT Polytech.

"When I lived on the Gold Coast, I worked at Dracula's Cabaret Restaurant for a few years, before becoming a personal trainer. Apart from the nine-piece band, I was also one of a singing trio," he recalls.

"I love the soul classics, so now I mainly do the '70s and '80s classics like Marvin Gaye, Billy Paul, Al Green, Bobby Darin — that's my preferred style, depending on the gig, the venue, the crowd. I use my Ibanez steel-string acoustic guitar with its loop pedal for backing. Nothing else — just me, the guitar and the foot," he chuckles.

That foot delivers drum and wind tones to back his glorious voice, so this man is a whole band, a complete entertainer.

Then there's the bridal function work he performs with singer wife Xan. The two met while Glen was doing musical theatre work and have now been married for eight years. "She has a lovely voice," he says adoringly, a sparkle in his eye.

"My two main sources of income these past 15 years have been hospitality — the barista work — and personal training. That's one-on-one at my South Melbourne gym," he says, before detailing his true professional ambition: "My wife and I plan to operate our own cafe."

"It'll be very musical, somewhere we can perform and others can perform as well. Ideally, we'd like to stay close to town," he says, glancing again at city travellers rushing to work.

It's obvious this man loves his music, and it sounds as if he's just as dedicated to performing. "My favourite magical moment is when a pub crowd quiets down and looks around at this Maori boy singing 'Nessun Dorma', made famous by Pavarotti, or 'Con te Partirò' [popularised by Andrea Bocelli].

"They are two opera classics and everyone recognises them!"

When Glen's superb voice is finally recorded, we'll all recognise his musical love of life. Glen is available for bookings and can be contacted on 0416 775 561.



Glen Fraser with his Ibanez acoustic guitar

Photo: Jim Weatherill

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