



Thumbs up for curlers at St Michael's.

Fiona Dunne

The 27 Prep students at St Michael's Primary School had a fabulous day recently when they celebrated 100 days since starting school back in February.

The children engaged in a range of 100-themed activities, including building a tower using 100 blocks, doing a writing exercise using 100 words and getting active with 100 star jumps.

The day's highlight was definitely the dress ups. Students, teachers and even parents joined in the fun by transforming themselves into 100-year-olds.

Suddenly there were a lot of grey hairs, bent backs, walking sticks and

Preps mark 100 days in many ways

even old-style hair rollers. The children loved seeing their teachers dressed up as grandpas and grandmas.

They were excited to see their classroom turned into a colourful space.

"It was lots of fun. I loved dressing up and seeing all the balloons in our classroom," little Sho said.

One of the day's many highlights was the photo booth, set up with a sparkly backdrop in one of the classrooms. Classroom assistant Michelle Cvetkovska took photos of the children and their teachers.

Prep teacher Tahlia Boggs said the milestone created new learning opportunities for her charges. "Counting to 100 gave the children a stepping stone into simple place value and made the preparations for the event a lot of fun."

Teacher Olivia Turville was delighted with the success of the day.

"It was great to see all our Preps running around and having a wonderful time. We were also able to blend it all in with classroom learning activities," she said.

There is no doubt that the children embraced all the day's activities. When asked what she would do with \$100, Mia never hesitated. "I would buy all the sweets in the world," she said.

Classmate Manhom showed a pleasing concern for others. "I would give the money to poor people so they could buy a house and some food," he said.

Little Van's eyes lit up as he summed up our 100-day celebration. "It was the best day ever!"

Fiona Dunne is community engagement leader at St Michael's PS.



St Michael's Prep students enjoyed dress-ups during their 100-day celebrations.

Irene bowled over by Games experience

Lizzy Footner

Irene Attard is one of the keenest members of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club.

Last month she competed at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, but here's the surprise. She was bowling for Malta!

Irene had no contact with lawn bowls until early 2016. "I would walk my dog through Flagstaff Gardens and thought I might take up bowls when I retired. Then my husband, Jeff, and I joined the club as social members."

Since late 2017, when she stopped working on Saturdays, her rise in the sport has been meteoric. She won several division pennants and last year won the women's fours state final at Bendigo.

In 2019, after being approached to join the Maltese lawn bowls squad, Irene joined the team training camp. She was selected for the 2020 world championships before it was cancelled due to COVID.

Better luck came when she was picked to bowl for Malta in this year's Commonwealth Games in the women's fours, a team that had won bronze in the 2018 Games on the Gold Coast.

Irene's training regime ramped up as Birmingham neared. She practised on slow grass similar to the Games' venue at Victoria Park, Leamington Spa and launched into a fitness regime of

yoga and Pilates. She also changed to Henselite Tiger 2 bowls.

Irene pays tribute to Keith McKnight, the coach at the bowls club. "Keith improved my delivery and stance via his training drills. He's a great mentor and he's sharpened my game via his post-game analysis," she says.

The Games was an unforgettable experience for Irene. "The opening ceremony was a highlight. It was so exciting walking out in front of a cheering crowd and representing my heritage," she says.

Irene played lead bowler in Malta's women's four. "Unfortunately the result wasn't what we wanted and we lost to Northern Ireland, Norfolk Island and Malaysia," she smiles.

Off the green, Irene loved living in the athletes' village. "It was very comfortable and spacious. It was all so well organised and the volunteers were wonderful. Best of all was meeting athletes from different cultures."

With the excitement of the Games still fresh, she is back on her club's greens in West Melbourne's pretty Flagstaff Gardens. Secretary Ann Leonard says Irene's bubbly personality endears her to everyone.

"We all call her 'Tinks' after Peter Pan's Tinker Bell. She's such a sweet little thing and she just flits around."

Lizzy Footner writes regularly for the News.



Irene Attard at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.



Boys learn to crack code

Peter Riordan

Simonds Catholic College in Victoria Street has formed an exciting partnership with the University of Melbourne.

The project sees Year 7 and 8 students attending weekly classes at the Melbourne Science Gallery in Parkville. The boys are learning about coding, a new curriculum offering, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

The gallery is an outstanding facility with state-of-the-art design, fantastic resources and up-to-date technology. "It's a perfect learning space for our students," Simonds teacher Maks Chaprustra says.

Simonds and university staff have worked together to develop units of work for the boys. "It's an amazing opportunity for them to extend themselves and be inspired by such skilled facilitators," teacher Alicia Keighran says.

Students are loving using the microbits (pocket sized computers) to design games and digital pets. "It's great to do coding as we can learn what game developers do," Year 7 student Balram Vij says.

Classmate Chol Goch was equally enthusiastic. "It's a wonderful experience as I learn digitally about binary numbers, programming and microbits," he says.

In their Tuesday classes, students are developing their skills in scientific methodology, critical thinking and problem solving. This sophisticated learning builds on what they have covered in the classroom.

Peter Riordan is principal of Simonds College.



Simonds' boys learning coding at the Melbourne Science Gallery.

Roy leaves a lasting mark at Lort Smith

Zelda Balsamo

Lort Smith Animal Hospital in Villiers Street depends on the generosity of animal lovers like Roy Poyser.

Born and raised in North Melbourne, Roy has been volunteering at Lort Smith for more than 60 years. Now in his late 70s, he is as dedicated as ever to the care of all four-legged friends.

Roy says his first real experience of unconditional love as a child was with a much-loved family dog. "The love that pets have given me has got me through many dark times."

His favourite dog, Lassie, had a distinctive large spot, and he thinks she may have been a cross between a Dalmatian and a fox terrier. She gave birth to nine pups and Lort Smith helped home them all.

Roy treasures a 1967 photo of him, aged 24, with a five-year-old Lassie. "She was just such a lovely dog and I've never forgotten her," he says fondly.

His love of animals inspired him to volunteer as a dog walker at a local charity. For years he was a familiar sight in North Melbourne as he walked shelter dogs in the early morning before clocking on to his 35-year job as a tram conductor.

In retirement, Roy's passion for supporting animals continues and he has decided to include Lort Smith in



Roy Poser is a great friend of Lort Smith.

his will. It is generosity like this that helps the animal hospital to continue offering high-quality veterinary care to those who need it most.

Heather Maynier, Lort Smith's bequest and donor relations manager, says Roy's decision is hugely appreciated. "It's the kindness of supporters like Roy that helps us to make a difference to the lives and wellbeing of pets."

When Lort Smith celebrated its 85th birthday last year, Roy was honoured when he was invited to cut the cake. "It was a great afternoon, the best day for animal welfare I can remember," he says.

"I'm always been keen to support animals in any way I can."

Zelda Balsamo is copywriter for Lort Smith.

Want to know more?

If you would like more information about including a gift in your will or wish to make a donation to support Lort Smith's work, contact Heather Maynier at hmaynier@lortsmith.com or phone 9287 6417.



The tasty fare at the Winter Lunch was enjoyed by 70 members of the local Vietnamese and Chinese community.

Winter Lunch brings chatter and cheer

Alex Gyles

In June, the local Vietnamese and Chinese community enjoyed a Winter Lunch at the Melrose Community Room.

The event was held for older members of the Vietnamese and Chinese community who mainly live in public housing. There was a great turn up with 70 residents attending.

As everyone enjoyed a delicious Vietnamese lunch and dessert, there was plenty of friendly chat around the table. There were musical performances and speeches by community leaders. After lunch some showed off their karaoke skills.

The North Melbourne Senior Dancing Group performed Chinese dances, the Kew Senior Group staged Vietnamese dances, and a community member played the handpan, a contemporary instrument.

The event was organised by Trang Tran, Hieu Nguyen and Thu Nguyen, all of whom are involved in various community-based organisations and programs. They were supported in their planning by many members of the community.

Trang is president of the Vietnamese Women's Association, which took the initiative to apply for the grant and to organise the lunch. Trang feels that COVID restrictions had worsened social isolation.

"Many people lack the ability to reach out to support services due to language barriers and a stigma of not wanting to be seen as asking for help," she said.

Trang said the lunch helped community members to adjust post-COVID. "We asked people sitting at the tables to chat about how their lives were going as restrictions lifted," she said.

Attendees opened up and shared both positive and challenging experiences. Trang believes that such activities enable relationships to form and friendships to grow.

She feels that this activity empowered residents to take the lead in developing ideas and in planning their own activities.

Giang Nguyen, volunteer coordinator for the Vietnamese Community Association – Victoria Chapter, feels regular bi-monthly events like this are important.

"These residents are vulnerable people, they need to know they're loved and cared for and are part of the bigger community. It's important for us to show that," she said.

Everyone judged the lunch a great success. "Food is an integral part of Asian culture. It always starts conversation and business people always cut deals over lunch," Giang said.

She added that when people mix over music and food, there is no language barrier. "There is the tune

and the beat, and the taste, and we all get it."

The long-range plan is that community members themselves will organise future events. "Capacity building is important, and we can create the opportunity for them to do it themselves," Giang said.

Hieu Nguyen is the community officer from Paving the Way Forward, a state government program. "It funded the Winter Lunch to engage with residents of North Melbourne and Flemington public housing estates," he said.

"The event was a great opportunity to reconnect during the COVID recovery. Everyone was happy to be back together over lunch. We'd like to do it regularly and we hope The Centre supports us in organising future activities."

The Centre is keen to collaborate further with our Vietnamese and Chinese communities.

Alex Gyles is community development coordinator at The Centre.



A variety of performers put on a show at the Winter Lunch.

Rotary‘UN’in session

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary recently organised an event for young people from all around Melbourne. The Year 11 students came from many suburbs to compete in a Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). The event was held at our club’s usual venue, the Mercure Hotel in Flemington Road.

MUNA encourages young people to learn about other countries and to understand and appreciate the workings of the United Nations. It develops their debating skills and their self-confidence in public speaking. The students competed over a full weekend in 22 two-person teams sponsored by different Rotary clubs. Each team was allocated a country to represent, and

team members had to research their country’s history, politics, economics, international alignment and policies in current world affairs. Participants then debated selected resolutions from each country’s point of view in a simulated United Nations Assembly. The debates followed UN style and included rhetoric, points of order, motions of dissent and even bloc walkouts.

While debating the mock resolutions, the students were challenged to vigorously support the views and interests of the country they were representing. To ensure the exercise was as colourful and entertaining as possible, competitors were asked to dress in costumes that best represented their country. One timely resolution for debate was whether the United States should take the necessary action to reduce violence and deaths



Teams debated topics of global importance at Rotary’s United Nations Assembly in North Melbourne.

by introducing credible gun control laws. Another proposed that the assembly condemn France for forbidding Muslim women from wearing full-faced veils in public. The ensuing debates were animated. The 22 countries represented by the students had been selected so that there was an even spread of teams voting for and against each resolution.

Competitors were allocated into four-country blocs so that during breaks of the assembly they met other teams in their bloc to discuss strategies. They were even able to get together and plan when the assembly was in session. They had free use of diplomatic notes that our Rotary volunteers delivered to the designated delegates. Ultimately, the team from Balwyn High School, representing Australia, won

the event and went on to represent Melbourne at the national MUNA in Canberra. *Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.*

Want to know more?
If any local students would like to participate in this event next year, contact Neville Page on page@ghp.biz and we’ll see if North Melbourne Rotary Club can sponsor you.



Participants dressed up in costumes that represented their country.

Students learn how smoke and fire can burn and cleanse

Kymie Simpson

North Melbourne Language and Learning students were immersed in a moving display of warmth, welcome and culture when they celebrated NAIDOC Week. NMLL students come from a variety of migrant backgrounds. They represent 22 different language groups as well as 17 nationalities. Senior Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey, from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, visited the school to perform a welcome to country and smoking ceremony. He shared with students the ways in which Wurundjeri people continue

to connect with the land we are on today. Thane spoke about the

traditional use of manna gum leaves that were used to fuel the fire for the ceremony. He

explained that the smoking leaves provide medicinal benefits, that the sap from the

tree is eaten like candy, and that the bark of the manna gum was used to make canoes. He explained that the smoking ceremony was a ritual performed to cleanse bad spirits from the land and to promote positive health and wellbeing. Following the ceremony, students reflected on symbolism and cleansing practices in their own cultures. Student Marina, a recent arrival from Ukraine, shared her story of a similar ritual performed in her homeland. Called Kupala Night, it celebrates the summer solstice through bonfire and lake bathing. “The tradition cleanses bad spirits from your country, your spirit and your mind,” Marina said.

While Australia and Ukraine are far apart in distance, she was happy to reflect on the similar sentiments in traditional rituals in both cultures. Ninoo, a student from Iran, reflected on an Iranian ritual involving fire called Chaharshanbeh Suri. It is held on the last Tuesday of the year and signifies the beginning of Nowruz (New Year) celebrations. He told his fellow students how families make bonfires at their homes and jump over them to remove evil and to bring good health. “Fire is important as it symbolises life. Without fire we can’t live”. *Kymie Simpson is a community development worker at NMLL.*



Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey conducts the smoking ceremony as part as NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Community Comment

Zoe Sheridan asked locals to say what schools aren’t teaching their students – but should be



Amra, student, North Melbourne
I think finances should be taught in schools. Otherwise we’ll leave school and we won’t have any idea about how to balance money.



Sophia, bartender, North Melbourne
Life skills, such as filing taxes, applying for a job, even doing the laundry. To be independent, you need to fend for yourself.



Renata, coordinator, North Melbourne
Schools should teach relationships, how to behave towards others and to have respectful relationships with friends and family.



Jess, manager, North Melbourne
I’d say mental health. They should teach mindfulness, how to cope with difficult thoughts and feelings instead of just lashing out.

Van puts Mission on the road

Greg Hill

Hotham Mission, based in Elm Street, provides education support, food relief and other assistance to young people and their families in North Melbourne.

We recently became the proud owner of a 2018 model Toyota HiAce van to help us keep serving the community.

The Mission had previously been using a City of Melbourne van, which had been made available at no cost. When that arrangement ceased, we found that hiring a van was both difficult and expensive.

We turned to our adviser on grant applications, John Nicoll. "I know of a trust that might look favourably on this proposal," he said.

After the Mission submitted an application, we received a \$25,000 grant via the John T Reid Charitable Trust. Fortunately, it covered the exact cost of our new van, which is enabling us to continue our good work more efficiently.

Our community development coordinator, Joey Rebakis, is delighted with the vehicle's flexibility.

"Now, even without its seats in, we can stack it with food parcels for delivery. When the seats go in, we'll be able to transport our people to Mission projects," he says.

The Mission's Food for Thought program provides weekly food delivery to 100 local households. As well as supporting their basic nutrition, our work helps them maintain dignity and social engagement.

The Mission supports many groups in their work, including Wombat Housing, Unison Housing, The Venny, Viva a Vida Foundation, West Melbourne Baptist Church and St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre.

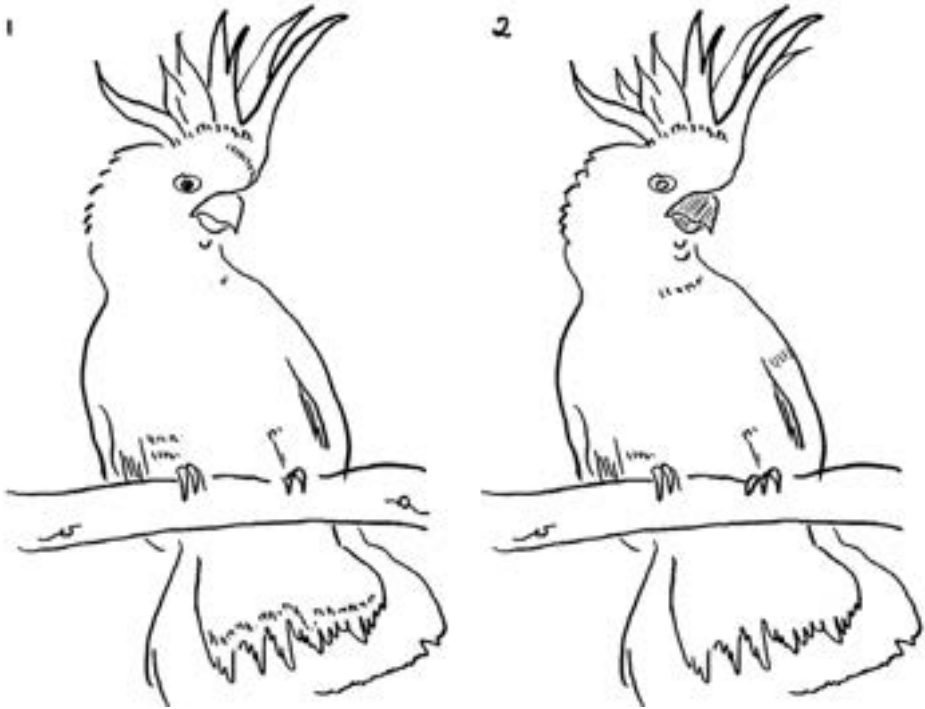
Greg Hill is administrator at Hotham Mission.



Danielle Johnson (left) and Harshani Bogawatte load Hotham Mission's new van.

Spot the Difference

News illustrator Ed Zhao and Chook have set readers a challenge. These illustrations may look the same, but there are 13 differences. Can you track them down? Colour in the drawing and leave it in your front window to brighten the day of people in your neighbourhood. (Answers: page 23)



Are you interested in assisting us to deliver community service programs in North Melbourne and surrounding suburbs?

Hotham Mission seeks expressions of interest from community members with skills in accounting, fundraising, education, law or social media to join as volunteer members of the Board and help us oversee the Mission's delivery of its community services.

Board members must be aged at least 18 years and hold or be prepared to apply for a Working with Children Check. If this interests you, please see www.hothammission.org.au/board for more information and to register your interest.

Final flight for a friendly cocky

Laura Misale

Marg Loughnan has announced the sad news that Chook, the family's much-loved 43-year-old cockatoo, has fallen off the perch.

The cocky was known by many of the Loughnans' North Melbourne neighbours for her friendly personality and distinctive squawking.

In 1979, when daughter Anna was in Grade 6, she decided she wanted a cockatoo. Marg admits that she had always preferred dogs.

However, Marg says Chook turned out to be a well-mannered cocky. "When we go to Lorne there are cockatoos everywhere, pulling garbage bags apart and the like. Chook was never like them and she became a part of the family."

The bird acquired an impressive repertoire of phrases. She learnt to bark like a dog and would sing "Up and down, up and down" as she bobbed along to the tune.

A special treat was having her wings scratched, and Marg says she never learnt the colourful language that some cockies use.

"Chook would say 'Show me your pretty wings' and she always used to call out for Anna, her favourite in the family," Marg says.

The clever cocky also did a pitch-perfect imitation of Marg's signature laugh. "It was funny but also quite



Chook chatting with Anna.

embarrassing," she smiles.

Chook had a full bag of tricks. She would unlock her own cage and go for a wander around the garden before hopping back inside. Then, one day, when Marg and husband Peter were on holiday, Chook headed off on an adventure of her own.

"Anna messaged me saying Chook was missing after she'd snuck out under the gate and gone exploring. It seems someone then found her strolling along Flemington Road," Marg says.

The kindly stranger took her to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital. "They thought she might have been in an accident and they got on the TV news, asking if anyone had lost a cockatoo."

Marg wasn't surprised to hear that Chook had been

busy entertaining the Lort Smith staff. "She was keeping them amused with her antics," she says.

Luckily, Anna had seen the news item and contacted Lort Smith to say it was her family's bird. "When Chook saw her, she began squawking 'Anna, Anna'."

The cheeky cocky continued to entertain the Loughnans for many more years. At her recent demise, Marg decided to leave a note at the front of the house to inform neighbours.

"I had no idea the impact she'd had. Locals I'd never known came up to me to say they were so sorry to hear our noisy girl had died. They had loved hearing her squawks," Marg says.

"One neighbour drew a huge heart in chalk outside our house and over it they had written 'Chook'. It was so beautiful."

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.



A neighbour's footpath tribute.

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BrainPark

BrainPark is a Victorian Government initiative

Margot Tanjutco

Arts House in North Melbourne have supported some of the country's boldest and most exciting artists since establishing at the North Melbourne Town Hall in 2006.

In mid-September, Arts House will open applications for *CultureLAB*, the creative development program that is offering \$20,000 to support projects by young artists, independent artists and collectives.

They are particularly excited to be partnering with Western Edge Youth Arts (WEYA), a not-for-profit arts organisation empowering young artists from Melbourne's west.

With WEYA working primarily with emerging artists and Arts House working primarily with mid-career and established artists, this partnership will connect the work of both organisations to the wider arts ecology.

Arts House grants open

The Arts House artistic team want to work in local communities while also maintaining the connection between what is happening in the city and artists who live and work in the outer western suburbs.

In a world where the internet can teach anyone how to make a film or write a song, it has never been a more exciting time to be a young creative.

This is all the more reason Arts House values intergenerational work, supporting young and emerging artists as they develop their craft alongside established production teams.

This partnership with WEYA is one of several *CultureLAB* opportunities

on offer and the Arts House team are especially keen to hear from artists working in music, theatre, performance, cabaret, dance, visual art and more.

They are also committed to supporting First Nations artists, Persons of Colour artists, d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodiverse artists, and artists from lower income backgrounds.

Arts House believes Melbourne's artistic landscape is made infinitely richer for storytelling shared by, with and for all communities.

Margot Tanjutco is business support officer at Arts House.

Want to know more?
Expressions of interest for *CultureLAB* open on Thursday 15 September. Keep an eye on their website at: artshouse.com.au



Fempres show at Arts House. Photograph: Tiffany Garvie

Marian builds a community

John H. Smith

Marian Mooney has been a dynamo in the community since she arrived in North Melbourne in 1975.

Marian was then a comparative youngster among the many older residents who had lived here all their lives. "I held get-to-know-you morning teas for the people in my street and I soon learned all about them," she says.

While time has brought change, she says the area is still special. "The factories are gone, but North Melbourne is still a village. For a single person it's a great place to live. People are kind and caring."

When Marian was young, her family couldn't afford to send her to college so she attended a state high school where she took secretarial subjects. "My shorthand was not so strong, but I had the advantage of a good memory," she says.

Her first job was with the Red Cross in Flinders Street. She soon proved her worth, rising to the position of secretary to a director.

After work, Marian volunteered to serve refreshments at the blood bank. Engaging in community work has become a regular part of Marian's life and has enriched the lives of others as well as her own.

She has volunteered widely in the area. She raised funds for the Abbeyfield Society; was secretary



of both the West Melbourne Baptist Church and the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre; and volunteered at the food bank at St Alban's Church in Melrose Street.

Marian's interests broadened while working in the offices of the Baptist Missionary Society. Her secretarial and administrative work, which arranged support for missionaries in the field, sparked her interest in travel.

She visited Yuendumu in the Northern Territory and went overseas to Bangladesh. In one memorable incident in Papua New Guinea she was nearly killed when a man wielding a machete attacked her.

Marian's talents as an administrator were widely recognised. A high point came when she was invited to join Kraft Foods as secretary to the company's chief scientist, Dr Keith Farrer. "It was a condition of the position that I had to sign the Official Secrets Act. Kraft didn't want anyone stealing their recipes," she says.

Another highlight came in 1979 when she was minister's secretary for the Rev. Bruce Nixon and later the Rev. Norman Pritchard at Scots' Church.

When Marian was liaising with Scots' staff for a visit by the Queen, an answering machine message warned that a bomb had been planted in nearby St Michael's Church. She informed security and plans for the Queen's entry to Scots' Church were quickly changed. "A brick, wrapped in brown paper, was later found in the pulpit of St Michael's."

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

Nelson Alexander

Spring - the days get longer and warmer. Traditionally, this is the ideal season to sell.

The smallest of adjustments to a home can make a significant difference to the perception of the buyer. If you begin to prepare for sale by decluttering, touching up paint and making all of those small but necessary fixes, it will make your property feel refreshed.

Here are some tips to make a strong first impression:

- Declutter and depersonalise
- Complete those quick fixes
- Consider staging furniture
- Let the light in - open the blinds and turn on the lights

Buyers are eager to purchase before the end of the year. If you have been considering selling, speak with our real estate agents for an appraisal on your property today.

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The backdrop to our lives

Nancy Lane

No matter where you are within North and West Melbourne, it's always worth gazing towards the Melbourne CBD. The city buildings can change 'mood' depending on the time of day, the amount of light and the type of weather. Here are a few of my favourite shots taken during the past three months.



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The Power Saving Bonus is a one-off \$250 payment for Victorian households to help ease cost-of-living pressures and encourage them to compare energy offers and save money.

Every Victorian household that consumes electricity is eligible. You don't need to have a concession.

As a Neighbourhood House, The Centre is authorised to help people apply for the bonus. Already dozens of North and West Melbourne residents have been assisted, and there are plenty of smiles when \$250 lands in the bank account or as a cheque in the mail a couple of weeks later.

Call 9328 1126 or visit at 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne. Bring your electricity bill (paper or electronic) and the process takes about 10 minutes. The Centre can also help you get cheaper energy bills in the longer term.



Sing NoW finds their inner Dancing Queen

Rosie Greenfield

What do we do when we turn up to practise for our Sing NoW choir and we find a glitter ball and a strobe light lighting up the hall?

Easy. We sing Abba's *Dancing Queen*! This is what we did when our group of singers arrived for practice recently. What surprised us most was that most of us knew all the words. While some were hastily scrambling for lyrics online, the others were in full voice!

The impromptu performance sparked a lively discussion on our repertoire. We have a couple of gigs coming up and this got us talking about what we should sing.

We have started to build an eclectic selection of songs ranging from folk through pop to new classical. Each style has different challenges so,

Left: Sing NoW choristers circle the glitter ball to channel their disco days (and nights).

when it all comes together, it sure feels good.

Nearly every week, team leader Susie Kelly introduces us to a new piece of music. This can take the form of a round or a more substantial piece. It is surprising how a simple round can sound quite intricate when there are four or even five parts being sung against each other.

Singing rounds is a lot of fun but it also reinforces for us the skills required to sing the harmonies needed in our performance pieces.

And no, we don't sing *Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree* or even hum it, but we sure could ham it up if we had to.

We are keen for more people to join us as we prepare for our upcoming gigs and our further adventures. If you've never had the opportunity to be in a choir, we'll welcome you.

It's easy to sign up. A modest fee applies, depending on the number of weeks involved and any concession status. If you prefer, just come along to a practice and have a stickybeak. No need to book and there are no auditions.

We're much more than a pub choir. We guarantee you'll learn more than one song. And it won't be *Dancing Queen*!

We get together Thursday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30 pm at Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry Street. It's a great rehearsal space with plenty of room and heaps of street parking.

Rosie Greenfield is a member of Sing NoW community choir.

houses (Bill Hannan)

between my birth and the age of three
my family by then four of us
lived in at least three houses
paid for by milk bars or roomers

then my father went odd-job gardening
we moved again this time only with Dad
your mother's sick he said but we never saw her
and looking back I guess she'd gone mad

he fed us for a while on boiled eggs
then had me looked after by cousins
and my sister he sent to a convent
where the girls wore nightshirts in the showers

my sister always blamed him for abandoning her
though I don't think he had any choice
he came to see us both regularly
and when Mum was better took us back to the house

we moved to just one more house
before settling in one for most of my youth
a house that was really a residence
attached to a bakery and a shop

this house suited us just fine
next to St Kilda junction
and Saints' old footy ground
before they foolishly went to Moorabbin

but the house year by year became a slum
and my mother went mad for a bit
but bounced back and found a fine terrace
miraculously so cheap she could own it

yet having battled through the Great Depression
seen her kids achieve what they wanted
finally became owner of her own home
she was more and more often demented

though she lasted a few decades more
until paranoia merged with poor health
becoming dementia that slowly drifted
into the dignity of death

and when for her sake since she loved me so fully
I suspend disbelief and see her in Paradise
perhaps she will tell me of the good times
we both had in all those houses

and I will remind her of a graceful morning
when she recalled my father's death rattle
said he no longer needed darkness
drew the curtains and let in the sun



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

Illustration: Ed Zhao

Centre AGM

The 46th Annual General Meeting of The Centre will be held on Monday 26 September at 6:30pm.

The meeting will be held at Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St. North Melbourne.

Refreshments will be provided and there will be a brief musical presentation.

An agenda will be sent to all Centre members before the meeting.

Details of a Zoom link will be provided to any member who RSVPs by 3pm on Monday 26 September. RSVP: admin@centre.org.au



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I'm in Golden Bay, on top of the north island of New Zealand. Just sitting by the fire, sewing a doublet, while everyone else has gone to bed. Nia is sleeping in the spare room with her giant dog Henry, Grant and Hahna are in the truly magnificent barn, and Hettie and Patrick are in the house bus. Wonderdog Nunga and I are in the dilapidated wee caravan. Took me seven weeks to get over COVID. I cry Bullshit to anti-vax idiots who say it's harmless.

★ ★ ★

I hope not to return to Melbourne. I'd rather be here in Golden Bay, Nelson or Waitati. Nelson people have told me that I should move there and become their Wizard of Nelson. Mum and Dad are still in Blenheim, and Nelson is close enough to get there in a hurry if needed. I wrote a letter to famous wizard Ian Brackenbury Channel. "Your Great Wizardness," I said. "I hear you are seeking Wizard Apprentices. I want to apply and be Wizard of Nelson."

★ ★ ★

VERY IMPRESSIVE

In my application to Wizard Ian, I said I was aware that my being a McGillicuddy may count against me in a Wizard position. I told him that if he'd been recruiting when I first saw him, in 1982, on the front field of Marlborough Boys College, he would have picked me. He was magnificent in black crushed velvet. As Nelson's Wiz, I could open my Church Of Healing Rocks, Mud And Greenery. I invented that church years ago at my first Nimbin MardiGrass.

★ ★ ★

Here in not-sunny Golden Bay, it's absolutely pissing down. Flooding may happen. New Zealand gets swamps like Australia gets fires. I've heard that COVID-ery in Australia is out of control. Will WonderDog Nunga and I even be allowed back in? I wonder if our rent is still being paid. I think I told Centrelink of our travels, but



things got a bit hectic around leaving day. It seems I forgot. What if it's ages before we can return? What if it's unallowable?

★ ★ ★

Nunga loves it here in The Bay Of Goldenia. So many things to do in the water. I need to beg,

borrow or buy a larger man's wetsuit. Nunga went exploring and returned, covered in mud up to his shoulders. I left the caravan door open and he escaped again. I searched for an hour then heard his plaintive wee "Help, Help". I found him wading out of the pond. A brisk toweling but he's still wet and muddy and wants to sleep on the bed. Nuh!

★ ★ ★

I love a good disaster movie. Disasters are all around us, everywhere we look. I read in Christchurch's Press this morning that a Monkeypox case has arrived in Auckland. It's all happened so quickly. Isn't it great to be living in the future! Cars have computers, television has hundreds of channels, people are living in space and we can all read, watch or write whatever we want. On my TV in the caravan, I've got 14 channels of shit to choose from.

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

Early telly put footy and our Games right in the picture

We now watch football on giant home screens in bright colour and stunning definition as hysterical callers have apoplexy. Years ago, it was very different.

Television began locally in November 1956 when Channel Seven started just weeks before the Melbourne Olympic Games. With very few sets sold, many people watched the Games on the footpath outside electrical shops.

By 1957, home TVs were more common. Veteran footy fans will recall that the last quarter of VFL (now AFL) games were televised live from suburban grounds like Arden Street, Victoria Park and the Junction Oval. In 1960, live coverage stopped as attendances fell.

However, few people know that Seven had televised a last-round game in the 1956 season, well before its official launch. It was purely a test of their outside broadcast vans and a rehearsal for televising sports in the coming Olympics.

TOBIN'S TALES Gavan Tobin

In mid-August, North Melbourne were playing South Melbourne at the Swans' home Lake Oval. Seven had selected a South home game because their Dorcas Street studios were nearby.

It was a significant day for the Tobin family. Not only was my dad, Phonse, on North's committee but, much more exciting, my brother Des, just 17 and still a schoolboy, had been picked to play his first senior game for North. It was also his last.

It was so exciting to have a big brother playing in the VFL. Still at primary school, I helped him shine his boots the morning of the game.

Naturally, the whole Tobin family went to watch. My abiding memory is of slightly-built

Des tackling giant ruckman Jim Taylor who left him flat on his backside in the thick gluey mud of the goal square.

During the game Dad took me outside the ground to watch the match on a tiny TV monitor in Seven's outside broadcast van. I was amazed at the equipment and the many people hard at work. It all seemed like magic.

North Melbourne footballers were later part of Seven's Olympics television coverage. Aussie Rules was the Games' designated demonstration sport and two teams – the VFL-VFA and Victorian Amateurs – played at the MCG.

Des represented North along with the gifted

Laurie Dwyer, twice Brownlow runner-up and known as 'Twinkletoes' because of his ballroom dancing fame. Few players were eligible because of the Olympics' strict rules on amateurism.

The teams wore distinctive jumpers with the five Olympic rings on the chest. Des – who kicked a goal in his team's loss to the Amateurs – treasures his jumper, still in good condition, with its green panel and white collar and cuffs.

I wasn't at the MCG that day to see him in his moment of Olympics glory. I watched it at the home of my classmate Frank Dimattina whose family owned a rare TV.

Frank had his own North Melbourne connection. After 42 games for Richmond, he finished his career with 14 games for North.

Gavan Tobin writes regularly about his memories of North Melbourne long ago.

Lock the cyber front door – and check all the windows

On one of my frequent walks through North Melbourne, I noticed a house with a street-facing front door and three locks on it. The security door at the front was clearly marked as the product of a well-known brand that prides itself on providing the best security doors around.

However, on both sides of the front entrance there were two windows with very thin glass panes and no metal bars. There was nothing to prevent an intruder from simply smashing their way into the house through the glass windows with little planning or effort.

This house reminded me of the importance of two fundamental principles in cybersecurity called 'defence in depth' and 'control diversity'.

These principles feed in to the concept of layered security, often considered a gold standard in digital and physical security. The

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

idea behind layered security is that to break into something, an intruder must bypass multiple security controls of different types.

In this particular house, the owner already employs preventative controls such as locks and a security door. Other examples include metal bars on windows or security glass for a more aesthetically pleasing option.

They might also want to consider some deterrent controls that discourage would-be intruders to try their luck, such as sensor-activated floodlights and real (or fake) security

labels on doors and windows letting everyone know that the property is alarmed.

A detective control such as a smart lock or video doorbell would allow them to identify and record any attempted or successful break in.

The same technology could act as a corrective control allowing the owner to immediately call the police if they are alerted on their smart phone to any break-ins while they are away.

Finally, a compensating control, which would not necessarily prevent an attack but would help recovery from a break in, is always a good idea.

The most obvious compensating control in this scenario would be home and contents insurance.

Of course, it is important to remember that no single control or even a combination of controls is invulnerable and it is helpful to think of security controls as a means of hampering or delaying an attacker, rather than stopping one in its tracks.

In addition to these technical and physical controls, it is also useful to practise some safe behaviours, which we call administrative controls, such as remembering to close and lock all doors and windows when leaving your home or at night and maintaining the external appearance of your home.

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

Got a cybersecurity question? Write to nebojsa4@gmail.com and you may be featured next issue.

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Digital Daddy on the move

Rashi Jain

Digital Daddy is a full service website design agency that creates dazzling websites for its business clients.

Many long-time customers were dismayed when the popular shop recently closed its doors at 204 Dryburgh Street after operating successfully for several years.

However, owner Baran Demirci has announced the news that will delight locals. In late September the business will reopen in newer and more spacious premises at 70 Racecourse Road.

As Baran was busily organising Digital Daddy's new home, he was good enough to speak with the *News*.

Nine years ago, while studying architecture, he had started using his technical and design skills to upgrade and develop businesses' websites.

"I was designing websites for as low as \$5 on Fiver, a freelancing website," he said.

Baran realised he had found his passion. Soon a new direction beckoned. "I felt architecture was restrictive creativity wise and I wanted to do design work."

He threw caution to the winds, posted his work on local forums and people referred him on to others. Soon his skills were in high demand from small smart-ups, schools and government agencies.

He said that North Melbourne was a good place to launch Digital Daddy.

"I live nearby and the area has so much going for it – the market, transport, greenery and the rental was relatively cheap," he said.

Baran's creative flair was obvious when he coined his new business' striking name. "Many creative businesses have dull names, and I wonder where the creativity is. We like to think that we're the Daddys of web design and advertising," he grinned.

Digital Daddy supports businesses by revamping and designing their websites and supporting their



Digital Daddy's new premises will greet you just like the old Dryburgh Street shop.

advertisement and digital brand placement. "Websites form a psychological connection and can even manipulate our minds," Baran said.

He happily shared some secrets behind the venture's success. "Knowing your competitors is super critical. I check the latest designs, prices and what's new in the industry every single day. We know that a business's website drives customers."

One of Digital Daddy's proudest projects was developing a biotech company website that competitors found too big a challenge. Baran's

team worked on it for months and delivered an excellent product.

Where now for Digital Daddy? Baran has certainly set the bar high.

"After dominating the local market and opening a new Sydney office, we want to keep growing. We aim to be the best creative digital agency in Australia and abroad."

Rashi Jain writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?
Find about Digital Daddy at digitaldaddy.com.au

FROM THE ARCHIVES Michelle Brett

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

Daly demands daily school attendance (1882)

Truant officer John Daly acted against a parent, Geoffrey Hyde, for neglecting to send his children to school for the required number of days. Hyde told the bench he had no control over his children as he was never home and asked the state to take them off his hands. The bench frowned on his offer and fined him £2.

Donald is detained, drunk and disorderly (1883)

Young James Donald was charged with getting on a moving train, being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting a police officer. After becoming abusive, he was ordered off the train at North Melbourne. After resisting arrest and butting Constable Gardiner in the stomach, Donald was handcuffed and taken to the watch-house.

Sipping on Sabbath not in Guide's book (1884)

William Guide was charged with using insulting words to Constable O'Sullivan. According to Inspector Daly, the defendant was managing the Limerick Castle Hotel when constables arrived to investigate Sunday trading. Guide then locked them out of the hotel. The bench said

the facts were unclear but fined him 10 shillings.

No Moore stoning by banished boozier (1884)

John Moore was charged with wilful damage to property belonging to Frances Kavanagh of the Edinburgh Castle Hotel. After creating a disturbance and being ejected for the third time, he returned and threw a stone at the window. When searched at the watch house, several stones were found in his pockets. He was fined 30 shillings.

Stuart reined in for nabbing Ed's nag (1889)

Alexander Stuart was charged for illegally using Edward Lynch's horse and cart. Lynch said that he left them in the yard of the Staffordshire Arms Hotel on Courtney Street. In the morning he found his cart and distressed horse at the local lockup. Constable Chisholm reported that shots had been fired. Stuart was given a year in jail.

Old King and Cole not two merry souls (1888)

Herbert King took Charles Cole to court for money owing. King stated Cole had offered him £3 a week to manage the West Melbourne Coffee Palace but had never paid a penny. Cole claimed King had no proof of any debt and in turn had King charged with embezzlement. The bench ordered that Cole was at fault and fined him £12.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.

Something to share?

Do you have a skill, talent or expertise to share? Would you like to start a club or discussion group? The Centre could be just the place to get started. Call in or drop us a line at admin@centre.org.au.






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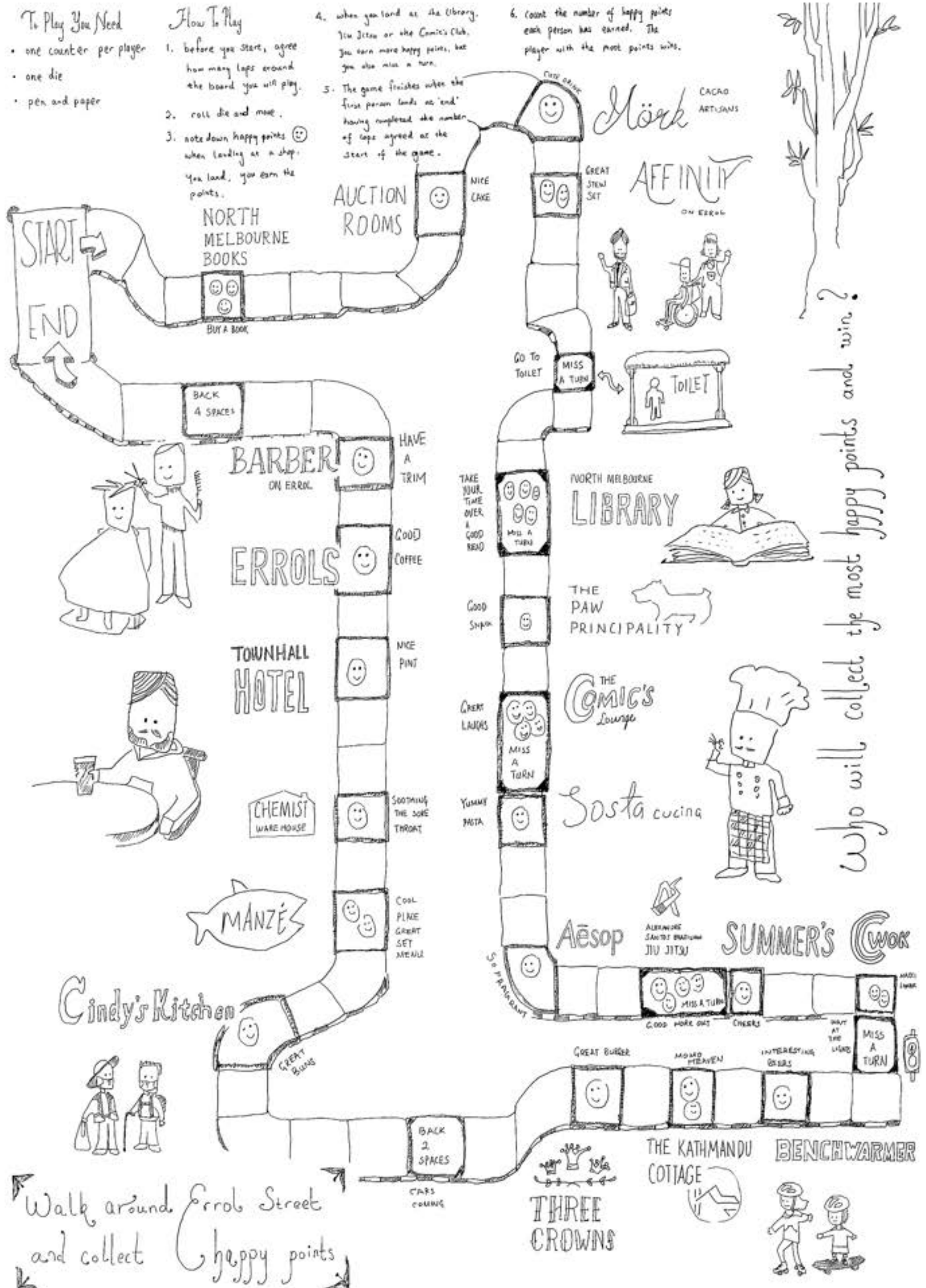
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Illustrator Ed Zhao takes a stroll along Errol Street



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FROM THE CHAIR Karl Hessian



Renewed enthusiasm and energy

To begin, let me give a big shoutout and thank you to all the volunteers, staff and contractors who have delivered on their programs in the past 12 months. It has been quite a remarkable year and we all owe them our thanks for their perseverance and the time and effort they have put into The Centre.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Director, whose commitment to planning activities and events in the latter half of 2021 has borne fruit this year. His preparedness to try out new things has been to our collective advantage.

It has been wonderful to see the renewed enthusiasm and energy in The Centre and the Docklands Neighbourhood House since both reopened in November 2021. The new outdoor seating in Errol Street was an instant success and more important strategic work was happening inside The Centre and across the community.

With Strategic Development Group, The Centre conducted a Community Needs Analysis for North and West Melbourne. Through this important work, we identified the needs and aspirations of our community, particularly from those cohorts whose voices are seldom heard. This study will inform the strategic plan for The Centre over the coming years. Already we have strengthened our relationships with African Australian, Chinese and Vietnamese communities and people experiencing homelessness.

During the year we had some staffing changes and we welcomed Alex Gyles, Ayla Dempsey, Peter Robert, Tamalika Saha and Jorge Jorquera.

We farewellled Ragn Hannah and Jack Yang and we thank them for their contribution and wish them both the very best for the future.

Thank you to all our returning course and event participants who have embraced the opportunities of the new operating environment and welcome to everyone who has discovered The Centre for the first time.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our first in-person Annual General Meeting in three years where we can talk about not only the year just concluded but some of the exciting things coming up in 2022-23.

FROM THE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



Centre moves back into 'real' world

This past year was a year of two halves. The latter part of 2021 was dominated by Victoria's COVID-19 lockdown. While lockdown was not new for The Centre or our local communities, it sure did make social connection – the lifeblood of our Neighbourhood House – challenging.

Some parts of our program had to be cancelled. For other elements, we persisted with virtual sessions. Delivering education, health and wellbeing, and social gathering online has its limitations, but it also provided some opportunities.

Our long-running WorkOut program, with men returning to the community after prison sentences, expanded to include Homestretch; we ran first-time sessions in juggling, magic, Zumba, digital gardening and flag design; and we introduced *My Story My Voice* a powerful online seven-workshop series by and for people of diverse cultural backgrounds to tell their personal stories.

Our Home Away from Homework Club kept in regular phone contact with students and their families and sent activity packs home to more than 100 households. We also solicited donations from the community and provided families with toys, games and other distractions as the lockdown wore on.

The *North & West Melbourne News* was published on time and on point.

Our plans for a re-invented Spring Fling were re-worked a number of times. In the end, we tried to bring some community cheer through non-gathering activities including leaving

surprise gifts for strangers and encouraging people to design a flag for North & West Melbourne.

COVID-19 still affected our programs at the start of this year, but The Centre was able to organise a range of successful events from the celebratory Spanish Language Fiesta to the solemn Anzac Day ceremony.

Our ongoing programs sprang back to life and it was encouraging to see people singing together, exercising together, eating together and learning together. Providing these opportunities for connection, progression and expression is what The Centre is all about.

While The Centre's core neighbourhood is North and West Melbourne, we have also taken great strides in Docklands. Two community highlights included the inaugural Repair Café that diverted 50 kg of waste from landfill and the Holi festival that saw more than 1,000 people anointed with coloured powder in this Hindu celebration. Our fruitful partnership with Development Victoria allows us to work with the community to plan and deliver more programs.

My sincere thanks to all staff, tutors, volunteers, Board members, partners, participants and broader community. We have been through a lot, but the fact that we went through it together means our community is stronger. I look forward to The Centre building on these strengths into the future.



The community picnic in December 2021 in the reserve outside West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre provided a welcome opportunity to re-connect after months of lockdowns.

Centre Staff, Contractors and Volunteer Program Leads

Director: Ariel Valent
Community Development Coordinator: Alex Gyles
CFO / CIO: Craig Barry
Community Development Officer: Jason Butcher
Community Education Coordinator (from 6/22): Jorge Jorquera
Spanish Language Fiesta Coordinator / Community Outreach Co-ordinator: Yulay Perez
Business & Operations Coordinator (to 12/21): Ragn Hannah
Reception: Karen Kirsopp, Kathleen McPherson, Maryrose Kiomall, Hawo Mohamoud, Trinh Nguyen
Homework Club Coordinator: Laurence Angwin
Homework Club Supervisors: Jack Yang (to 2/22), Hannah Merrigan (to 12/21), Ayla Dempsey (from 2/22), Peter Robert (from 2/22)
WorkOut Coordinator: Frances McMillan
Digital Literacy Tutor: Louise Cindric

Pilates and OAE Tutors: Sue Gertzel (to 10/21), Fernanda Cury, Alice Wilcox (from 11/21)
Community Choir Tutors: Jane York (to 10/21); Susie Kelly (from 11/21)
Dance Tutors: Catalina Gomez, Claudia Aparicio, Jollity Bollywood
Art Tutor: Shyamasree Bose
News Editor: Maurice Gaul
News Production Manager: Anne Burgi
News Advertising: Janet Graham
News Distribution: Rashi Jain
Holi Event Assistant: Tamalika Saha
Cleaner: Mitsalal Zufi
Student Placements: Harry Fischer, Gabrielle Batey, Rajiv Saxena, Brigitta Metaxas, Katherine Moss

Centre Board members

Karl Hessian, Chair
Lorna Hannan OAM, Deputy Chair
Kay Oke OAM, Secretary
Gary Dowling, Treasurer
Bill Liddy
Ben O'Connor
Kath McPherson
Kate Ritchie
Tom Seddon

Report to the community 2021/22

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development at The Centre is focused on working *with* our local community in an empowering way to drive community-identified change. We always endeavour to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the local community.

In September, Strategic Development Group and The Centre commenced work on a Community Needs Analysis. This involved facilitating a process for The Centre to work in a more inclusive way and collaborate more with North and West Melbourne’s diverse community. The Community Needs Analysis is now complete and is available on The Centre’s website. Apart from existing as a final report, the process saw connections made, relationships deepened and collaborations enacted with community groups such as the Eritrean community, the Vietnamese community and people experiencing housing challenges such as homelessness. We are excited to see these collaborations lead to more inclusive community programs and events.

Programs

Men’s Afternoon Teas began in January in response to requests from community members for an opportunity to get together casually. On a fortnightly basis, men have been gathering at The Centre to connect and support each other.

Out and About Community Walks continued to be a popular means for community members to connect with each other and learn about the local area. This year we curated a variety of themed walks with guest leaders, including



Molina Asthana, a participant in My Story My Voice, told her story as part of the Community Picnic in December.

Politics & West Melbourne and Media & Controversy.

‘My Story My Voice’ was an exceptional capacity-building project that occurred during October and November on Zoom. Led by Yo City in collaboration with The Centre, this workshop series provided tools to support people to find their voice and tell their story. With the support of experienced and talented presenters, participants broke through perceptions and gained resilience.

Events

The December **Community Picnic** was a great opportunity for North and West Melbourne to reunite after lockdown lifted. The event commenced with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony by Wurundjeri elder Bill Nicholson. Co-presenters West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre hosted ‘My Story My Voice’, Rotary’s barbecue sizzled, kids joined in the organised activities and Homebrew Verandah Singers performed.

In February 2022 we partnered with SalamFest to present **SalamFest on Errol**. Over four days a range of interactive street activations showcased Islamic culture from across the globe. Highlights included Turkish marbling art, whirling dervishes, Arabic calligraphy, dhol playing and traditional Bosnian dance.

The **Great Aussie Barbecue** was held in April for international students. This event was led by B-Friend and their volunteers, in collaboration with The Centre and City of Melbourne. It provided an opportunity for connection and networking for international students at Buluk Park, Docklands.

In collaboration with Hotham Mission, The Centre held the **Hip Hop in the Park** event in April. At the soccer pitch next to North Melbourne Community Centre, local hip hop artists and performing dancers put on a great show. People of all ages enjoyed dancing together in the open air at this free event after long periods of social restrictions.

Together with The Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women, The Centre presented an **Anzac Day Ceremony** at the Memorial Cenotaph with guest speaker City of Melbourne councillor Davydd Griffiths. This year’s ceremony featured a live bugler playing the Last Post and Reveille, which added to the sense of solemn occasion.

Alex Gyles
Community Development Co-ordinator

Docklands Neighbourhood House

The Centre has run The Pop Up Neighbourhood House facility in District Docklands, New Quay since late 2019.

Amid the challenges of 2021 The Pop Up continued to connect and support the community as best we could through online activities such as our Digital Gardening Club. As 2021 drew to a close, and lockdowns ended, The Pop Up Neighbourhood House became Docklands Neighbourhood House, demonstrating its intention to remain an ongoing fixture of care and connection for the community.

Our post-lockdown children’s art classes proved very popular. Since January 2022 we have collaborated with the Melbourne City Marina and local community-minded fitness instructor Matt Strickland of Premium Fitness to provide regular yoga and Pilates classes in the Melbourne City Marina lounge space.

In February, we launched the first Docklands Repair Café in partnership with the Sustainable Living Festival. The event featured a special online broadcast by Costa Georgiadis, host of ABC TV’s *Gardening Australia*, and attracted community members from Docklands and surrounding suburbs. More than 50 kg of



potential waste was saved from landfill. Monthly Docklands Repair Café events in partnership with Docklands Representative Group will be held in late 2022.

Holi at Docklands 2022 was held at Ron Barassi Park West on Saturday 19 March with great support from the local Hindu community.

This Festival of Colours was the first of its kind in Docklands and attracted more than 1,200 people, predominantly Docklands residents, but also international students from all over Melbourne. In addition to the traditional playing with coloured powders, the event included vibrant dance and musical performances, children’s story time and arts activities, Indian street food and giveaways.

Pre-event dance and children’s art workshops were held in partnership with Jollity Bollywood and Shyamasree Bose, a local art teacher and Centre volunteer, with a flash mob dance performance on the day and art by local children providing the backdrop to the stage performances.

Docklands Neighbourhood House was delighted to partner with Development Victoria, which supported our staffing and program from October 2021 to at least December 2022. With this support, we are now embarking on several new projects and programs in Docklands, including a range of social sports and recreation, arts and crafts, and community action research. The research will enhance and inform our community development, emphasising co-design principles, as we develop future programs in partnership with the Docklands community.



Good News – read all about it!

The *North & West Melbourne News*, our much-loved community newspaper, has enjoyed a spectacular year.

The *News* reflects and celebrates our local village. If someone has done something, if something is going on, you’ll find it in our pages.

We capture the full diversity of our village – cultural, social, artistic and educational. We are warmly inclusive; our stories are always entertaining and informative.

Energy and joy are our buzzwords. We don’t do staid or stale. As a modern ‘parish pump’, the *News* provides the social glue that connects this community.

While we’re all volunteers – writers, coordinators, deliverers – we publish a product of professional quality.

There’s no secret to our success. Our 20+ writers – including committed locals and young journalism students – produce compelling and sparkling stories bursting with human interest. Our 15 local organisations that contribute

reports on their own activities ensure the *News* is the genuine voice of our community.

Key team roles ensure eye-catching layout and design (Anne Burgi), a healthy revenue via advertising (Janet Graham) and an efficient distribution (Rashi Jain).

In April, 30 *News* volunteers attended a writers’ meeting and a joyful celebration of our year.

Local readers are embracing the *News*. Community legend Lorna Hannan said: “You’re showing us exactly what a community newspaper should be.” There’s no higher praise.

Wider recognition came with Community Newspaper Association of Victoria’s statewide awards.

This year we won best design and layout (Anne Burgi); best feature story (Anna Huynh); and were equal runner-up for both best community newspaper and best community content.

Maurice Gaul
News editor

Report to the community 2021/22

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Fling

The Spring Fling Street Festival is the 40-plus year institution run by The Centre. The year started with optimism that we could present a reinvented Spring Fling in October 2021. However, it soon became apparent that large gatherings were unviable in the environment of lockdowns.

Several models of smaller events were considered, before we eventually decided to create a series of non-gathering events aimed to give lockdown-weary locals a bit of springtime cheer.

The Centre ran a competition to design a flag for North and West Melbourne. A panel of respected judges selected Pat Connolly's design as the winner, while more than 500 online votes were received awarding Jasmine Srinivasan the People's Choice award.

Give the Gift of Spring saw 50 gifts distributed across public areas around North Melbourne. With an encouragement to "pay it forward", these gifts found their way into the hands of surprised and delighted locals.

We also joined the throng of online workshops, with magic and juggling for kids, dog costuming, flag design and Zumba all on offer through Zoom.

Viva La Seniors

The Viva La Seniors program celebrates seniors in our local neighbourhood, providing older residents from diverse cultural backgrounds with opportunities to connect with others, to improve their physical and mental health and to visit places beyond the everyday.

Unfortunately, this program went into hiatus during lockdown. Once lockdown lifted, there was great enthusiasm for seniors to reconnect, socialise and explore together.

Centre Adventure bus trips visited historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest outside Melbourne.

After sneaking in an August trip to Daylesford last year, there was a long gap before the next one. A highlight in April this year was a trip on the ferry to Portarlington followed by a visit to Fort Queenscliff. Other destinations include



Alowyn Gardens, Healesville Sanctuary, Art Gallery of Ballarat and Cloudehill Gardens. **Monthly morning teas** continue to provide opportunities for catch-ups and cuppas with old friends and new. The **Young @ Heart Dance Club** was a weekly opportunity for older people to get active to music from across the globe, and **Older Adults Exercise** provided a weekly session for participants to improve and maintain balance, strength and aerobic capacity, while also offering the opportunity to socialise.

Pilates

The Centre's long-running Pilates program teaches body awareness, breathing, strengthening postural muscles and flexibility. This program continued almost at full strength during lockdown, a testament to its contribution to participants' physical and mental health. Long-term teacher Sue Gertzel hung up her theraband during the year, and we welcomed local physiotherapist Alice Wilcox to join Fernanda Cury as the program's instructors.

Sing Now! Community Choir

The community choir was another activity that continued online during the lockdowns of last year. Jane York kept participants 'Zinging' (that's Zoom plus singing!), overcoming the challenges of collaborative virtual musicmaking. Upon the choir's return to in-person singing in November 2021, the choir welcomed new musical director Susie Kelly. Her infectious enthusiasm, broad musical knowledge and warm personality quickly inspired this group of diverse and committed singers. In 2022 the choir has continued to explore a range of musical styles and is looking forward to its first performances in the second half of the year.

Ariel Valent
The Centre Director

Spanish Language Fiesta

The 2022 Spanish Language Fiesta (SLF) was held on Saturday 26 March from 11 am to 4 pm in George Johnson Lane, Little Errol Street and the North Melbourne Library. The SLF was a highly successful event, popular with both Spanish-speaking people from across Melbourne and local residents of North and West Melbourne. It provided an excellent opportunity to immerse festivalgoers with Hispanic culture through a lively and engaging mix of language, food, dance, music and other activities. This year's program featured two live bands (including one for kids), seven dance performances, two workshops (Afro-Latin and bachata) and a wild, colourful Colombian Carnival that injected a uniquely South American atmosphere into the laneway. This year we also added a stage at the entrance to the fiesta, and a bicycle that rode down the local streets playing Latino music.

In 2022, organisers refocused on the festival's purpose, which is to promote and celebrate the Spanish language. As a result, we incorporated several traditional Latin American language-related games such as tongue twisters. This fun activity was enjoyed by both participants and audience members, proving hilarious for both native Spanish speakers and those without Spanish skills. Additionally, popular language-related activities from previous years returned, including Spanish classes for children and adults, storytelling, poetry, and theatre. The festival attracted more than 2,500 people and has come close to outgrowing the narrow laneways. It also welcomed five new sponsors and the involvement of 13 food and market stallholders.

Yulay Perez
Community Outreach and Events Coordinator



Volunteers

Aditi Rawal, Agnes Girdwood, Alba Gatto, Alexandra Kent, Alice Gage-Brown, Amalia Melendez, Amy Deng, Angie, Anna Huynh, Anne Burgi, Annette Rowan, Annette McQuarrie, Arantza Lopez, Ben O'Connor, Benjamin Evans, Bill Liddy, Bruce McKenzie, Carolyn Bennett, Carolyn Fyfe, Chancal Verma, Claire Yeoh, Conie Valdez, Craig Barry, Daniela, David Steel, Dawn Doherty, Diana, Ed Zhao, Eiko Sakaguchi, Elijah, Elise Cara, Ellen O'Brien, Elya Ritenis, Emily Smith, Erika, Evelyn Thompson, Fara Abdulahi, Flora Sciarra, Fouad Merai, Gary Dowling, Gavan Tobin, Geoff Pound, Georgie Preston, Gina Reyneke, Hanna Melissa, Harinya Karanam, Harriet Lancaster, Hawo Mohamoud, Helen Cusack, Helen Michell, Holly McGrath, Ibado Mohamed Saed, Isabelle Khor, Isuan Wright, Jacques Peril, Jan Lacey, Janet Graham, Jennifer Priyadharsini, Jennifer Waters, Joe Misuraca, John Smith, Josh Rule, Julia Wedding, Julian Blake, Julie Stephens, Karen Kirsopp, Karl Hessian, Kate Ritchie, Kathleen McPherson, Katianna Grosser, Kay Oke, Kenny Nguyen, Kevin, Lareina Guo, Laura Misale, Laurence Angwin, Leo and Charmaine, Lilla Anika, Lizzy Footner, Lorna Hannan, Louis, Lucas Hanger, Madeleine Scully, Mahonri Iona, Margaret Howden, Mary Kehoe, Maryrose Kiomall, Maurice Gaul, Megan Fitzgerald, Melissa Villate, Michelle Brett, Nancy Nankervis, Nancy Lane, Natalie Chan-Lei, Natalie Chow, Nebojsa Pajkic, Ned Nicolson, Nicholas McLeod, Nicky Capriolo, Nicole Pereira, Nigel Pereira, Patricia Harwood, Peter Robert, Rajiv Saxena, Rashi Jain, Renae Fanigan, Rob Oke, Robert Howden, Robyn Dowling, Rocky Rupesinghe, Rosemary Tonkin, Rowan Chapman, Ruby Ramsden, Sam, Sandra De Luca, Sascha Klave, Scott Mathieson, Seng Hoarg On, Shannon Colee, Shimi Kannoly, Shu Yea Lau, Shweta Patil, Stanley Parker, Stephen Hatcher, Stephen Hatcher, Steven Muncaster, Supretha Viknesh Balaji, Susan Harraway, Suzie Luddon, Suzie Luddon, Tamalika Saha, Tammi Adams, Thilini Vitanage, Thomas Sharp, Tim Cremean, Tina Jiao, Tom Seddon, Trevor Johnston, Trinh Nguyen, Uma Poomalai, Very Impressive, Violeta Kitanovska, Wayne Killingsworth, Wendy Langmore, Zoe Sheridan



Patricia Harwood and Karen Kirsopp were acknowledged as super volunteers.

Report to the community 2021/22

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

As a Learn Local, educating adults to get the skills they need for work, study and life is a cornerstone of The Centre.

WorkOut is a collaboration with the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety through which experienced staff from The Centre assist residents of Judy Lazarus Transition Centre who are nearing the end of their prison sentences to reintegrate into the community and to prepare for the world of work.

This program was impacted both positively and negatively by COVID. In late 2021 amid lockdowns the program shifted to online delivery. Building rapport and managing group dynamics over an internet connection were particular challenges, despite which the program delivered tangible benefits.

With residents not able to leave the transition centre for other activities, Frances McMillan and Lou Cindric created a new program called Homestretch, building on the knowledge acquired in WorkOut, and increasing students' confidence using digital technology to navigate

government supports, housing, health and other necessities of life outside.

Ironically, the WorkOut program has struggled to build momentum in post-lockdown 2022, largely due to fewer residents entering the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre program.

Beyond WorkOut, The Centre offered **digital literacy programs** for the general public and, through a new partnership with Ozanam House, for people experiencing homelessness. All classes had good attendances and provided very worthy skill development for a wide range of people.

The Centre proposed an expanded adult education program in 2022. Towards the end of the financial year, we created the position of Community Education Co-ordinator and appointed Jorge Jorquera to lead this development.

Ariel Valent
The Centre Director

Homework Club

The Home Away From Homework Club operated three clubs in North Melbourne and one in Altona North in 2021-22.

They ceased classroom interaction due to the lockdown in July. The team kept in contact with the students and their families, sending regular care packages and making phone calls. We developed a close bond with the families, often being the only people to check on their welfare.

The age-specific packages – containing letters of encouragement, poetry, origami, art activities, jokes, riddles and maths worksheets – were very popular and for many students it was the first time that they received mail.

Homework Clubs resumed in November 2021 with the majority of past students returning.

This year started with a campaign to attract new tutors. To date, 12 new tutors have been inducted, and the clubs now boast a 3:1 student-to-teacher ratio.



In terms 1 and 2 there has been a consistent and growing number of students, with most new enrolments due to word of mouth.

The Altona North Homework Club that started in 2014 was always full to bursting. Volunteer tutors Kenny Nguyen and Peter Robert have dedicated themselves to this needy cohort.

In a big disappointment to the students, their parents and local schools, we were informed that Hobsons Bay Council no longer had the funds to support the club beyond June this year.

Focus areas at the North Melbourne clubs have included reaching out to newly arrived migrants and refugees, foreign language appreciation and improving handwriting.

After 11 years with us as a student, tutor and supervisor, Jack Yang left us early this year for employment with the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank.

Thank you to The Centre staff and all volunteer tutors who help enrich the homework clubs. They have a positive impact on the lives of our students.

Laurence Angwin
Homework Club Co-ordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT

At this time last year, The Centre reported on a year of decline, in both income and activity, due to COVID-19 and the associated restrictions and lockdowns. The 2021/22 year has been one of rejuvenation and growth for The Centre. Income growth of 23.8% for the year led to The Centre's total income exceeding \$600,000 for the first time, largely due to an increase in income from grants and donations of more than \$100,000.

Our core funding – provided by The City of Melbourne, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and Department of Education and Training – has been instrumental in maintaining The Centre's financial security and has provided a strong foundation for the growth we saw over the year. New support from Development Victoria has allowed The Centre to continue to operate the Docklands Neighbourhood House.

Income from fees and charges grew by over \$25,000 from the lows reported in 2020/21, totalling around \$89,600. This is still around \$40,000 under pre-COVID levels but is expected

The Centre – Summary Financial Data

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income	602,475	486,359	556,079	518,988	497,509	518,152	522,839	468,903
Expenditure	581,274	434,165	504,317	564,688	536,880	507,697	472,605	408,677
Surplus /(Deficit)	21,201	52,194	51,762	(45,700)	(39,371)	10,455	50,234	60,226
Assets	331,647	309,350	205,938	157,640	199,082	262,112	271,805	237,387
Liabilities	144,491	143,395	92,177	95,641	91,383	115,043	135,191	151,007
Net Assets / Equity	187,156	165,955	113,761	61,999	107,699	147,069	136,614	86,380

to increase in 2022/23.

An increased level of program activity and events once lockdown lifted saw our total expenditure increase to \$581,000. Our direct program expenditure grew by around \$80,000, and an increase in staffing to support this resulted in staff costs growing by about \$75,000.

The Centre finished the year with a healthy

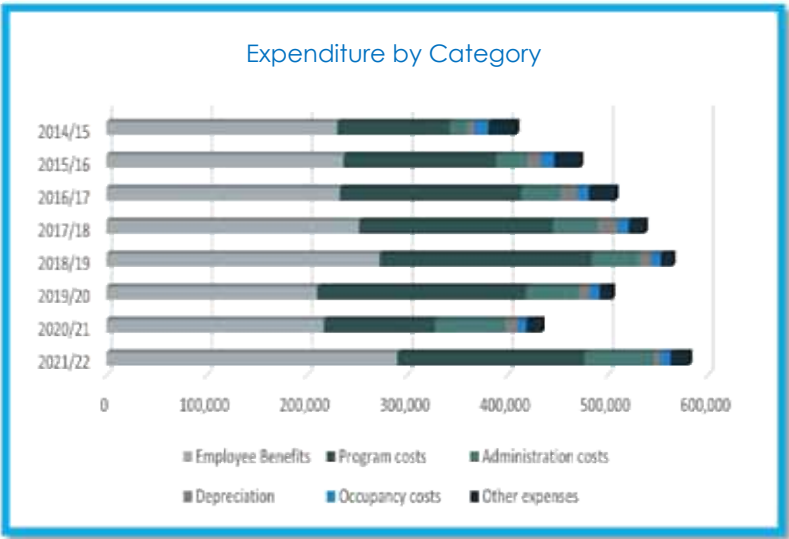
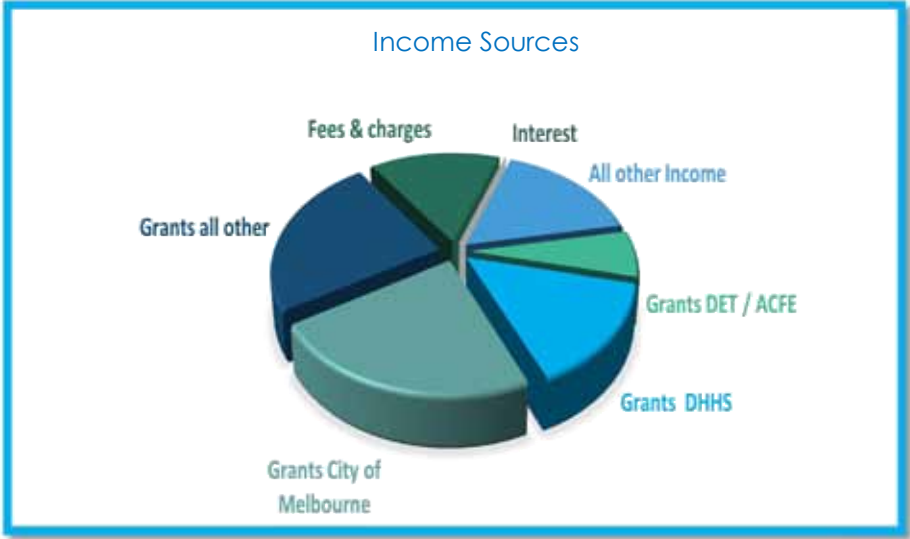
surplus of \$21,201. Three consecutive years of surpluses have helped place The Centre in a sound financial position.

With cash and liquid assets totalling nearly \$310,000 at 30 June this year, the Board has no concerns with regard to The Centre's solvency.

The full set of audited financial statements is available on our website. My thanks to

the Board, especially former Treasurer Kath McPherson, for their diligent oversight and to CFO Craig Barry and Director Ariel Valent for ensuring exemplary financial management throughout the year.

Gary Dowling PSM
Treasurer



Year 6 students weave memories into hoodies

Risa Hammel

The Year 6 students at North Melbourne Primary are enjoying their final year at our school. The many exciting activities include a ski camp and a science-focused excursion to the zoo. We've celebrated NAIDOC Week and Book Week and we've had various sporting activities.



One of the personalised hoodies.

We're also preparing our students for their transition to secondary school. One unique activity that our students love is our traditional Year 6 hoodie, with a design on the front and all their classmates' names on the back. They also have either their names or nicknames in large print. The children themselves decided on the design. They used the process of preferential voting and learnt about the importance of democratic processes in Australia. They had the opportunity to express themselves creatively in their hoodie designs and took collective ownership of the final design. The process united the Year 6 cohort and created a feeling of camaraderie in their final year of primary school. I asked Year 6 student Isabella Fu to talk about the hoodies. Here is what she said: "Drawing the design for the hoodies was fun. First, we drew all our designs on A4 paper, then the teachers picked the top 10 designs. "After that, we got to vote. We voted for our winner out of the 10 designs the teachers had picked. We closed our eyes and put our hands up to vote for the top three, then we voted again for our favourite out of the three. "This process worked well with us learning about parliament and preferential voting. Then, after we



Happy hoodies: Alexandra, Cassia, Lucia, Saiya, Amina and Suzanne.

picked out a design, it got sent away and printed on the hoodies for us to wear. Waiting for them to arrive took forever. "When my design was in the top 10 finalists, I was super happy because I put a lot of effort into it. I really liked all the other designs too, but when I saw that my drawing would be on the hoodie, I felt so proud.

"To create the design I thought of themes: drawing-hoodie-animal-bird-cool meaning. I guess it wasn't that well thought out, but in the end, it still came out well. My design is a really cheesy kind of cliché, but it doesn't take away from the meaning. "I think that having these hoodies is really important and cool because it unites all of us in Year 6, but we

still have our individuality from the inclusion of nicknames on the back. "The hoodie is such a nice memory that we can keep as we move into high school." Thanks, Isabella. I couldn't have said it better!

Risa Hammel is a Grade 6 teacher at NMPS.

Carolyn Shine

Lothian Street has lost one of its most longstanding residents with the recent passing of Geraldine Suter. In the mid-1970s, Geraldine, who had grown up in New South Wales, and her husband David, a Queenslander, arrived in North Melbourne, having previously resided in Sydney and Brisbane. They promptly took up residence near Queensberry Street and lived in the same house for the rest of their days. Geraldine and David could frequently be seen on their regular walks around the neighbourhood, often on their way to or from the Queen

Obituary: Geraldine Suter

1 May 1945 – 21 July 2022

Victoria Market, or further afield indulging their interests in movies and art. Geraldine delighted in planning routes around the city for relatives visiting from interstate. David passed away in 2015 after 47 years of marriage. The advent of COVID-19 and health challenges further curtailed Geraldine's promenades. Geraldine was a librarian, educator and an accomplished and well-regarded book indexer. After working as

Connell Wagner's librarian, bringing order to that company's engineering plans and designs, from 1986 she lectured in librarianship and information studies at RMIT. Her expertise in indexing was in high demand; it is a skill that remains relevant in the era of Google and widespread digitisation. Subjects as broad and varied as law, economics, history, philosophy, politics, biographies and the environment were all grist to her mill.

Geraldine indexed works for major and minor publishers alike. It was not uncommon for her to be indexing two or three titles, all in different stages of development, while quoting on new work, as was the case right up until her passing. Her efforts in indexing *The Argus* to bridge 'The Argus Index Gap' were recognised when Geraldine was awarded the Australian Society of Indexers Medal in 1991. She received the 1983 Borchardt Prize for her 'Bibliographic study on the philosophy of John Anderson'. Geraldine's interests included architecture, historic gardens

and classic films; to round things out she maintained a lively interest in Australian Rules football. Geraldine and David were great cat-lovers. Her darling chinchilla, Aureo, has been lovingly re-homed. Geraldine was active in local issues, serving on the committee of the North and West Melbourne Association, which benefited from her advice on archiving and record-keeping. She also volunteered at The Centre, where she was working on a community cookbook, yet to be published. A visit to the Queen Victoria Market was a joy for Geraldine, where she seemed to be on

first-name terms with most of the fresh-produce vendors. Sunday morning expeditions to the Flemington Farmers Market were a regular event pre-COVID, followed without fail by a leisurely pot of tea at a local cafe. Geraldine passed away in the home she loved, in the neighbourhood she cherished. Lothian Street will not be the same without her. She is survived by her siblings, Katherine, Susan, Barry and Damian, and their children. Our condolences to Geraldine's family and friends. Carolyn Shine is a friend, neighbour and former student of Geraldine Suter.

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne.



David McRae

With arms flailing rhythmically and legs pumping, 45 of us more mature types (all over 60) recently celebrated the biggest-ever Prime exercise class at the North Melbourne Recreation Centre in Arden Street.

The occasion was the transfer of the recreation centre's management from the City of Melbourne to the YMCA. It enabled our veterans' exercise group to thank and farewell our long-term instructors, Ryan Keenan and Jeff Williams.

For more than 10 years, our Prime classes have been a hugely popular part of the centre's program. We have 70 members on the books and more than 40 have been regular attenders.

Our usual class was a 45-minute circuit with a number of standard exercises. These included crunches, squats, lunges, lifts, balances and stretching – all designed to improve our core strength and flexibility.

Group members all speak highly of Ryan and Jeff. Myrna McRae said she

Prime time for exercise and friendship

enjoyed all the activities they led. "I loved coming to our Prime classes and there's no doubt that vigorous exercise is essential to our physical and mental health."

Other regular Prime attendees echoed Myrna's words. Jane Varley, now in her early 70s, said she felt fitter and in better shape than she had for years. "I put this down largely to this special group at the gym and the excellent all-round Prime program."

Marlise Brenner said the Prime experience reminded her of the sense of community she had loved when growing up in country Victoria. "I now know many of my neighbours. We exchange information on lots of things and there is always a reliable and caring group willing to help out with personal situations," she said.

The difficulty level of the circuits always seemed just right, and

Ryan was able to design varied and challenging activities for all participants.

"The program has been modified and toughened up over the years, as we have realised how easily older people's capacities can be underestimated," he said.

Our last class with Ryan and Jeff was followed by a group break-up. Gail Rockman and I made speeches then participants presented our

much-loved departing trainers with a collection of testimonials about our personal gym experiences.

A common theme was how much we valued the sense of community their activities had engendered and how much we all enjoyed staying physically active.

With formalities over, some Prime participants headed to the Leveson Hotel for lunch. The drinks and discussion were soon flowing freely as we shared how much we had enjoyed the classes.

While our instructors, Ryan and Jeff, have left, Prime classes are continuing under the new YMCA management. The centre's new manager, Sana Nicolas, is sure the changeover will be seamless.

"We're working hard to ensure minimal disruption to our members. We're looking forward to offering a full suite of classes," she said.

David McRae is a local resident and a keen Prime member.



The Prime exercise group mark the end of an era – and the beginning of a new one.

Fine dining on 'Rue de Errol'

Geoff Pound

You'll find Bistro de Paris at 63 Errol Street. The first surprise on the menu is there's an Indian chef running this delightfully informal French restaurant.

Sathya Ramalingam's love of cooking was sparked by his mother at home in Chennai. However, it was his father who sent young Sathya, who dreamt of being an engineer, off to nearby Pondicherry to be an apprentice chef in the French tradition and to study hotel management.

He worked as a chef in Chennai before heading to London for further study. He learnt to run hotel kitchens and trained at Michelin Star restaurants under French celebrity chefs. Then came a stint as a chef on Seabourn cruise ships.

In 2019 Sathya and his partner arrived in Melbourne and he worked at the Hotel Brighton before COVID struck. Lockdown gave him time to plan his long-held dream of his own French restaurant.

"Having worked for so long with French chefs doing traditional and

modern French cooking, owning a French restaurant was all I wanted to do," he says.

"I wanted a restaurant that is intimate, where people can come and relax. I want them to spend time and talk like the French love to talk. I want to get to know my guests and I hope they will come back again and again."

His dream for Bistro de Paris was not to offer a sophisticated restaurant with a fine dining experience. Rather, he wanted it to be a casual place with an inexpensive menu. "I want people to come and enjoy simple fresh food," he says.

A striking feature of the bistro is the planned open kitchen. Sathya wants the ingredients and cooking process to be on show. He's happy when diners come up while he is working and say how they want their meal cooked.

The sizzle of the steak and the flames from the blowtorch when setting alight the bombe Alaska are part of the total experience and entertainment of dining in the bistro.

Sathya adjusts the menu to suit the season. "My wife reckons she has

never seen a chef change their menu as much as I do," he says.

He prides himself on the freshness of the food. "Yesterday we had salmon, today we offer snapper. I change the menu daily because I want people to come back for something new," he says.

Health is another priority. He has heard all the jibes about French cooking being a "heart attack on a plate". "Yes, there's lots of butter and cream, but we limit the amount. We don't serve fatty food and most items on the menu are grilled."

On Sundays, Sathya rings the changes by offering a three-course midday dining experience. Each week features different roast meats – duck, pork, lamb – with special sauces and matching wines.

He wants the bistro to be an education for diners as they taste French classics such as escargot, cheese soufflé, onion soup, traditional bouillabaisse and mussels with beurre blanc.

Bon appétit!

Geoff Pound is minister of the West Melbourne Baptist Church.



Sathya Ramalingam at his Bistro de Paris in Errol Street.

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History on two wheels

Felicity Jack

The Hotham History Project has recently been made aware of North Melbourne's Speedwell Cycle Club that was formed in 1895. With the assistance of Sean Matthews, whose great uncle, Charles Rice, was instrumental in setting up and running the club, HHP member Bill Liddy and I set about researching the club's history.

On 15 July 1895 a meeting was held to form a committee and plan for the future. The club quickly attracted members. A further meeting, on 16 August, decided to run the Speedwell Club's first race over nine miles. It was held on 21 September, starting at 3pm from the Town Hall.

There were substantial prizes: a gold medal, presented by the Raleigh Cycle Depot in Elizabeth Street; a silver keyless hunting watch; a silver mounted pipe in a case; and the prize for the fastest time was a double-barrelled breech-loading gun.

According to *The Age*, the race was witnessed by about a thousand people. The prizes were presented



James Gardiner was president of the Speedwell Cycling Club.

at a smoke social on 8 October at the Empire Hotel in Errol Street. These smoke social events were frequent fundraising events and included refreshments and musical entertainment.

The club also organised cycling excursions that took cyclists exploring Melbourne's outskirts. One trip was through Maribyrnong and Maidstone to Laverton, returning through Williamstown and Port Melbourne by steamer. Another trip, to Frankston,



Speedwell Cycling Club track c.1900. Photograph: History & Heritage Committee Cycling Victoria archive



Speedwell Cycling Club outing c.1900. Photograph: SLV

Want to know more?

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



was held to be one of the most successful. The club began to meet at what was known then as the Speedwell Reserve, at the corner of Errol and Victoria streets. However, in early December 1895, the club suggested to the trustees of the North Melbourne Recreation Reserve, now the Arden Street Oval, that a bicycle track should be built at a distance of 21 feet from the fence. In August 1896 James Gardiner was appointed president of the club. On his election as president for the second year, in July 1897 Gardiner was presented with an epergne (an elaborate centre piece for a table, usually of silver) that the team had recently won in an interclub competition. In the accompanying speech the chairman spoke of Gardiner's outstanding generosity to the club and of his efforts to secure a racing track at the recreation reserve of which he was a trustee. The only records that we could find about the club are reports on Trove. No other documents or minutes have been located. Many references to the club were sourced from the *North Melbourne Gazette*, a newspaper that closed in 1901. This could account for the lack of information about the club's ongoing activities and it is unclear when it ceased to exist. The 1914-18 war would have been a great challenge to its continuation. It possibly folded around 1920 when Trove records the last reference to the cycle track.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.

Want to know more?

For modern-day locals interested in cycling the North and West Melbourne BUG (Bicycle Users Group) has monthly gatherings. See page 21 for more details.

Sayed finds his way in a new home

Geoff Pound

Sayed Masqoodi has travelled a long road from Afghanistan to home in West Melbourne.

In Kabul he had worked as host for a morning television show and had become a household name after interviewing famous singers, artists and writers.

Sayed's interviews with Afghan women and the inclusion of music videos in his television programs made him a target for the religious right.

After many local journalists were killed, he became fearful of being seen in public.

"I had to disguise myself whenever I left the house. I would cover my face and wear traditional clothing before changing into a suit in the office," he says.

It was a time of persecution of any Afghans who worked with foreigners. Sayed was under particular threat because, as national manager for the Australian-Afghanistan Business Council, he had led many tours of business people to Australia.

Two life-threatening incidents made him realise his situation was unviable. "Once we heard people on our roof, trying to break in. We moved house the next day when my wife decided we couldn't live there any longer," he says.

Together they hatched a plan to get themselves and their two sons to Australia. Sayed had a scheduled 2019 business tour to Melbourne and it was agreed he would seek asylum then work so the family could join him.

Sayed's voice wavers as he recalls the pain of their parting.

"I hugged my two young boys at Kabul Airport, but they weren't in on the plan. It was difficult for them to understand why I didn't return and they missed me so much."

In Australia he received a protection visa and later was allowed to look for work. He got a job at a meat processing company in the western



Sayed Masqoodi is studying to be an apprentice electrician

suburbs, but the hours were long and the work was exhausting.

The separation from his wife and boys tore him apart. A low point came when he twice tested positive to COVID and was in quarantine for a month. That he survived this ordeal is a testament to his own spirit and courage.

"I started to talk to myself positively. I told myself I was strong, I am a good person, I will see my wife and kids. That made me stronger. Positive thinking worked its magic and helped me through the difficult times," he says.

Even in COVID isolation, Sayed's optimism shone through. He recorded his positivity talks on video and launched a social media page, Positive Energy, now watched by hundreds of people.

In August last year, he gained his residency visa. Days later, Kabul fell to the Taliban. After his wife and boys were able to obtain visas, they travelled, via a long and perilous route, to Australia.

The family's thousand-day separation ended with a joyful reunion. The West Melbourne Baptist Church has been helping with housing and ongoing social support, and all four are learning English.

Sayed has marked his new life by starting a pathway course via Holmesglen TAFE's facility in North Melbourne to prepare him to start an electrical apprenticeship.

Geoff Pound is minister of the West Melbourne Baptist Church.

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Tom and Sam find joy in life

Flora Sciarra

Tom Shearer can be found every morning, absorbed in the daily crossword, as he sips a coffee outside Auction Rooms in Errol Street. His regular companion is 13-year-old Jack Russell, Sam, who was adopted from Lort Smith a decade ago. “He’s become a minor local celebrity. If I’m seen anywhere without Sam, people will ask where he is,” Tom says. He adds that Sam has been a great friend, particularly since he retired. “Dogs are ‘fedele’. The word can’t be translated into English, but dogs are trustworthy, dependable and take no offence. ‘Fido’ is the



Tom Shearer. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

standard name for dogs in movies.” Tom arrived in North Melbourne exactly 40 years ago. A boy from the bush, he immediately warmed to the area. He especially liked the old cinema in Errol Street, on the site of today’s Lithuanian Club. “It was like Carlton’s old movie house or Richmond’s Valhalla.

The suburb was like a smallish country town with furniture places, three butchers, two greengrocers and two hardware stores,” he says. A keen cyclist in his younger days, Tom has swapped his bike for a scooter – but not just any scooter. A Vespa, no less. Only a Vespa will do for this lover of all things Italian. “They are very well made and reliable. I have this abiding affinity for all things Italian,” he says. It’s no surprise that Tom has often travelled to Italy, where he prefers smaller towns to the more crowded touristy spots. He recalls the warmth of the hospitality he received four years ago in Chieti, in the Abruzzo region. “When I returned my keys to the B&B owner, I said I liked the curtains. Minutes later, she came back with the fabric for the curtains. Not costly, but such stunning generosity,” he says. In fact, Tom is just back from another trip to Italy. He spent four weeks in Padua, only 30 minutes from Venice but living in the shadow of its more glamorous neighbour. “People will spend a week in Venice with all its highlights, then go to Padua as a day trip.” Still a country boy at heart, Tom has a keen sense of the importance of voluntary organisations. “We’ve become too reliant on governments. To me, it seems the small things we do are the important things.” Tom occasionally holds sales of his own homemade cakes, jams and sauces at the corner of Arden and Errol streets. One beneficiary of his generosity is the Ascot Vale Trugo Club where he is a member. Tom’s life philosophy is simple. “If you make an effort, you can make a difference. It has a ripple effect.”

Flora Sciarra writes regularly for the News.

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell



Focus on public housing

Ellen is on maternity leave with baby Luca. I’m Jordy, from Ellen’s office, with today’s column. Much of my work is supporting local public housing residents with housing maintenance issues and housing transfers. I make sure that everyone lives somewhere that’s right for them. Recently, I’ve been advocating for a family that has been waiting for a transfer to a bigger home for 11 years! They’ve just been forcibly removed from their home due to structural issues in the building. Unfortunately, they were moved to a home that is totally unsuitable and unsafe. There are cracks in the walls and parts of the ceiling are coming away from the walls. Gaps in the floors and around the windows make the home draughty and there’s mould and mice. After the family made multiple complaints and I escalated the case to the Department of Housing, the department agreed that the house is uninhabitable and are trying to find another property for them. But that’s just the problem. There simply aren’t enough homes for people who need them, and many of the public housing homes we do have are in shocking states of disrepair. This family waiting more than a decade for a transfer is sadly all too common. Around 120,000 Victorians are on waiting lists for public housing homes. Victoria is in a housing crisis. It was disappointing to learn that the new Arden precinct being built in our neighbourhood is aiming for just six per cent social housing. This target is purely nominal; it’s not even mandatory. Arden will bring 15,000 people to the area. We’d hoped for a requirement of at least 20 to 30 per cent public and affordable housing for this development, so this is a missed opportunity by the state government. Given Arden’s location, with connections to the city, public transport, hospitals and other amenities, this new development was a chance to begin addressing the housing crisis. I’m proud to work for a Greens MP like Ellen who cares deeply about addressing our state’s housing crisis and ensuring everyone has a home. She will continue to push the government on tackling the housing crisis when she’s back on deck, with baby Luca in tow. In the meantime, our team is always here to help.

Want to know more?
If there is anything Ellen’s office can help you with, email: office@ellensandell.com.

KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

Here are 30 names (either first or second) of some of the people in the News’ team.

Anna	Anne	Ariel	Ben	Ed	Ellen
Evelyn	Flora	Gaul	Georgie	Graham	Grosser
Impressive	Jain	Janet	John	Kent	Lancaster
Lane	Laura	Lilla	Michelle	Nancy	Nicole
Pajkic	Pound	Preston	Sheridan	Stephen	Valent

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

- 1 I’m a Seekers’ girl, swinging fancy free

2 I’m one of just two of Eight’s marital six

3 I’m England’s white rose, I’m never red

4 I’m a famously stoned maiden martyr

5 I’m Big in my time down by the Thames

6 I’m in for a penny and in for much more

7 I’m a writer covering Waugh and peace

8 I’m sounding like Tarzan’s jungle lover

9 I’m Tolstoy’s un-trained Russki socialite

10 I’m a northern suburb and foodie Matt
- 11 I’m a noted novelist in my Greene-time

12 I’m Wilbur’s talkative horse, of course

13 I’m a narrow road and a Park monopoly

14 I’m a talk host, derided as Degenerate

15 I’m Voss’ spirit lover in a White desert

16 I’m ancient France in old Roman times

17 I’m a compatriot of Joker and his aces

18 I’m more than a dozen times a dozen

19 I’m sounding like my Queen’s pet name

20 I’m losing an ‘n’ to be a male attendant
- 21 I’m a kid from Oz, an academy awardee

22 I’m known for my wardrobe malfunction

23 I’m a film star’s choice as his first lady

24 I’m native plant life, never a fawner hue

25 I’m last of four and my word is gospel

26 I’m called “ma belle” by the Fab Four

27 I’m attracting approval for my name

28 I’m quality linen and I wrote on Rivals

29 I’m Prospero’s spirit in a bard’s tempest

30 I’m a reporter, an undercover superman

See page 23 for the answers.
Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Early surveyor’s work honoured in Chetwynd Street

Chetwynd Street runs north-south from King and Rosslyn streets in West Melbourne and ends at Arden and Courtney streets in North Melbourne.

The street takes its name from Granville William Chetwynd-Stapylton (1800-1840), a Yorkshire surveyor, public servant, explorer and adventurer. The Chetwynds had taken their surname from their home parish, Chetwynde, in the landlocked English county of Shropshire. Chetwynde is an Old English word for “dweller at the winding ascent”. Tradition dictated that the first-born son would inherit the family estates. In Granville’s family, the land went to oldest brother Henry. As a younger son, Granville followed the common path of heading to one of England’s distant colonies to create his own life. In 1828 he was appointed an assistant surveyor in New South Wales. He won praise for his work and was made second-in-command in Major Mitchell’s overland expedition to Australia Felix.

RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

In 1838 he moved to the Port Phillip District (it became the colony of Victoria in 1851) to serve as Melbourne’s assistant surveyor under Robert Hoddle who, a year earlier, had

marked out the grid for what is now the CBD. It seems Granville enjoyed a drop or two while in Melbourne. In 1838 the Port Phillip administrator informed

the Colonial Office that he had been so drunk that the chief constable had been forced to confine him. On another occasion he had been found drunk under his dray. Granville was then transferred to Moreton Bay in Queensland. In 1840 he was surveying the coast south from Brisbane when, at just 40, he was mortally wounded in a clash with local Aboriginals.

Twenty years later, Chetwynd Street was named in honour of his excellent surveying work with Hoddle and was officially gazetted by Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe. The mainly residential street had a mix of low-rise Victorian terrace dwellings, two churches, a school and two hotels. In 1895 the MMBW map shows it hosted 129 desirable Victorian heritage dwellings. That has now fallen to just 50. Today’s streetscape is a mix of multi-storey blocks of flats, new townhouses, a mix of commercial and industrial buildings, an ambulance depot and a school.

Stephen Hatcher writes regularly for the News about local street names.

Want to know more?
Learn about the families who lived in the street: www.melbournestreets.com.au/chetwynd-street. Read Granville’s survey journals: catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/2288214. If you have interesting stories or photos to share, email melbournestreets1@gmail.com.



Southern end of Chetwynd Street, near King and Rosslyn streets. Photograph: Stephen Hatcher

Of rhyming and dreaming

Maurice Gaul

North Melbourne resident Brendan Gleeson is a professor of urban planning at the University of Melbourne.

He has just published *Nocturnes: A Passage of Dreams*, a play about grief and love. Their primal intimacy is its story.

Brendan's book was written in 2020 in what was a personally challenging time. "It was during lockdown and we, our North Melbourne community, were all stressed and challenged by what was going on," he says.

"Psychologists reported lots of furious dreaming by people they were seeing. I think dreams are a whole landscape of our existence that we can't afford to ignore."

Brendan's writing in *Nocturnes* is, at the one time, both challenging and accessible. It includes his personal take on dealing with the lifelong consequences of adoption.

"The book is really just about a universal human phenomenon; grief and acknowledging that this can inform our dreaming as much as our waking thoughts and emotions," he says.

Nocturnes was published by Shiel Street Press, which Brendan describes



Brendan Gleeson has just published his verse-play *Nocturnes*. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

as "a collaborative venture with friends and colleagues".

"We are committed to finding new ways to celebrate, explore and challenge the everyday world and our everyday lives in a larger world shadowed by environmental and social threats," he says.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Want to know more?
To download Brendan's PDF version of *Nocturnes*, go to Shiel's Street Press website: www.shielstreetpress.com. For a printed copy, go to any online seller.

Review: *Nocturnes – a passage of dreams*

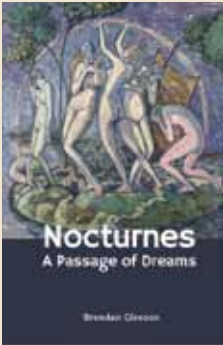
Author: Brendan Gleeson
Published: Shiel Street Press 2021
Reviewer: Gary Smith

Nocturnes, a self-published Verse-Play by Brendan Gleeson, is an unusual, interesting and adventurous volume. And brave in that the book is a balanced mix of personal essays and poetry that give a unique exploration of one person's grief primarily over lost love.

As Gleeson states at the beginning: "*Nocturnes* is my witness to the pain of being human...". Complementing the text sections are some highly effective graphic elements in the form of full colour prints by the German artist Heinrich Vogeler (1872-1942) that add a layer of variety, pleasure and interest for the reader.

In a lengthy (15 pages) *Introductions* section, Gleeson uses the personal essay form to fully explain his method and motivations for the following verse-play components. This offers the reader a comprehensive background understanding of Gleeson's personal situation and investment in the subject matter he explores with passion and a poet's deft hand.

For the most part I found the essays illuminating for the poems, and the poems bore out the promises made in the essays. The prose writing



was accomplished and moved the subject matter along nicely, while the minimalist line used for the poems made for a very fluid read.

... I was deeply arriving
To no reception
Shown the door each time
Only to return
With grim determination
Surely at some point
She'd let me stay
Or at least let me
Get there (Gleeson, p. 49)

The verse-play can be a difficult genre to pull off, as they sometimes tend to the prosaic in their tone and form. But with *Nocturnes* the poet hits the mark both for the emotional content in dealing with grief and loss, which is very satisfying, and for the use of poetic language that engages the reader from beginning to end.

Gary Smith taught poetry at Melbourne CAE and Holmesglen TAFE.

Take a walk with a purpose

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

If you are interested, please email admin@centre.org.au or call in at The Centre in Errol Street.

BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chris Saliba



Small Things Like These

Claire Keegan
Faber Fiction, RRP: \$22.99

It's 1985, a small town in Ireland. Bill Furlong works in a timber and coal yard. He has a family of five girls. It's Christmas and the family are preparing, making fruit cake and writing letters to Santa.

Despite all this festive cheer, there is one thing niggling at Bill's conscience. A local laundry, run by the Good Shepherd nuns, is clearly mistreating its charges, although the power of the church means this could never be said out loud. He meets a girl from the laundry – a young woman, really, she's given birth to a child – named Sarah.

She's clearly abused, often locked in a shed and kept in a filthy condition. Bill thinks of his own daughters, and also his mother, who had him out of wedlock, and managed to escape a similar fate. Is there something he can do to help?

Based loosely on Ireland's Magdalene Laundries, homes for 'fallen women' where many abuses took place, Keegan's novel weaves a sparse, elegiac tale. Centred on a good-hearted man who must confront a difficult moral choice, it's a book of quiet grace and dignity.



Deer Man

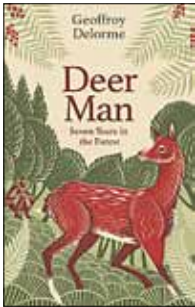
Geoffroy Delorme
Little, Brown, RRP: \$36.00

From a young age, Geoffroy Delorme never felt that he fitted into human society. On a school swimming trip a teacher threw him into the water, which proved a catalyst for his decision to turn away from humans. His parents enrolled him in remote learning so he no longer had to attend school.

The forests of Normandy were nearby and he started escaping into them. It was here that he had his first encounters with the local roe deer. His sensitivity and care meant that the deer came to accept him, allowing him to walk behind them.

Eventually young Geoffroy would come to spend most of his time in the forests and learn to interact with the deer, following their births and deaths through the seasons, and also sharing many an emotional moment.

Deer Man chronicles a seven-year period of living with deer in the forest. Delorme's narrative of that time mixes the idyllic – descriptions of close friendship with the animals and the beauties of the forest – with the harsh realities of nature: cold, exhaustion and hunger. Written in stunningly beautiful prose, this is a book that has much to teach us.



Puppy Bus

Drew Brockington
Abrams, RRP: \$24.99

A young boy waits for the school bus. It's going to be a nerve-racking day because he is going to a new school. That means new teachers and new students. Will he even be able to find the bathroom?

The boy gets on the bus and soon finds himself being licked. He's on the wrong bus! He's on the puppy bus and on the way to Leroy's Puppy School. He tries to explain the problem to the principal, but he's a dog too. The food at puppy school is terrible and the toilets very unconventional. How do you use a fire hydrant when nature calls?

However, he soon starts to make new puppy pals. He even learns a bit of their language. "Arf! Arf!" he waves goodbye to them at the end of the day. The next morning he's not so nervous when waiting for the bus, until another disaster happens: he gets on the Kitty Bus by mistake.

Lots of doggie humour and cute puppy illustrations make this picture book by Drew Brockington a fun-filled winner. First day at school never looked like this!

4 years and up.



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

Audience shares refugees' pain and grief

John H. Smith

Mammad Aidani's new play, *I said this to the bird*, premiered at the Institute of Postcolonial Studies in June.

For five nights, the Ashis Nandi Room became an intimate theatre recreating the hall of a migrant resource centre somewhere in Melbourne. There, four Iranian men, asylum seekers all strangers to each other, accidentally come together.

The characters – Hamed, Noshan, Arjang and Wahid – have suffered turbulent times in their homeland and in detention. They then had a gruelling time in Melbourne during lockdown.

The four are hesitant to connect and their distress puts the audience on edge. Nervously, distrustfully, the men struggle to open up to each other and only gradually begin to express their real thoughts and feelings.

In an unusual twist, the men speak to each other in Farsi, their first language. Although the audience had a script in English, it was impossible to simultaneously read and watch the play.

The language barrier was Mammad's intentional technique to challenge the audience to experience being outsiders. "I wanted the audience to join in their shared emotional transition and to witness their cry for



Asylum seeker Noshan performing in Mammad Aidani's play.

connection," he says.

As the men dramatised their struggle against alienation and dislocation, we had to dial up the volume of our empathy. The only way to understand their gestures and shifts in emotion was from the heart.

As the actors traversed their deep abandonment and despair, we began to feel the raw reality of their suffering. For Hamed, with no one else to talk to, conversations with a bird were his only outlet.

As the four men reached into their common Iranian background and slowly become friends, a connection beyond the convenience of words developed between them and us.

International student Komala Murugiah enjoyed the play and said it connected with her own feelings during the long lockdown.

"While I struggled to follow the dialogue, the actions and emotions conveyed overcame any language barrier. It resonated with my own

experience of navigating the pandemic."

The play, as a project supported by IPCS, is more than a dramatic performance. It is a humanitarian work of social integration.

A former refugee, Mammad has studied the effect on people of trauma and violence and has been working collaboratively with refugees.

"I want to help them reflect on the highlights and challenges of their experience. Doing so enables them to re-engage their hopes and develop skills for a new life," he says.

IPCS director Melinda Hinkson says Mammad's play is a project the Institute was proud to support.

"I wish all Australians could see this powerful show that confronts us directly with the human costs of displacement, isolation and the universal need for belonging and friendship."

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

The Centre Courses & Activities (Sept–Dec’22)

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne hosts programs and activities for local residents. Book online at www.centre.org.au, by phone on 9328 1126 or in person at The Centre, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne. Our programs are responsive to the community: if you have an idea for a course or activity or if you have some skills that you would like to share with others, please contact us.

Health & Wellbeing

Pilates

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

General/Intro to Pilates

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

Beginners

The basics are still covered but some knowledge is assumed. Over the term the exercises will progress to more challenging options as you build strength and flexibility.
Thursdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne

Intermediate

This class provides the next step up with more challenging exercises. Strengthen your postural muscles and exercise in a manner that is safe for all your joints.
Tuesdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre, 4 Miller St, West Melbourne
Thursdays 8 pm-9 pm
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne
Extra holiday classes 20 and 27 September at Meat Market

Intermediate Plus

Our hardest class is suitable for people with a good level of body awareness and strength. Designed to improve your trunk strength and provide a really stable base for your other sports or daily activities.
Thursdays 6.45 pm-7.45 pm
Extra holiday classes 22 and 29 September
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne

Timetable: Pilates classes operate according to the school term timetable. Term 3 concludes in week commencing 12 September. Term 4 starts in week commencing 3 October for 10 weeks. Extra school holiday classes where marked.
Costs: \$19.70 (\$14.40 concession) when booking for remainder of term. Casual enrolments (\$25 per class) accepted on-line if available.

Docklands Yoga and Pilates

Classes designed to help you feel great, by Premium Fitness.
Pilates: Wednesday 6 pm
Yoga: Sundays 8.30 am
Melbourne City Marina, 120/439 Docklands Dr, Docklands
Also see ‘For Kids’ Rainbow Stretch Forever

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

For Seniors

Older Adults Exercise

A general strengthening class for those 60+. Includes low impact aerobics, balance and strengthening exercises, using exercise band resistance for all parts of the body. Suitable for people of all abilities.
Wednesdays 10.30 am-11.30 am starting 5 October for 10 weeks
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)
NEW CLASS: Tuesdays 4.15pm-5.15pm starting 4 October for 10 weeks
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre, 4 Miller St, West Melbourne
Cost: \$19.70 (\$14.40) per class when booking for the term.

Centre Adventures

Visit historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest and significance. Normally a full-day bus trip, Centre Adventures are a great way to get out beyond the everyday. \$55 (\$44 Concession).
Fourth Tuesday each month 9.30 am – 5 pm
Departing from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Creative Pursuits

Sing NoW Community Choir

Join music director Susie Kelly in this inclusive community choir for adults of all ages. The choir sings music from across the world and spanning many decades. No previous experience required.
Thursdays 7pm-8.30 pm (except 22 and 29 September)
Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$17.50 (\$11 Concession) per session when booking for the term.
Casual enrolment \$22 per class if available

Music Club

Bring your current favourite music track. Share what you love about it and expand your musical knowledge by listening to others. Every genre is welcome. BYO dinner and drinks if you want. **FREE**
Monthly on last Wednesday of the month 7 pm-8.30 pm
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

North Melbourne Toastmasters

Gain confidence and experience in public speaking. Club members build the skills to become better communicators and leaders.
More information, email: Nthmelb.toastmasters@gmail.com
Thursdays (fortnightly) 7 pm – 9 pm
Kensington Neighbourhood House, 89 McCracken St, Kensington

Life Writing

Designed for women from non-English speaking backgrounds, participants will have the opportunity to write about a memorable event, place or person in their life. The subject can be happy, sad, easy, hard and include people, places and events. Participants will increase their confidence in both writing and speaking English. Facilitated by Jennifer Leslie, a qualified and experienced ESL instructor, writer and editor.
Fridays 1pm-3pm (starting 7 October for 10 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$25 (\$10 Concession)

Community Gatherings

Seniors Morning Tea

Join this group of multicultural seniors for an informal chat over morning tea – a place where friendships can flourish. Sometimes with a guest speaker. \$5 per session.

First Tuesday each month 10 am – 11.30 am (ongoing)

No session on Cup Day 1 November

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

North Melbourne Men’s Afternoon Tea

A casual get-together for some food and a chat with other men from the neighbourhood. New people encouraged. **FREE**

Thursdays (fortnightly), 3.30pm-5pm

The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne

Bicycle Users Group

A group for cycling enthusiasts who live and work in North Melbourne and West Melbourne. A new group, we are getting established to provide a friendly network of locals who love to ride. **FREE**

Second Tuesday of the month, 6pm- 7.30pm

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Community Walks

Each month join a special guest with in-depth knowledge about a particular area or aspect of North & West Melbourne. Visit those pockets not on your radar or learn about the hidden history of those places you walk past every day. **FREE**

Last Saturday of the month 10 am-11 am. Bookings essential

Leaving from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

For Kids

Home Away From Homework Club

Friendly and inclusive, students come to complete their homework (or our extra material) with the assistance of tutors. There are also games, and a nutritious snack and drink provided. For children in Grades 5 to Year 9. **FREE**

Wednesdays 3.30 pm-5 pm (during school term)

– West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre, 4 Miller St, West Melbourne

Wednesdays 4.00 pm-5.30 pm (during school term)

– North Melbourne Language & Learning, 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne

Rainbow Art Class

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

\$100 (\$12 casual if available)

Tuesdays 4:30pm-6pm

(starting 4 October for 10 weeks)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Rainbow Art Holiday Special

Tuesdays 20 & 27 September,

10:30am-12:30pm

Make special decorations for

Queensberry Cup

\$10 each (book for one or both)



Rainbows Stretch Forever: Yoga, Breath & Meditation for Kids

Children will practise yoga poses and learn breathing and meditation techniques. Classes will also include literacy, music, singing, games, teamwork building activities, mindfulness craft and loads of fun!

\$154 (\$16.50 casual online if available)

Saturdays 11am-12 noon (starting 8 October for 10 weeks)

The venue for Rainbows Stretch Forever (holiday and otherwise)

has changed to The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Rainbows Stretch Forever Holiday Special

Wednesday 21 September, 8:30am-9:30am

\$10

Computers, Tech & Digital

Computers: Digital Essentials

Make your computer work for you. COVID showed how important it is to engage in the digital world. Lou will guide you to maximise your productivity and minimise frustration.

Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm

(starting 12 October for 10 weeks)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Cost: \$60 (\$45 Concession)



iGadgets

Develop the skills and knowledge in using your mobile device to its fullest potential. Calendar, email, accessing files, social media and online accounts. Cost: \$30 (\$20 Concession)

Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm

(starting 9 November for six weeks)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

New Vocational Courses

The Centre is offering three brand new courses starting in September.

Financial Literacy

Learn the key principles for organising your personal and/or family finances, including setting up & using a home budget, tax & superannuation, managing credit & debt and planning for the future.

Mondays 6pm-8pm (starting 19 September for 6 weeks)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\$45 (\$25 concession)

Introduction to Community and Social Media

In this course you will learn how to harness digital and internet technologies to share your ideas and stories. The course will cover podcasting & video production for beginners; social networking & content curation; and researching & preparing copy for written media

Thursdays 6pm-8:30pm (starting 22 September for 8 weeks)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\$60 (\$45 concession)

Event Management

Learn the essential theoretical and practical skills you need to manage events. Explore event design, community development approaches, project management and marketing. Participants will get hands-on experience in organising the Queensberry Cup (October 22) in North Melbourne and/or Diwali (October 29) in Docklands.

Dates and times to be confirmed

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\$60 (\$45 concession)

Billycart Design and Construction

To help you get your vehicle ready for Queensberry Cup (see page 22), The Centre, Melbourne North Service Centre and Peter Mac Men’s Shed are offering free workshops and maker sessions.

THEORETICAL DESIGN SESSION:

Covering steering, braking, wheels, seats and safety.

Saturday 17 September, 11am-1pm

North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol St. North Melbourne

MAKER SESSIONS:

Tools, materials and expert guidance available to help you work on your project.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-3pm and Saturdays 8 and 15 October, 10am-3pm

At Peter Mac Men’s Shed, 3 Bedford Place, North Melbourne

Sundays 18 September, 2 and 16 October, 10am-4pm

At Melbourne North Service Centre, 175 Arden St, North Melbourne

The Men’s Shed welcomes all genders. Under 18s must be accompanied by parent or guardian. At Melbourne North Service Centre, under 12s must be under adult supervision.

Spring is here and not a moment too soon. After the coldest winter in ages, and yet another Omicron wave, it's encouraging to see the wattles out and the sun shining across North and West Melbourne.

For some people, spring in our neighbourhood heralds the annual Spring Fling Festival. After two years of COVID cancellations, The Centre board has decided to retire Spring Fling. However, in its place is the inaugural Queensberry Cup.

Both a billycart challenge and street festival, Queensberry Cup will celebrate the North and West Melbourne neighbourhoods in a number of ways.

There are also all sorts of ways to get yourself (and your dog) involved. See article at right for more information.

Lots to see and do

Otherwise, it's been a hive of activity at The Centre. The parklet outside 58 Errol Street is used frequently and our classroom is a vibrant community gathering place on weekdays. We host everything from art classes for children, digital skills courses, morning and afternoon teas, and community group meetings.

Elsewhere around the suburb we run a community choir, Pilates, exercise classes, homework clubs and more. Since the last issue we have launched some new programs:

- Life Writing for women from culturally diverse backgrounds
- Yoga and meditation for kids
- A monthly Repair Café where you can get your household items repaired for free

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



Jess Campfield joined in the fishing.

- Social Fishing (in Docklands)
- Introduction to Community and Social Media
- Financial Literacy
- Event Management

For details on all Centre programs, please see pages 20 and 21.

We have also been assisting dozens of local people to claim their \$250 power saving bonus. Every Victorian residential electricity customer is eligible, so don't miss out on your free money. Call in or phone. We can also help you get cheaper electricity bills.

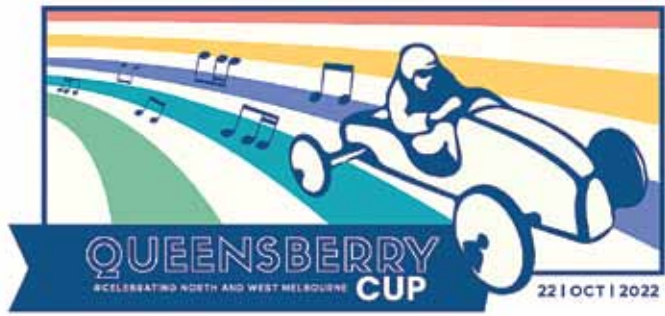
Following from our community needs analysis, The Centre has a new strategic plan that sees us focused on four goals:

- To understand and reflect the community we serve
- To develop and deliver a suite of impactful programs that foster social cohesion and community empowerment
- To provide our community with a range of socially progressive opportunities to connect
- To be an effective organisation that multiplies impact through collaboration

As part of our meeting these goals, we have welcomed some new staff members recently: Jorge Jorquera joins us as community education coordinator (see below) and Furdus Suliman has started as community outreach coordinator. We are also pleased to welcome new volunteers Maryrose Kiomall and Trinh Nguyen to the front counter.

Keep in mind that The Centre operates as a drop-in centre; there is always someone friendly to talk to so don't be shy to come and say "Hi".

Are you a member of The Centre? All local people are encouraged to become members and all members are invited to The Centre's annual general meeting on Monday 26 September. After online meetings the last two years, we are looking forward to having it in person this year. See page 7 for details.



Inaugural Queensberry Cup billycart challenge

The Centre is proud to announce the inaugural Queensberry Cup. It will be held at the corner of Errol and Queensberry streets on Saturday 22 October, 1pm to 10pm.

This billycart challenge is a new activity but it draws on some old technology. Local residents and groups are invited to design and build an unpowered vehicle and then race it down Queensberry Street.

There will be prizes on offer for the fastest and most creative. Anyone seven or older can enter. There are different categories to ensure competitors are of similar age.

For those not sure how to design and build a billycart, The Centre Melbourne North Service Centre are hosting free workshops to help. Scan the QR code to register.

Beyond the billycart activities, Queensberry Cup is a street festival with something for everyone. The **music stage** will feature the cream of Melbourne's live music scene with a focus on Indigenous and culturally diverse women.

Cirque Culinare is a food

performance stage that explores the variety of food stories from our neighbourhood. Featuring restaurateurs and home cooks, it will be the place to sample tastes from across the globe. North Melbourne's hospitality businesses will also be serving their finest food and drink.

Queensberry Cup is designed to showcase the local community. There will be lots to do, whether it's Fashions on the Footpath, the Famous Village Dog Show (yes, bring your dog!) or games and activities for kids.

We are also seeking volunteers, so whether you're skilled or unskilled, get on board!

Visit www.queensberrycup.org.au for more information.



Jorge arrives with red flag flying and socialist dream undying



Jorge Jorquera. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

Georgie Preston

Jorge Jorquera brings an impressive background in education and a colourful CV to his new coordinating role at The Centre.

He came to Melbourne as a political exile from Chile in the late 1970s fleeing the authoritarian military Pinochet dictatorship. "There were refugee packages then and I wanted to go to the south of France. But we were paid to come here," he says.

It was a very different era. "We arrived on Friday and Dad had work on Monday. Like many others we joined the Labor Party. I joined at 13. My family, like all the Chilean community, was very politicised," he says.

Jorge reveals that another early formative influence while growing up in Brisbane was seeing the hands-on community services of the Catholic Church. "Not that I'm Catholic anymore, but that experience did shape me."

His first year at university, when he was elected secretary of the student union, marked the start of his lifelong political involvement. Two years ago he was elected as a Maribyrnong councillor, the first Victorian Socialist member elected to local government in Victoria.

When asked to name the historical socialist with whom he would be happy to be stranded on a desert island, Jorge's first choice was unsurprising.

He opts for Che Guevara, the legendary Argentine Marxist revolutionary. "Che really speaks to me. When COVID was starting and a friend's daughter was making masks with his face on them. I got five," he says.

Arriving at The Centre in July to take up the new community education coordinator role has brought things full circle for Jorge. While much of his career has revolved around researching and teaching of social theory and political economy, he originally started work in the community sector.

The new job has also brought him back home to North Melbourne. "I used to live in Dryburgh Street and I loved it. You'd be mad to need a car.

The area has retained its character, with its mix of gentrification and public housing. But I can't believe the cost of coffee," he grins.

Jorge is now developing new courses, including a program starting this month on community and social media, including podcasting, TikTok and curating content. He's also involved in a financial literacy course, including spreadsheets for family budgeting.

"The Centre provides a crucial space for quality, community-based education programs that are affordable. I'm excited to be involved," he says.

Georgie Preston writes regularly for the News.



**Premier Health
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Prioritise your physical and mental wellbeing

It's heartening to feel the optimism and sense of busyness reviving among the community as we all slowly refill our calendars with events, social occasions and even travel.

If you haven't already, come and visit our new space in **West Melbourne** located at **8 Wominjeka Walk**. Our beautiful new clinic has lots of room for our practitioners and patients and free underground parking; we'd love to see you.

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NOTICEBOARD



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

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

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Competition winner Pat Connolly with The Centre Director Ariel Valent and the winning flag.

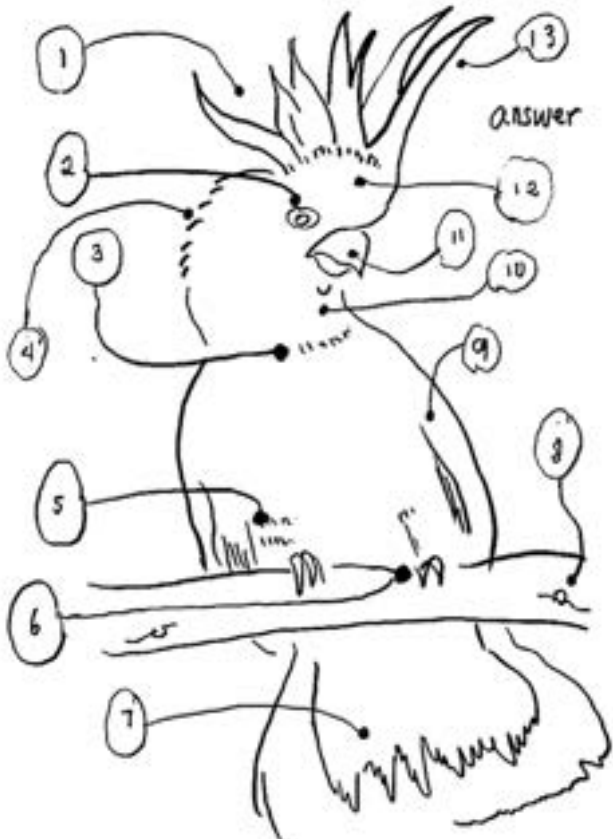
Flying a flag for our neighbourhood

Last year The Centre ran a competition to design a flag for North and West Melbourne. Run during lockdown, it was designed to help encourage reflection about what makes North and West Melbourne distinctive, and to foster community pride. The competition received 15 entries and was judged by an expert panel. The winning flag was designed by local resident Pat Connolly. His flag recognises the Aboriginal heritage, natural environment, industrial and sporting history of our neighbourhoods. More than 130 people voted Jasmine Srinivasan's design as the 'People's Choice'. An inaugural flag-raising event was held on 27 August, marking the 135th anniversary of Hotham Council changing its name to North Melbourne Council. The event was hosted by The Centre director Ariel Valent and featured a speech from Vexillologists of Melbourne University founder and competition judge Tristan Layton.

Volunteer information transcribers wanted

Volunteers are being sought to transcribe names from Sands & McDougall directories for selected streets in North and West Melbourne. This is a home-based, at-your-own-pace task that will appeal to careful typists who know how to use a spreadsheet and have a passion for local history. **Please register your interest at melbournestreets1@gmail.com**

Spot the Difference (page 4) answers



Kryptic Kwiz (page 18) answers

- 1. Georgie (Georgy Girl) 2. Anne (Boleyn, Cleves) 3. Lancaster 4. (Saint) Stephen 5. (Big) Ben 6. Pound 7. Evelyn (Waugh) 8. Jain (Jane) 9. Anna (Karenin) 10. Preston 11. Graham (Greene) 12. (Mr) Ed 13. (Park) Lane 14. Ellen (DeGeneres) 15. Laura (Trevelyan) 16. Gaul 17. Pajkic (Djokevic) 18. Grosser 19. Lilla (Lillibet) 20. Valent (Valet) 21. Nicole (Kidman) 22. Janet (Jackson) 23. Nancy (Reagan) 24. Flora (fauna) 25. John (the Evangelist) 26. Michelle 27. Impressive 28. (R B) Sheridan 29. Ariel 30. (Clark) Kent

North Melbourne Library

New Book Group

Introducing the new WomEmpower Book Club!
City of Melbourne Libraries are partnering with @hotham.mission with this book club for people who identify as women and are 15 to 25 years old. Meetings held at North Melbourne Library
Next meeting: Friday 23 September, 4.30pm
Email read@melbourne.vic.gov.au with 'WomEmpower Book Club' as the subject to register!

French Club

Run fortnightly, the French Club is an opportunity for seniors and retirees to explore French culture, improve their French language skills and make new friends. *Free program*
Friday 10 June to Friday 9 December 1.30pm to 2.30pm
North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051 Tel: 9658 9700

Letter to the Editor

Dog owners need to take responsibility

I write about the footpaths of North Melbourne streets, specifically my own Queensberry Street. The footpaths are littered with dogs' faeces. While recreating certain features of Parisian streetscapes might appeal to some, I doubt that pervasive dogs' faeces is one of them. When did it become acceptable to continue on after your dog has defecated on a neighbourhood street? It's simple - your dog, your poo to clean up.
Craig Milner (Queensberry St)

The Famous Village

DOG SHOW

Sat 22 October, 2pm, Errol St.

QUEENSBERRY CUP

You bring your dog

We'll bring the fun!

Great prizes to be won. Free Entry

Send contributions, letters and feedback to:

North & West Melbourne News
The Centre, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051
Email: editorial@centre.org.au Telephone: 9328 1126

Summer 2022–2023 issue:
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NWMN advertisement sizes and rates for 2022		
Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1765.00	\$1485.00
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One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$620.00	\$545.00
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$460.00	\$395.00
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• Prices inclusive of GST		
• Book a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount, total amount payable at time of booking.		
• Prices are for supplied artwork (high-resolution PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.		
• The News reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.		
• For info and bookings, email: advertising@centre.org.au		

Let's all sing of Ben's favourite things

Ben Shapero

My partner and I / We're new in North Melbourne
We've fallen in love / With all that it brings.
So come and join in / Our warm Sound of Music
Join in and sing of / Our new favourite things.

Queen Vic Market – the sound of the spruikers all selling their produce

What a mix of fine food / Flavours and furore
We start with a bit / Then we'll buy a bit more



Small Batch Brewing – the roasting of beans and the scent that they bring

What a warm welcome / From the duo at Small Batch
Yoko's warm pastries / What a wonderful catch

Royal Park – raindrops on grasses and tails all a'wagging

What a great park for / Our spaniels to run in
Where we can rest / When we are all done in



Beatrix Cakes – warm banoffee pie with sweet crispy doughnuts

Beatrix has closed down / A place we could meet
But Nat's little cookbook / Is good for a treat



Auction Rooms – Hollandaise sauce and a perfect poached egg

Benedict eggs / Will never cause friction
Their taste is just like / A rich benediction



Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favourite things

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes
Silver-white winters that melt into springs
These are a few of my favourite things
– 'My Favourite Things' from *The Sound of Music*,
sung by Julie Andrews



Kathmandu Cottage – if you try out the momos, then base camp is calling

On the paneer pakora / You can certainly count
Just one tiny taste / And you're top of the mount

Our neighbours – smothering doggies with love and affection

Our neighbours next door / They rise every dawning
To pat our two puppies / And wish them good morning



Ben Shapero is a new contributor to the News.

QUEENSBERRY CUP

#CELEBRATING NORTH AND WEST MELBOURNE

SEE PAGE 23 FOR DETAILS OR VISIT www.queensberrycup.org.au

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DESIGN, BUILD AND RACE A BILLYCART DOWN QUEENSBERRY ST

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