

44th year

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

Community-owned – Volunteer-run – Local news and views since 1978

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Photograph: Caroline Williams

School fete full of fun

Penny Hewson

There was all the fun of the fair at North Melbourne Primary School's 'Around the World' fete early last month. The weather was kind and people came in droves to celebrate community and have a whole lotta fun.

The event was launched by students offering an acknowledgement of country and overseeing the flag raising on the school's new flagpoles.

The international food hall featured 2000 dumplings, homemade by a wonderful group of Chinese women. Visitors were spoilt for choice with dishes from the Horn of Africa, Japan and India. Treats included Belgian waffles, African spiced coffee and a halal sausage barbecue.

People had the chance to check out the police car, learn about fire safety, join a rainbow art activity with The Centre and participate in sporting activities with local sports clubs.

The animal farm let our city kids cuddle up with baby animals while

the big rides were definitely a big hit. "The Wipe Out was my favourite. It was a challenge but such fun," Grade 6 student Harry said.

Each year level created and ran an activity or stall. "I worked with my friends in class to make Whack a Wombat. You had to hit the wombat when it popped out of the burrow," Grade 3 student Ellie said.

Other activities were just as popular. The Grade 4 plant stall sold out, the Preps' fairy floss stall proved a real sugar hit while the Grade 5 handmade stall featured everything from handmade candles to Harry Potter wands.

The school community came together to fill the extensive volunteer roster. "I was excited to be a part of the henna stall and the couple of hours interacting with parents and students was a superb experience," parent volunteer Sabeeha said.

The entertainment stage featured live music performed by students, teachers and parents. An Auslan interpreter signed along to the performances as

the kids got right into the singing and dancing.

Overheard comments ranged from the predictable "I love this song" to the rather more colourful "Is that your mum? Not often you see a seven-months pregnant mum rocking out on drums!"

The silent auction on display in the library captured the spirit of the event. The listed donations from more than 170 local businesses and families showed what a local community can achieve when it comes together.

Was the eight months of hard work behind the fete worth it? Of course it was! Lucy Flowers of the Parents and Friends Association was in no doubt.

"It was so exciting to see the pieces of the puzzle come together. It's been an incredible experience to be part of, and I'm so grateful for the small but mighty core team who made it all possible," Lucy said.

Penny Hewson is a parent of an NMPS student.

Check out the billy cart action



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STOP THE PRESS!

North & West Melbourne News stars at state community newspaper awards

Winner: Best community newspaper (Congratulations, everyone)
Runner-up: Best design & layout (Congratulations, Anne Burgi)
Runner-up: Best community content (Congratulations, everyone)

INSIDE



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Steven Hubbard

In the bad old days, schoolchildren who were a bit too talkative or rowdy were given the stern order by their teachers: "Put a sock in it."

However, St Michael's Primary recently took a very different angle. On a Friday in late October, we encouraged our students to wear the craziest socks they could find as a fundraiser for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

It was all part of Catholic Mission's Socktober Fundraiser. Our children donated a gold coin to participate and wore a dazzling range of colourful and creative sock designs.

We were thrilled that our own social justice Mini-Vinnies team

Students sock to a good cause

of Year 5/6 students planned and organised the day. "I couldn't believe how well they arranged it all and got the whole school involved," class teacher Abby Dionysiou said.

Students Lucy and Cooper volunteered to make lists of all the participants and their stunning socks. "It was so much fun helping make it a great day and it was so cool wearing my hot pink long socks to school," Lucy said.

The excitement percolated right down to our youngest students. "The Year 1s were so excited with the multi-coloured socks that they were

still talking about it weeks later," class teacher Diane Ortisi said.

Adrienne and Monika, our school's two Year 6

social justice leaders, were delighted that the money raised would go to a worthy cause. "We always try to think of ways that we can help

people who are not as lucky as us," Monika said.

It wasn't only teachers and students who got in on the fun of the day. The school's office

manager, Michelle Scheggia, left us speechless with her knee-high rainbow socks.

"We never had as much fun as this when I went to school," she said.

Steven Hubbard is deputy principal of St Michael's PS.

Thanks, goodbye and good luck

also drank more coffee with the editor than is generally recommended for good health.

Zoe Sheridan left us last month with plans to head overseas to teach English. She joined us late last year and wrote lovely quirky stories about lambs on leashes and guerrilla gardeners.

She embraced the News as the voice of our village. She

News. She wrote edgy stories on local artists and musicians, and spoke brilliantly at last year's Writers Meeting. Now in Geelong, she is building a writing business and taming teenage twins.

Annette McQuarrie left us in the middle of the year. She joined us in mid-2020 and, with a background as stand-up comedian and comedy writer, was soon right at home at the

journalism studies and soon stamped himself as a totally reliable and endlessly genial writer.

He turned his hand to stories on everything imaginable – artists, writers, even local barbers. We're delighted that his time at the News has led to full-time work as a business journalist.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News

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River Studios access laneway when the Maribyrnong River overflowed its banks and crossed the road. Photograph: Tara Glastonbury

Flood brings more than water damage

Nancy Lane

The gritty industrial sections of West Melbourne are not renowned for their scenic beauty, yet they are home to sections of both the Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek. After the October floods, I was anxious to check how

River Studios, located across from the river on Sims Street, had fared. Luckily, no water had entered the ground floor, but the car park had become a temporary lake as the Maribyrnong overflowed its banks.

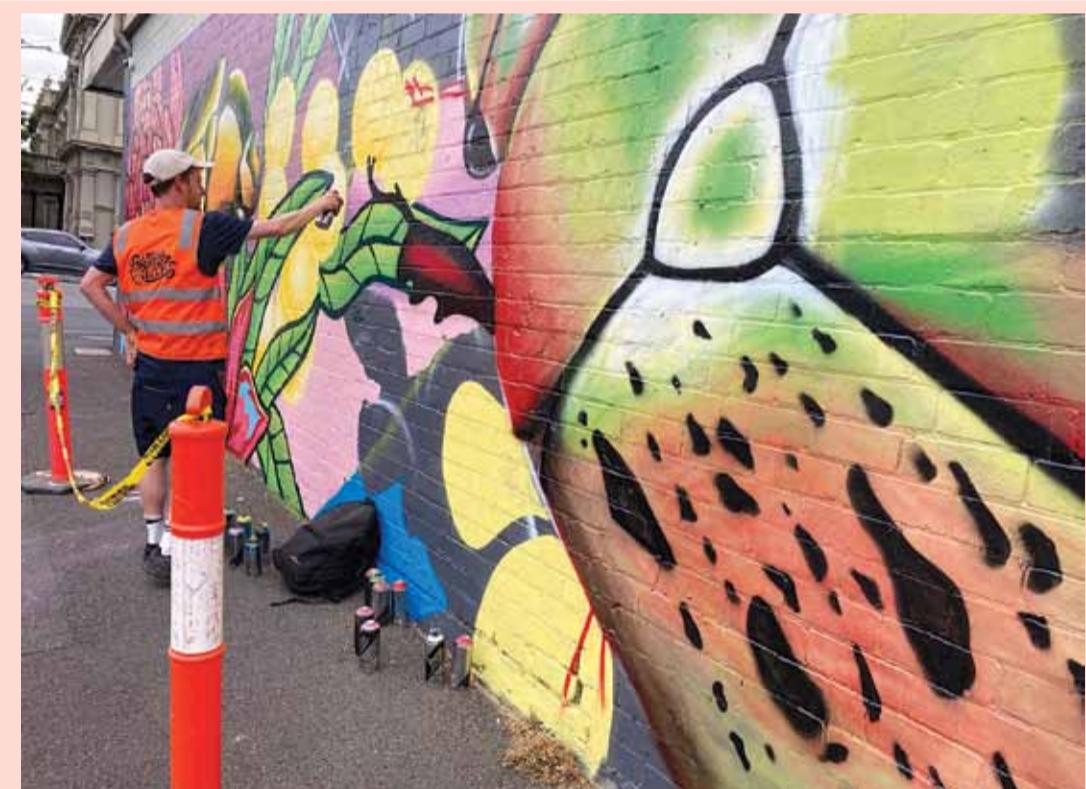
Surprisingly, Moonee Ponds Creek had broken its banks in only a few places.

However, the freeway pilings and footbridges had become collecting points for all the floating bottles, polystyrene and other plastics that had been swept downstream.

These waterways are links to what remains of nature in our highly urbanised environment. Let's do our

best not to ruin it. Please think again before buying drinks in throwaway plastic bottles or discarding packaging on the street, as our waterways may be where they all inadvertently end up.

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.



'Tis the season for colourful merriment

Matt from Blender Studios has been busy helping locals get in the festive spirit with a colourful mural on the Queensberry Street wall of 7-Eleven at the Errol Street corner.



Community Comment

Zoe Sheridan asked locals to fess up and reveal their best friend's most annoying quality



Anh, writer, North Melbourne

I can't stand that my best friend is married. I'm jealous, and we now spend less time together.



Amelia, free spirit, North Melbourne

She's got this horrible laugh. She snorts like a hippopotamus and it's awful. I hate to say it but it's so gross it drives me out of my mind.



John, scientist, North Melbourne

He is considerably taller than me. Whenever people see me with him, they comment on my height. Or the lack of it!



Jason, biologist, North Melbourne

If there's ever bad news, he will never tell me. He goes silent when I ask how he is and silence is always followed by bad news.



One of our friends won the first heat but had to leave for a basketball game. We were determined to win this thing for him. We both got into the finals and it was a race against someone in my own team. But it didn't matter because we were going to split the prize so I guess it all worked out. – *Salih Brulic, Homework Club*



*Salih Brulic
supported by
fellow team
member
Aaron Bertolo*

We started the day arriving at the Queensberry Cup when all of a sudden the billycart broke down. Luckily my friends and I fixed the cart before the first race. My friend and I blasted through the races, both making it to the finals. It came down to me versus my friend but suddenly my billycart broke down on the hill as my friend was running to the finish line. I grabbed the rope connected to the cart and started running like the flash. I was closing into the finish line sprinting as my friend was close behind. I crossed the finish line with a huge sigh of relief. I won first place and my friend won second place. – *Aaron Bertolo, Homework Club*



Off and racing in the Queensberry Cup

The inaugural Queensberry Cup was held on Queensberry and Errol streets on Saturday 22 October.

Thirty entrants created all sorts of carts ranging from the rudimentary to the sophisticated. Several had been built in the Peter Mac Men's Shed in Bedford Place while others had benefitted from the expertise of the mechanics at Arden Street's Melbourne North Service Centre. Participants in The Centre's Homework Clubs spent two weeks designing, building and decorating carts, a brilliant STEM activity. Some of their reflections on the day itself appear on these pages.

The course curved down Queensberry Street, finishing with a challenging speed hump-roundabout combination at Leveson Street.

One billycart stood out. Local architect and builder Peter Furlong and his family created a metal-framed cart featuring four wheelchair wheels and sophisticated steering.

Ten-year-old Orlando took out the

Queensberry Cup Results:

Open Category:

1. Orlando Furlong
2. Will Veale
3. Hamish Gunasekara

7 to 11-year-old Category:

1. Levi Haydon-Wimmer
2. Daniyal Kapadia
3. Max Maddock

12 to 17-year-old Category:

1. Aaron Bertolo
2. Salih Brulic
3. Emett McMonagle

Veterans Category:

1. Doone Clifton

open category with an impressive time, and his friend Levi Hadon-Wimmer dominated the junior category with the same vehicle. Impressed spectators marvelled at this awesome speed machine. Next year's event is expected to attract more leading-edge vehicles.

Nearly 2,000 people watched the finals and up to 5,000 attended

during the day and evening. Aside from the billycart race, there was a lot to do and see. Two music stages provided highlights including South African a cappella from Makepisi and impressive hip-hop routines from L to R Dance.

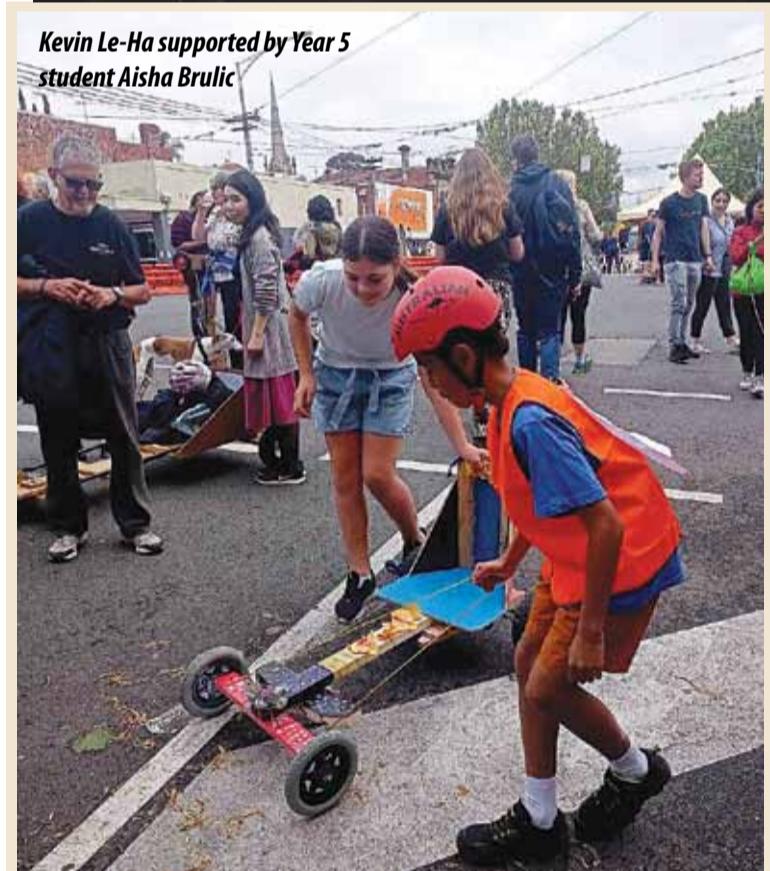
Kids were kept entertained with games, circus, face painting and art. The Cirque Culinaire Kitchen Stage showcased local cooks with cuisines ranging from Afghan to Cypriot and Somali to Vietnamese.

Festival food was provided by local organisations including Mr Tucker, North Melbourne Rotary and Somali Women's Development Association. Local gin distillers Here's Looking at You, Kid hosted the festival bar.

The event was organised by The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne and powered by a team of more than 40 volunteers. Sincere thanks to all the sponsors and supporters who helped create this day where the local community spirit could shine.



Kevin Le-Ha supported by Year 5 student Aisha Brulic



I was a billycart racer at the Queensberry Cup, which was so much fun but also super embarrassing. I want to thank everyone who laughed at my so-called 'jokes'. After the billycart race, I explored the rest of the festival with my friends. I really loved it because there was so much food and music, which are my favourite things. – *Kevin Le-Ha, Homework Club, Grade 5*



Photographs: Jim Wetherill, Marg Huxtable and Susie Kelly



Neville Page (NM Rotary), Sainab Sheikh (NM Rotary president), Sarah Tobin (Tobin Brothers) with award-winning volunteers – David Gunstone, Khadija Alihashi and Bill Cook.



Halloween hijinks
Neighbourhood children – and adults – got into the spirit of Halloween on 31 October. Halloween is a shortened form of All Hallows' Eve, the day before All Hallows' Day, the Feast of All Saints.

Rotary honours local volunteers

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary recently held its annual Phonse Tobin Community Awards dinner in front of a full house of Rotarians and community members at the Mercure Hotel.

The club's signature event to recognise local volunteers who have not previously been acknowledged made a welcome return after a three-year break due to COVID.

The awards honour the memory of Phonse Tobin who was a founder of Tobin Brothers Funerals, a past member of North Melbourne Rotary and a past president of the North Melbourne Football Club.

It was fitting that Phonse's niece, Sarah Tobin, presented the awards.

She was ably assisted by Rotary president Sainab Sheikh.

The three awardees were David Gunstone, Bill Cook and Khadija Alihashi.

David Gunstone is a volunteer at Ozanam House. A past recipient of assistance from Ozanam, he runs a basketball activity at the North Melbourne Community Centre in Buncle Street and has had a positive impact on many young lives.

Bill Cook is a long-time volunteer for the North West Melbourne Association. He has taken a keen interest in maintaining the local street character by helping the Association vet planning permit applications. He is also the bell ringer at St James' Old Cathedral.

Khadija Alihashi is a volunteer for

the Somali Women's Development Association. A refugee from Somalia, she had a traumatic time escaping on foot with her young son. She has been an executive member of the Somali Women's Development Association.

A highlight of the night was Khadija having her whole family there – her husband, a nephew, her son and daughter and three grandchildren, who gave her a rousing cheer.

Another memorable moment was the performance of Michael Lapina who sang three songs, finishing with a brilliant version of *Nessun dorma* from the final act of Puccini's opera *Turandot*.

Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.

Halloween hijinks



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 December in the 1880s.

Eddie ready for a stoush to stop Salvo song (1882)

Edward Brennan was charged with throwing stones and assault. On Wednesday evening, the Salvation Army band was marching along Errol Street and singing hymns when Brennan attacked them with a volley of stones. He denied the charge but several witnesses disagreed. He was fined 10 shillings with costs or face one month in the cells.

Invasion of privacy snares real McCoy (1883)

Robert McCoy was charged with insulting behaviour. Constable Murphy said McCoy was in a state of delirium when arrested at his home. Mr Kean, for the defendant, said it was poor form for police to arrest a man in his own house without a warrant as an Englishman's house is his castle. McCoy was fined 10 shillings.

Foul-mouth Hassett frisky after whiskey (1884)

Thomas Hassett was charged with using obscene language near passers-by on Victoria Street. He

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Michelle Brett

claimed he had been supplied with a bottle of drugged whiskey that had made him mad. He assured the bench he would go to Tasmania if given another chance. Hassett was bailed and allowed to keep his promise.

Train-riding trio act in unfare way (1889)

John Cronia, Thomas McManus and Jon Cummings were charged with travelling on the Victorian Railways without tickets. When questioned, the

defendants refused to pay the fare and became abusive. At the police station Cummings, a line repairer, was found to have a railway pass in his pocket. All three were fined 10 shillings.

Arsonists get done by a vigilant Dunn (1885)

William Dorance and Michael Mitchell were charged with being found in an enclosed yard without a lawful excuse. Bernard Dunn, a cabman,

found the prisoners in his yard one night and believing they would set fire to his house, gave them up to Sergeant Lyhane. Dorance was jailed for a month, while Mitchell was discharged with a caution.

Spicer gets a week for his spicy letter (1887)

Two young lads, John Spicer and Thomas Hoad, were found wandering in Errol Street after midnight. Constable Murphy arrested them and found a letter on Spicer, which he said was a "love letter from his girl". It was written in terms more devoted than decent and he received seven days behind bars.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.



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Sing NoW! takes to the street

Kate Ritchie

Sing NoW! community choir was in full voice at October's Queensberry Cup.

Our troupe lined up in the heart of Errol Street as we prepared to deliver our set of half a dozen songs as part of the festival. We were one of the warm-up acts, even though we secretly felt we were the star turn!

The weather had been unpromising after heavy overnight rain. However, just as we lined up outside the Town Hall, the clouds parted and the sun came out. While small in number for this gig, we attracted a good audience who immediately got into the spirit.

Some even happily sang along to such popular numbers as the Seekers' *Keep a Dream in Your Pocket* and Lady Gaga's *Born this Way*. Perhaps most fitting was when we launched into *Have You Ever Seen The Rain?* In fact, the weather cleared for the afternoon's activities.

Singing at the Cup was the most recent of Sing NoW!'s many regular community performances. We have sung at hospitals and an aged-care centre, for weddings and festivals, at a bushfire relief concert and a swing-dancing night, for birthday parties



Sing NoW! choir members in action as part of the Queensberry Cup activities.

and street Christmas celebrations.

People join our choir for so many reasons, including to make new friends, to feel good, to learn a new skill or even to relive the happy memories of being in a school choir.

I love our wonderful community choir for all of those reasons.

However, there is another one – the opportunity to perform on a stage in front of an appreciative audience and to feel proud.

There is something magical when harmonies align and you feel part of a greater production. If you're like me, singing in a choir enables you to give full voice while also hiding in the group!

Now we're turning our minds to a Christmas repertoire. Each year we try to create something fresh. While there are always some golden oldies, we

also aim to include some modern and popular newbies.

If you would like to get some Christmas cheer from singing, or you have a gig you'd like our enthusiastic choristers to perform at, get in touch with The Centre at 58 Errol Street or email admin@centre.org.au.

For modest sessional fees or a term of around 10 rehearsals with concessions available, it is easy to sign up at www.centre.org.au/whats_on/.

If you prefer, just come and check us out at a Thursday practice night at Sokol, 497 Queensberry Street, at 7 pm. It's just around the corner from Arts House. Everyone is welcome and there are no auditions.

We'll have you singing along in no time!

Kate Ritchie is a member of Sing NoW!.

Chai, tea and so much more

Felicity Jack

Metta Chai is a cute little shop at 104B Errol Street, just north of the Town Hall. Its website expresses a simple philosophy: "May you be happy".

The address has, over the past few years, been home to a series of beverage outlets. These include coffee shop Counter and Kurra, a retailer of specialist tea selected and imported from China.

Metta is also specialising in tea. Charlotte Clarke makes her own excellent blend of chai, black tea, spices and Australian honey. Her Metta Chai blend can be ordered online in various sizes. One blend is specifically made for vegans.

The shop is also a trove of locally made goods from local craftspeople, including potters, jewellery makers, ceramicists and artists.

There is an emphasis on wellbeing products such as lotions for skin and spa. You will also find self-watering pots, cake stands and jewellery.

The shop's opening coincided with the arrival of COVID. The past couple of years have been difficult but now it's hoped that it can be around for many more.

Metta Chai has a wonderful display of goods, all beautifully laid out. It is a good source of presents for a variety of occasions. And you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting local craftspeople.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.

Want to know more?

Drop in to Metta Chai, 104B Errol Street. Or visit Metta's website: www.mettachai.com



Metta Chai offers a wide range of beautiful products from local craftspeople as well as its specialist teas.

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Melbourne used to have a 'Marvellous' in front of it. That was confirmed for me by a movie called *The Lost City Of Melbourne*, which I recently saw at Carlton's Nova. Marvellous Melbourne began with the Royal Exhibition Building, the most gorgeous Royal Exhibition Building in the world. I'm safe on this because ours is the only Royal Exhibition Building still standing. Ours might have been overshadowed by the Crystal Palace Exhibition Building if only someone had not decided to burn it down in 1936.

★★★

The Lost City Of Melbourne mentions many of our lost cinemas. Mine was the Padua Cinema in Sydney Road, which had the only triangular revolving screen in the world and a stage for an orchestra. The site is now an ugly single-storey supermarket. The movie also said that Melbourne is the only city in the world to have retained three of its premier Victorian movie houses in the CBD. There's the Capitol Theatre (Swanston Street), the Royal Theatre (Collins Street) and the Forum (Flinders Street).

VERY IMPRESSIVE

★★★

In Melbourne we lose lots of our beautiful old buildings. You know, those pesky old historic homes in the suburbs that need demolition, but some horrid person goes and decides that they have some historical importance or architectural merit: My solution is to let some of those squatter people in who might just mistakenly burn them down. We are making our Royal Children's Hospital bigger by adopting an available optional extra – we just start lopping off a bit of parkland we don't need.

★★★

You'll recall my last column was written while travelling in New Zealand. I'm thinking of making my next column about the trip Wonder Dog Nunga and I made over there. It started badly when we arrived at Tulla to face a 12-hour



delay. Next night we had a 12-hour stopover in Fiji. Nadi airport was totally deserted, and it cost us an extra \$268 to leave. We landed in Wellington, which is usually closed for live animals. Having Nunga with me meant three hours getting through customs.

★★★

We're bloody lucky that our part of North Melbourne is on a hill. I'm feeling for all you guys on the Maribyrnong. Such amazing footage of all those homes flooded on the ABC News. Flooding has been happening all along the east coast. In country Victoria so many historic buildings got drowned. I don't want to blame anyone for the problems they've faced, but I can't work out why so many people decided to drive through flood waters. That wasn't smart.

★★★

Getting a head tattoo is a bit like pregnancy – or so I am reliably told. You forget how unbelievably painful it is and then you go and have another. My first two head tattoos were reworked after a couple of years, and I've just got my third one. The right side of my head says Force Is The Weapon Of The Weak. And the left side says No Jobs On A Dead Planet. They are two of Melbourne's most common pieces of graffiti.

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

Three lost sons whose love of the Roos had no bounds

TOBIN'S TALES Gavan Tobin

North Melbourne Football Club has recently lost three favourite sons, all club legends. Each will be sorely missed at Arden Street.

Allen Aylett died just days before the grand final. He captained North for four years in a 220-game career, won three best-and-fairests, was twice All-Australian and is in the Kangaroos' Team of the Century.

After retiring, Allan served two terms as president and was in the chair when North began its run of six consecutive Grand Finals (1974-78), winning two flags. He also served as VFL president, creating a new business model and expanding into Sydney.

My memories of Allen are more personal. In 1972, at a Sportsman's Lunch in the North social club, I recall him chatting with the great Ron Barassi at a time we were desperate to get him as coach. We were languishing at the bottom of the ladder with just one win.

I used to say that was the day he signed with North and took us to our glory years of the 1970s. It's more likely that club powerbroker Ron Joseph secured Barassi's scrawled signature on a serviette in his furniture store.

Allen was wonderfully skilled, brave and fearless. My two most vivid memories are from the last two years of his career. In 1963, against Hawthorn, he was collected by notorious 'Delicate' Des Dickson's swinging forearm and knocked out. No report, no free kick. It was a different era.

In 1964, against Melbourne, I flinched as Allen

broke the arm that he had already fractured earlier that season. The trainers helped him off and straight into the rooms. It was his last game. Sadly, he missed the deserved ritual chairing off and modern footy's guard of honour.

Albert Mantello captained North for just one year, in 1960, the year before Allen. A bull-like player, he was invaluable when things got willing. I saw most of his 107 games but my abiding memory of Big Al was of a moment years after he retired.

I was driving the hearse for the family business after a funeral, with my dad, Phonse, then a North official, in the passenger seat.

As we headed down Victoria Street in West Melbourne, we passed Al outside his workplace. When he saw us, he instinctively gave a cheery wave. Then, a solemn look spreading on his usually smiling face, he realised the poignancy of the moment and stood respectfully to attention.

John Brady was the Kangaroos' skipper from 1957-59, the three years before Al. A 100-gamer, he was a fine key position player, a club best-and-fairest and wore the state's big V.

When John visited Arden Street on his 90th birthday in March, he was feted by the players. He spent his final days in care and my daughter Sarah met him during that time.

John showed her a framed photo of himself as a Victorian representative. It was a treasured possession until the end.

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

Take proactive steps to protect your online security

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

I was waiting in a line at the bakery on Queensberry Street and overheard a couple of people behind me talking about the recent Optus data breach and how it affected them.

Their discussion piqued my interest so I decided to introduce myself and asked if I could join the conversation. Being typically friendly North Melburnians, they kindly agreed.

John and Brooke had both been Optus customers for a number of years, and their personal information had been part of the data breach. Subsequently, they had since been targeted by scammers.

For those who have not been following this story in the media, Optus suffered a major cyber attack in September, which resulted in millions of sensitive customer records ending up in the hands of the attackers.

Shortly after the attack, Optus reported that the stolen data included customers' Personally Identifiable Information (commonly abbreviated

to PII) including their names, dates of birth, contact details, and for a subset of customers, their addresses and details of identification documents such as driver's licence, Medicare or passport numbers.

Unfortunately for John and Brooke, they were part of the subset of customers whose Medicare numbers had also been stolen, so they decided to be alert for scams targeting them personally.

They didn't have to wait long. A few weeks following the attack, Brooke received a myGov impersonation text message asking him to immediately update his account details.

The text message also provided a fake link to

Brooke's myGov account, which, had he clicked, would have redirected him to a fake myGov site designed to steal his banking details.

Brooke became suspicious about the text message because he was aware that Australian Government agencies never send links to login pages via text messages or to personal email accounts.

His suspicions were raised even further because he knew that scammers often rely on creating a false sense of urgency in an effort to disturb their victims' ordinary decision-making processes.

Brooke reported the scam to ReportCyber

(www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/report), Scamwatch (www.scamwatch.gov.au) and IDCARE (www.idcare.org or 1800 595 160).

He permanently deleted the text.

He also took some proactive steps to ensure that his online accounts were more secure, such as enabling multifactor authentication, ensuring that his passwords were strong and unique for each account, and enabling automatic security updates for all his digital devices.

I commended Brooke for his vigilance and urged him to always think twice before handing over his PII to organisations that don't have a valid reason for requesting that information.

Got a cybersecurity question? Write to nebojsa4@gmail.com and you may feature in a future issue.

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

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Manu's fight for freedom continues

Geoff Pound

Manu Kailom spends his days as a peer support worker for a group called Many Coloured Sky.

The West Melbourne resident's life experience has equipped him well for his role in an organisation that offers support and advocacy for people seeking asylum and who are part of the LGBTQI+ community.

Manu hails from West Papua, previously controlled by the Netherlands and now a province of Indonesia. For decades his family has been involved in the region's struggle for independence.

"We called ourselves 'freedom fighters,' but the Indonesian authorities branded those working for self-determination as 'rebels'. When activism became too dangerous, my mother took me, my brothers and sisters across the border to live in Papua New Guinea," he says.

The Kailom family found life there tough. "We looked different from



Manu Kailom uses his own life experiences in his work with Many Coloured Sky.

the locals so we stood apart. They called us 'illegals'. We did not have land so it was difficult to get ahead economically and socially."

When Manu came out as gay and was found to be in a same-sex relationship, seen in PNG as a criminal offence and punishable by long jail terms, he and his partner were arrested.

He was imprisoned for 14 months while his partner was sentenced to 16 months. It led to him taking his own life.

In 2018, Manu sought asylum in Australia. Arriving in Queensland, he faced racial discrimination that led to his move to New South Wales for six months and then to Victoria.

He arrived in Melbourne with few financial resources and spent the first six months living and sleeping in the Fitzroy Gardens. Through working a number of cleaning jobs, he was able to secure adequate and more settled accommodation.

Manu sought like-minded people who had experienced similar challenges in life. "My search led to my involvement with Many Coloured Sky. In 2020 I was appointed as a peer support worker among asylum seekers who identify with the LGBTQI+ community," he says.

In four years, after starting with 28 people, the Many Coloured Sky community has increased almost tenfold. "People who are displaced are helped to heal when they experience community. They can't go back to their own ethnic communities where they have been discriminated against by their own people," Manu says.

Currently, more than 70 countries criminalise homosexuality, including some countries where same-sex activity can lead to the death penalty. As a result, a growing number of men and women are seeking asylum in Australia because of the persecution they have faced for their sexual orientation.

Manu is still the 'freedom fighter' he was in his youth. Now his battle is for others so they might have the right to express their identity without fear of persecution.

Geoff Pound is pastor of the West Melbourne Baptist Church. He writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Manu Kailom's book, Please Hold My Hand, is the story of his journey thus far. It will be published early next year.



Duck!!!!

Visitors to the Royal Park Australian Native Garden have welcomed 10 tiny ducklings that are being closely monitored by their attentive mum and dad.

Akito taps into sake

Suzie Luddon

A small unassuming bar in Victoria Street has taken the mantle of the first bar on the planet to provide sake on tap. Not even in its native Japan does sake flow in such style.

Akito, the inventive owner of Sakedokoro Namara, is someone who knows his sake from his shochu (which he also serves in his impossibly cool bar). Hailing from Hokkaido in northern Japan, where the climate is perfect for growing the best rice to convert to sake, he's a sleuth when it comes to hunting down the latest blends to whet the appetite of even the most discerning sake fan.

Likening sake to wine, he looks for the best climates, rice varieties, growing practices and fermentation and production methods when selecting sake. That is indeed one of his missions.

But he also wants to spread the sake word and its culture. For there is a culture around sake. In Japan it's most commonly tied up with work and the eponymous salaryman.

The stereotypical salaryman works long hours and, after a hard day at the office, loves nothing better than to retire with some colleagues to an izakaya (a Japanese style pub) for dinner and drinks – beer, shochu, sake, whiskey.

After that, they might amble to a small, dark bar to indulge in some more sake or whiskey, often until the wee hours. Go to any Japanese city on any night of the week to witness this phenomenon.

However, Akito says that the younger generations in Japan are eschewing this lifestyle, and with it their taste



for sake and alcohol in general. While slowly ebbing in Japan, the sake culture is flowing globally, with connoisseurs being won over in bars everywhere from Manila to Milan – and of course, Melbourne.

At Sakedokoro Namara, tapas-style food is available to pair with the sake, enhancing its taste and flavour. Customers can choose from a selection of eight sake varieties on tap, or from the multitude of bottles representing the various sake-producing regions in Japan.

In typical Japanese style, guests can sit at the bar and chat with the bar staff as they eat and drink. For a more intimate, private setting, there are two tatami rooms for hire, providing a quintessentially Japanese experience in an exquisite space designed by a local Japanese architect.

The sake story is evolving right here in North Melbourne. Kanpai to that!

Suzie Luddon writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Drop in to Sakedokoro Namara, 360 Victoria Street, North Melbourne. Or check their website: www.sakedokoronamara.com.au/



Akito wants to spread the sake word and its culture.

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No strings attached to a labour of musical love

Laura Misale

The Violineri is a charming shop at 309 Victoria Street in West Melbourne, sitting among a line of bustling restaurants and cafes.

Owner Martin Welch says the business is back trading as normal as memories of lockdowns fade. "We had some really quiet months, but life has pretty much returned to normal."

Martin is a luthier, a quaintly old-fashioned term for a maker of stringed instruments such as violins, and an expert in intricate restoration, high-quality repair and conservation of rare antique instruments.

The Violineri is open by appointment for people wanting to buy an instrument or have one restored. However, the beautiful floor-to-ceiling front window means passers-by can marvel at its fabulous wooden interior.

"One of the reasons I chose this shop was the great light that comes in from the huge window," Martin says.

"Another reason was the wooden batten wall was already here, so it looks like a 1960s' renovation. I think it suits the shop really well."

The Violineri has a wonderfully old-world ambience. It is styled with



Martin Welch is passionate about beautiful stringed instruments.

plenty of wooden furnishings, which include a church pew that stringed-instrument enthusiasts can sit on as if praying to the violins that adorn the wall above it.

Lucky passers-by might catch Martin working at the long workbench that sits proudly at the front of the shop.

"It was a conscious choice to put the work desk out and display it instead of putting it out the back. I inherited it from Brenton Fyfield who started the business," Martin says.

Brenton opened the original The Violineri in his Richmond workshop in 1986. Martin, then an employee, bought him out in 2017 and moved to the current West Melbourne storefront.

Brenton has now retired and lives in Ballarat. "He has a workshop set up in his home and is keeping active that way. He still pops in now and then which is lovely," Martin says.

For the last year, he has been making pochettes, also known as pocket fiddles.

"They are unusual little pieces from a customer who had bought a violin here. They were used by dance masters in royal courts to teach their students. They would keep them in their pocket, literally."

Martin loves restoring family heirloom violins, the oldest dating back to the 1700s. "It was a really fine Italian violin and there were fewer violins made then."

He says there is now a lot of conservation work with these old instruments.

"In the past people would just replace parts of damaged instruments. Now there is a push to preserve the original as much as possible."

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.



Showing the way to dance in the street

Errol Street came alive with 'Dance This Way' activities during November. The North West Melbourne Precinct Association used funding from the City Activation Grant Program to create a vibrant atmosphere across three weekends. The performances included everything from hip-hop to swing dance classes and even an illuminated ballerina and robot dancers. The performers were skilled at engaging the audience, creating a fun buzz for an inclusive dance floor the whole community could enjoy.

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A 'mini farm' in our backyard

John H. Smith

Marion Poynter neatly sums up the Brougham Street property she and husband John made their home in 1985. "It was a little farm," she says.

Their cottage, built in 1869, has a large backyard that the previous owners, an Italian family, had cultivated intensely. "They provided themselves with so much home-grown produce, they were self-sustaining," Marion says.

That little farm is even more productive today, thanks to the creative, loving care the Poynters have lavished on it for nearly 40 years.

Marion, a keen member of the Mediterranean Garden Society, had a long-held dream of living sustainably in the city on a small plot of land. This was not only for the produce it would yield but also for its positive effect on well-being and the environment.

As a young person living in South Yarra during the war, Marion had experienced the hardship of food shortages and learned to appreciate the value of home-grown and nutritious food.

"The best times of my childhood were spent in touch with farming and nature. I wanted to duplicate that here," she says.

When the Poynters moved to North

Melbourne, their property was like an escape to the country as they worked to make their goal of sustainable living come true.

"My love of plants, growing things and sharing food has stayed with me. It has flowed over into the rest of my life," Marion says.

Walk out the back door and two friendly dogs greet you, before retreating to a restful spot to watch, while chooks scratch around under well-groomed fruit trees.

Listen carefully for the gentle hum of bees buzzing in and out of two hives over by the side fence. There's no shortage of honey in Marion and John's house.

Edible produce abounds, with many varieties of carefully tended vegetables and leafy greens growing in the salad and vegie patches, grape and passion fruit vines, raspberry canes and blueberry bushes.

Marion's latest count is that there are 30 varieties of trees on their property. These include a Seville orange, for making marmalade; a blood orange, to provide an ingredient for delicious Campari cocktails; lime and lemon trees; an apple tree; and at least two varieties of plums.

The grandmother of them all is a large olive tree that has seen many years on the site.

There are also many varieties of the

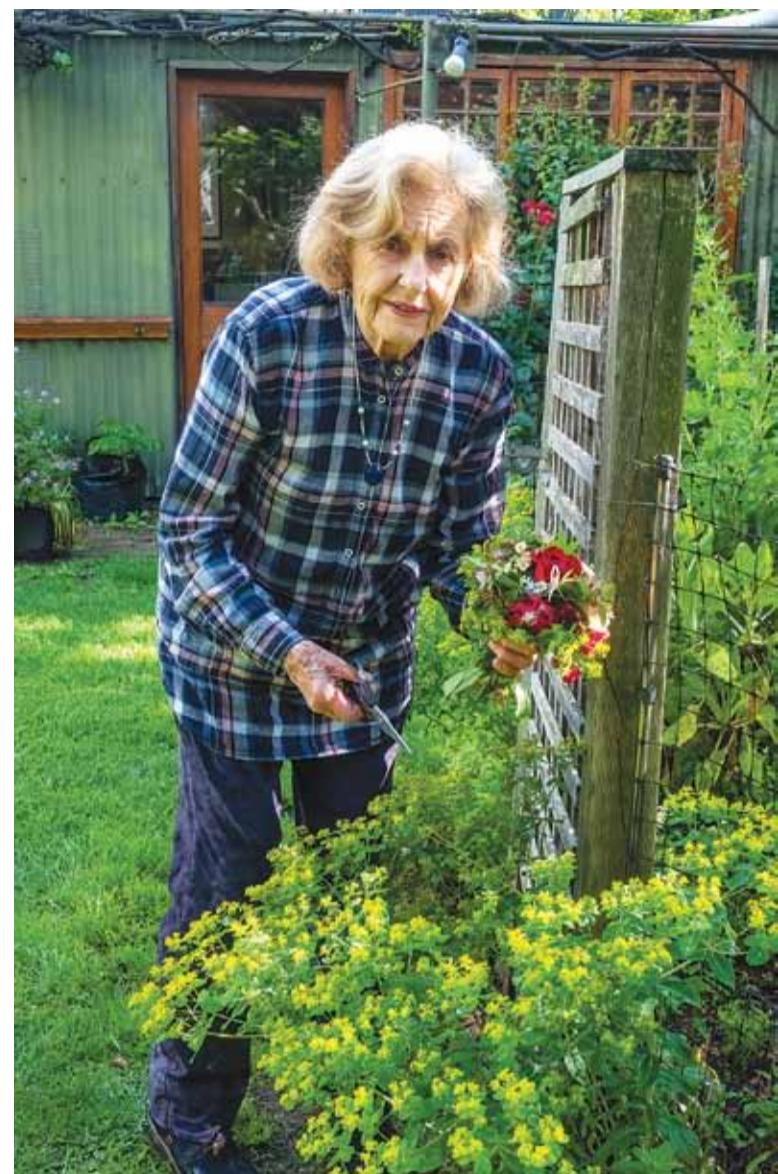
flowers Marion has always enjoyed growing. "I once ran a business making dried-flower arrangements and even taught flower arranging," she says.

"Our backyard has given us much more than either John or I have put into it. We're very glad for the sense of well-being this oasis imparts to us, in the heart of a restless inner-city existence."

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Marion is hoping her book *In My Own Backyard: The Bountiful Harvest of an Inner-City Garden* will be published next year.



Marion Poynter's garden is home to flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, bee hives ... and hens.

Apples and oranges, beans and peas, daisies and forget-me-nots abound

Marion Poynter

In mid-spring, it was all happening in our backyard garden. Heavy rainfall, alternating with increasingly long hot days, stimulated growth and resulted in rapid daily changes in the appearance of the garden. All was lush and overgrown, and extraordinarily productive.

The vegetable patch was overflowing with a boundless assortment of glowing edible greens – perpetual spinach, silver beet, sorrel, the green crinkled leaves of pick-and-come-again lettuces for salads or for lightly steaming.

It was exciting to watch as each day a fresh supply of snow peas appeared, scrambling high up a tall



iron trellis. There's nothing to compare with their taste and texture when just

picked. And likewise, the just ripening broad beans. So delicious eaten young and raw!

Meanwhile our eight or so citrus trees scattered throughout the garden – cumquats, lemons, limes, Seville and blood oranges – displayed their many bright orange, green and yellow fruits.

After first appearing in late winter, they were still hanging on their trees in spring, waiting for me to gather them and transform them into marmalade and other preserves for our breakfast, for gifts, and to help stock the church stall.

In our wet spring, flowers abounded as never before. In the shadiest corner of the garden, under the giant copper beech tree, the arum and Green



Goddess lilies went mad and spread themselves thickly into a lily jungle.

All through the yard plants self-seeded, weed-like, in spots of their own choice.

There were forget-me-nots and nasturtiums between the vegetables, great yellow and lime green bushes of the invasive splurge *Euphorbia oblongata* on sunny edges of garden beds here, there and everywhere.

The little white daisies of Feverfew popped up in various places, as did the Cappadocian Navelworts. The striking miniature flowers of these Turkish woodland plants in brilliant blues with white stars, ran amok through beds as if they owned them.

Marion Poynter is a North Melbourne local – and a very keen gardener!

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Flying high with new feathers

Zelda Balsamo

At Lort Smith Animal Hospital, we know that no bird can fly too high if it soars on its own wings.

When an owl was brought to our emergency unit after being discovered covered in a sticky substance on a construction site, exotics veterinarian Dr Tristan Rich began an immediate clean-up.

Unfortunately, the owl had lost a lot of feathers during its ordeal and was no longer able to fly.

"We were incredibly lucky in that an owl of the exact species, a boobook owl, had been brought to us just a few days earlier. While that owl didn't survive, it had completely undamaged feathers. So, I decided to perform an imping," Dr Tristan said.

Imping is a procedure that has been used for centuries by falconers to treat damaged feathers. It involves making cuts in the quill of both the damaged and replacement feathers and connecting them together using a small rod.

The new feather is then glued into place on the damaged bird in what Dr Tristan said was a "very fiddly procedure".

"The more feathers, the longer it takes, as we have to make sure the lengths are the same and everything is aligned right. This particular case took forever because the owl had lost a lot of feathers," he said.

Performing an imping is a relatively uncommon procedure in a bird clinic. Dr Tristan's successful intervention was only made possible due to the extreme coincidence of two owls being brought in just days apart.

By sheer good luck the dead bird had been kept in the freezer with its set of completely undamaged feathers. "It's sad that the first owl didn't make it, but I'm grateful that we were able to save the second bird's life," he said.



Dr Tristan Rich uses a centuries-old procedure to help a distressed owl take flight again.



We're delighted to report that the owl made a full recovery and was soon released into the wild, surfing the wind on its new set of perfect feathers, which will enable it to fly properly and survive.

"We let it go and it flew off into the distance. We actually have a video from two angles of the bird being set free. We even put it on Facebook," a delighted Dr Tristan said.

In excellent news for owls and their feathered friends, the skilled surgeons at Lort Smith will be able to continue their wonderful work in improved facilities when our new hospital opens next March.

Zelda Balsamo is copywriter for Lort Smith.

Hana puts support and safety on her menu

Katianna Grosser

The Moroccan Soup Bar recently arrived in North Melbourne after closing the doors at its wildly popular Fitzroy location.

Owner and head chef Hana Assafiri OAM has brought her passion for social and community justice to her new premises at 47-51 Boundary Road.

She knows the impact a small business can make. The Moroccan Soup Bar is founded on a specific set of values and is primarily focused on



Owner and head chef Hana Assafiri OAM

the empowerment of women.

Hana worked in domestic violence services for 15 years and she saw the limitations in those systems. "There wasn't a long-term responsive plan which spoke to the needs of marginalised communities," she says.

This realisation marked the creation of the Moroccan Soup Bar as a women's-only employment space

committed to creating a community where women are supported.

Hana says that instead of subjugating women in the hospitality setting, where they are conditioned to a stereotyped role, the Soup Bar aims to make the space a source of strength.

When the pandemic hit her Fitzroy business in 2020, Hana was forced

to ask the confronting question: How do we keep some of the most marginalised groups of women who are in our employment safe?

"Many of our women are from single income households, so we weren't prepared to put them in harm's way," she says.

"We were never short of patrons, so we had to reimagine things completely and think about how to do hospitality in a pandemic."

This meant downsizing, revisiting values and reinvesting in them.

"For me, Fitzroy became a model of hospitality whose aim was achieved," Hana says.

This realisation showed Hana how the Moroccan Soup Bar could contribute to healing society in a more meaningful way.

In turn, it led her to open in North Melbourne as a pop-up diner, open for dine-in from Thursday to Saturday as well as offering many community engagement events.

"We host conversation salons, which invite our communities to discuss issues of social and community

justice. They bring people together with a banquet of food and a banquet of ideas," Hana says.

"Our last salon event sold out in two days, so there's clearly an appetite for them."

Hana says that coming to Boundary Road has changed the pace and mood of the Moroccan Soup Bar.

"It has enabled us to come back to who we are. There's a conversation now, rather than us being too busy just turning tables."

For Hana, her mission is simple.

"We didn't choose the current environment and climate, but who chooses to do social justice as a career path? For me it's about personal convictions".

Katianna Grosser writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Visit the Moroccan Soup Bar pop-up diner at 47-51 Boundary Road – open until the end of December. Check the net at www.moroccansoupbar.com.au



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Premier award for local author

Maurice Gaul

Local resident Janet McCalman, respected academic and writer, has won the top prize at the 2022 Victorian Community History Awards.

Janet was awarded the Victorian Premier's History Award for her book *Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria* at an Arts Centre ceremony in late October.

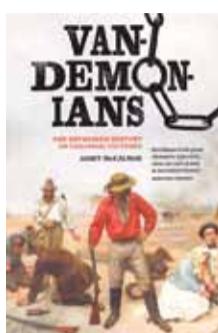
The book recounts the lives of convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land and who later settled in Victoria. It helps to shine a light on Australia's complex colonial past.

It was praised by the judges for telling "poignant and personal stories with wit and irony" and for its excellent research and writing that uncovered the collective biographies of the former prisoners.

"I'm delighted to win this award. It should be seen as recognition of the almost 60 volunteer historians who researched over 25,000 convict lives for the study," she told the *News*.

The awards were presented by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria to recognise the contributions made by Victorians in the sharing and preservation of the state's history.

The 12 award winners received glowing praise. "The projects recognised all share the stories of Victoria's past, helping us to better



Janet McCalman with her award.

Photograph: Public Record Office Victoria

understand the communities we live in and their rich historical heritage," Minister for Government Services Danny Pearson said.

"These award-winning projects showcase the excellence, skill and creativity of volunteer and professional historians across Victoria – congratulations to all," Public Record Office Victoria director Justine Heazlewood said.

Janet's richly deserved success with *Vandemonians* caps off an outstanding writing career since her ground-breaking first book, *Struggletown: Public and Private Life in Richmond 1900–1965*, which won the inaugural Victorian Premier's Award for Australian history in 1985.

This brilliant social history took readers into the inner-city industrial working-class suburb, well before the gentrification of the 1970s.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the *News*.

perfumes of summer (Bill Hannan)

summer is the season of barbecues
the perfumes of burning meat
the prickling of eyes in the smoke
the chatting round the brazier
the uncovering of the salads
are back to frame our evenings

being of advancing age
and preferring to be seated
I tend to become invisible
some people greet me
saying you are looking well
thinking for your age

a bloke who's nearly as old as me
talks about his imminent surgery
in unexpectedly cheerful terms
I remark on his insouciance
hadn't his wife died under the knife
I trust these quacks he says

The wind freshens
I feel some drops of rain
if it gets any worse says Betty
we can move inside to the table
I agree but nonetheless am saddened
that our perfumed pleasure dome will be
abandoned

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

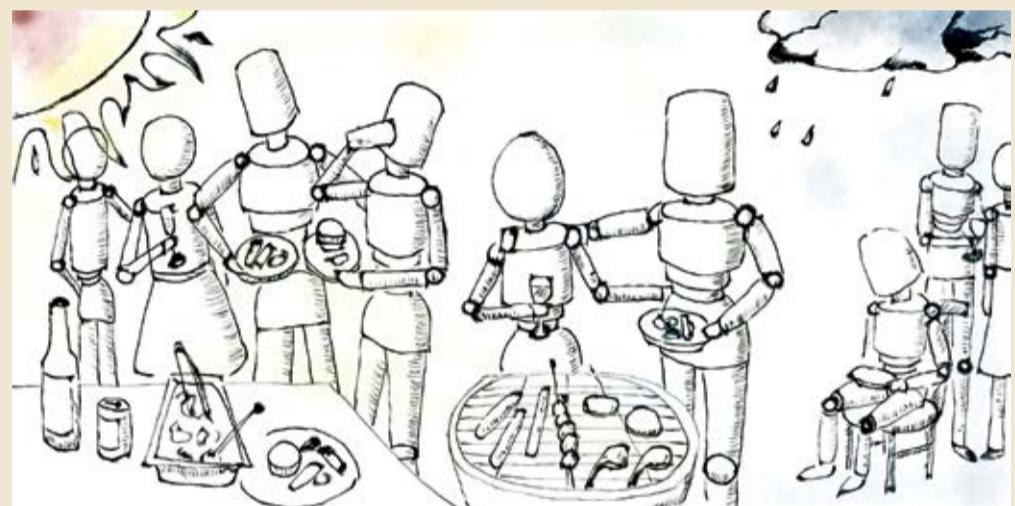


Illustration: Ed Zhao

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Focus on refining our movement

Nicole Pereira

Stroll down Errol Street and you can easily miss the unspectacular shopfront at number 118 with its curtained front windows.

However, a glance at The Movement Refinery's website will give a different story. It boasts that the compact studio behind the window is "known globally as a great place to train in the Pilates method" and caters for "all people from exercise-phobic to full-blown Pilates nerd".

Let's find out a bit more from owner and founder Nicholas Psarros, a former professional dancer who turned to Pilates after several injuries from dancing.

"I thought I would do it full time and then go back to professional dancing," he says. However, he soon became hooked on Pilates and realised there was no way back to the dance floor.

Nicholas quickly became aware that the Pilates scene in Melbourne was no more than, in his words, "a cottage industry". Yet, even then, the standard of Pilates instruction was world class," he says.

In 2003, he randomly flicked through the phone book (older readers will recall them!) and saw that Melbourne had only 11 Pilates studios. He seized the opportunity.

Just two years later, Nicholas launched his very own studio in Fitzroy and then another in North Melbourne. His aim was to teach following the classical Joseph Pilates method.

"When you qualify as an instructor of the Joseph Pilates method, it means you're ready

to work with clients of all ages and body types," Nicholas says.

Despite the explosion of Pilates classes in our suburban shopping strips, Nicholas believes very few actually follow the Joseph Pilates method in the way his Movement Refinery does.

"We are a classical Pilates studio. We ensure that everyone feels supported and included, and the information we teach is progressive. It's essentially a mix of exercising and learning as opposed to the 'earbuds in and ignore the world for a while' approach."

The Movement Refinery offers personalised classes designed to meet the needs of the individual. Clients cover a wide range of ages, with the oldest being in their eighties.

Nicholas' participants arrive with all levels of fitness and sporting backgrounds. "In fact, we've got a mix of very fit athletes and those who don't do much exercise at all," he says.

However, all are satisfied with their Pilates experience. "Most clients say they feel really good and haven't been slaughtered during the session, quite unlike a high-intensity gym class", Nicholas explains.

"Those seeking pain relief can feel better immediately. That's what attracts many people to our classes."

Nicole Pereira writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

The Movement Refinery has a new client course coming out next year. Visit their website themovementrefinery.com.au/.



At 14, Ray Walter became a telegram boy in North Melbourne. He's been part of the evolving landscape ever since.

Ray's local links reach back into the past

John H. Smith

Ray Walters' second-hand office furniture shop at 544 Queensberry Street, established 20 years ago, is a North Melbourne landmark.

His sharp eye for quality products, coupled with his affable style, has made his business a go-to outlet for people seeking an upgrade or refit for their work or home office.

Ray's association with North Melbourne began when, at 14, he became a telegram boy at the local post office. He recently discovered a much older family link.

"I didn't know my grandmother and her brother and sister lived in Errol Street. Her brother, whose name is on the honour board in the Hotham History room, was a stretcher bearer killed in the

Gallipoli landing," he says.

Ray kept working in North Melbourne after his time at the post office. "I became a butcher's apprentice in the Errol Street shop that is now Salera's jewellers," he says.

"I would ride my bike from home in Essendon, stay with my boss on Miller Street, then start at six the following morning. There was no traffic noise and you could hear the lions roaring in the zoo at night."

Ray has vivid memories of the 1950s when North Melbourne had a lively shopping strip. "Errol Street had five butcher shops, several grocery stores and a radio and appliance business where Chemist Warehouse is now."

The slum clearance that began in that era brought radical change. Many old terraces were demolished and

replaced with small factories, resulting in long-time residents leaving the area.

The close community spirit was lost, and Ray feels North Melbourne has never fully recovered the village atmosphere of those days.

"There was more empathy for people who were down on their luck. When I was a kid, Marie Banks had the Malaysian restaurant and she would give soup through a side window to those who were struggling. We need more of that now," he says.

As a long-term observer, Ray sees signs that North Melbourne may be regenerating but believes it will only work if it responds to the needs of the locals and receives support from the City of Melbourne.

"We have seen it in the coming of the new bakery

and it could happen with the upgrade of the Courthouse Hotel," he says.

Ray believes the area has many advantages lacking in inner suburbs like Collingwood and Richmond with their narrow streets and high-rises. "North Melbourne has wide streets, plenty of greenery and good public transport."

It's ironic that this one-time telegram boy now owns the original North Melbourne post office building at 518-520 Queensberry Street.

It functions as Ray's warehouse but, true to his community-oriented spirit, he is planning its renovation. Just another step to restoring some of North Melbourne's former vibrancy.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

Here are 30 names of players in North Melbourne's men's or women's 2022 AFL lists.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------|--------|----------|
| Archer | Ashmore | Bannister | Bergman | Brown | Campbell |
| Corr | Eddey | Ford | Garner | Gibson | Goater |
| Greenwood | Hall | Hamilton | McDonald | McKay | Phillips |
| Powell | Randall | Rennie | Riddell | Scott | Slender |
| Stephenson | Taylor | Thomas | Walker | Wright | Young |
| Can you link the names to these clues? (They're either cryptic, obscure or simply silly.) | | | | | |
| 1 I'm a quarter of an Irish band of siblings | 11 I'm a marine sanctuary north of Broome | 21 I'm a test cricket umpire who got caught | | | |
| 2 I'm where gypsies whistle to win a lady | 12 I'm a belle Caddick-like female fraudster | 22 I'm an inventor reaping a wheat harvest | | | |
| 3 I'm multi-wed, twice flirtin' with Burton | 13 I'm like a whirlpool and Mr Everywhere | 23 I'm an arch sceptic, searching for proof | | | |
| 4 I'm behind a Norwegian in a Pole race | 14 I'm an antacid easing heat of heartburn | 24 I'm an Ozzie poet, right into land rights | | | |
| 5 I'm a Swede – a film director or actress | 15 I'm opening my vowels in my farm song | 25 I'm passing Phoenix, leaving my lover | | | |
| 6 I'm where Toad hosted Mole and Rat | 16 I'm a sharp-point shooter in the zodiac | 26 I'm a musical on a US founding father | | | |
| 7 I'm a female star, in footy or in a basket | 17 I'm a president unelected across a river | 27 I'm a handrail, first under four minutes | | | |
| 8 I'm a runner like Gump, on a spud diet | 18 I'm an inventor who went steaming loco | 28 I'm a novelist with a debut monkey grip | | | |
| 9 I'm not obese, lose an 's' I'm a banker | 19 I'm the secretary pre Condy and Hillary | 29 I'm a lonely herder in <i>Sound of Music</i> | | | |
| 10 I'm a puzzling creek near Mt Macedon | 20 I'm a lord mayor and a Prix petrolhead | 30 I'm a Tassie Greenie of Franklin fame | | | |



Nicholas Psarros. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

See page 23 for the answers.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Students find treasure on stage

Ryan Bentley

Students of Simonds College took to the stage in October in a performance of *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson's rollicking tale of buccaneers and buried gold.

Over several evenings in the theatre of Errol Street's Lithuanian Club, the boys transported the rapt audience to the swashbuckling world of young Jim Hawkins' search for the treasure, and his meetings with the pirates and Long John Silver.

As the audience took their seats, they were immediately swept away by the period setting and the soundscape. The stage props created the energy of an 18th century shipyard and the interior of an inn, which proved a hint at the adventure to come.

A sense of anticipation was created by the rocking chair



Simonds students take to the boards.

beside the crackling fire of Grandma Hawkins' hearth, and the despondent mopping of a scruffy young Jim. Something special was about to happen.

And did it ever! It's not often that a school production totally captures an audience's imagination from the very first words, let alone holds that attention for an hour and forty minutes.

This riveting performance of action, adventure, mutiny, heartbreak and drama was not put on by professional actors.

Rather, it was all due to an enthusiastic cast and crew of young Simonds students.

This inaugural school production ran the full gamut from initial stress to eventual exhilaration. For our performing arts faculty, it was a privilege to see our boys grow as actors, theatre technicians, prop-masters, stage managers and musicians.

For many of these students, it marked their very first experience with theatre. We're sure it won't be their last.

Some beautiful moments of theatre were created. Choreographed storms and battles, deaths comedic and tragic, expressions of outrage, despair and hope – all delivered with genuine zeal and a professional flair.

We believe that an involvement in the performing arts is crucial to the development of well-rounded young men. It builds their emotional intelligence, confidence and resilience. It requires discipline and commitment.

It also encourages active listening, improvisation and social flexibility. Most importantly, it offers students a space to be known, supported and inspired.

Ryan Bentley is performing arts coordinator at Simonds and directed *Treasure Island*.

Seeking housing justice

John H. Smith

The Institute of Postcolonial Studies in Curzon Street held a lively half-day event to discuss housing justice.

The event, *Peer Stories of Homelessness in Naarm*, was curated by IPCS visiting fellow and filmmaker Jasmine Barzani.

"It brought together people with Indigenous knowledge, the experience of life in hotel accommodation during lockdown, issues of homelessness and drug usage, as well as skills in social analysis," Jasmine said.

The presenters included Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Larry Walsh; David Giles from Deakin University who works on waste food; Caitlin who lived in a hotel during lockdown; Kelly Whitworth; and Spike Chiappalone from the Bendigo Street Project.

Discussion included viewing a rousing 20-minute version of Jasmine's 2016 documentary *Bendigo Street*. It records the protest over the evacuation of squatters from more than 15 empty houses in Collingwood, compulsorily acquired for the East-West link project then left idle when it did not go ahead.

Bendigo Street reveals the way the state maintains power and control over social housing but does not deliver justice for those most in need.

"A lot of people had difficult things to negotiate. There was a lot of harassment online, and from the police and others," Jasmine says.

When the pandemic struck in 2020, it exposed the critical need for more quality public housing in Australia. At the time, many people were sleeping on Melbourne streets, a consequence of Victoria spending the least of all Australian states on support for the homeless.

In March 2020, the Victorian government declared a state of emergency under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act, making



Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Larry Walsh.

homelessness punishable by law.

The plan to house homeless people in hotels during lockdown was potentially positive. However, Spike described it as "careless decision making".

The implementation was poorly handled. Relationships were put under strain. The cost blew out to 10 times the \$2 million allocated and, when lockdown ended, people were returned to the streets.

The experience made clear that justice for the homeless includes not only housing but also the provision of adequate liveable incomes and enough supports to enable people to live safely in the community.

Hearing the many stories of homelessness and involvement in action to create change left a powerful impression on the participants.

"*Peer Stories of Homelessness in Naarm* went really well. People were touched and inspired, and for some it brought healing," Jasmine said.

IPCS is keen to support making *Bendigo Street* into a full feature film.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Watch the recording of the event: ipcs.org.au/recording/peer-stories-of-homelessness-in-naarm/. Donations to the *Bendigo Street* feature film project can be made at IPCS ipcs.org.au. Find more at www.bendigost.com.

ADAM BANDT MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW.

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Illustrator Ed Zhao seeks out West Melbourne's spiritual centres



A space for everyone at Temporalities Gallery

Georgie Preston

Nick Currie and Lilly Skipper sparked a real buzz with their Temporalities Gallery in Errol Street. Sadly, Temporalities was so temporary it closed in late November.

Over the three levels at No. 54, the two young emerging artists hosted a range of rotating exhibitions by young Naarm/Melbourne artists from diverse backgrounds and training.

Nick had an unlikely pathway to art. "I never thought I'd be an artist. Did VCAL, two years doing carpentry then I only applied for art school out of pettiness," he told the *News* just as the gallery was closing.

After meeting at art school, Nick and Lilly found their styles worked well together. They shared a show at the Queen Vic Market before Lilly saw that Creative Spaces, a City of Melbourne program fostering the arts, was offering the opportunity to curate and run Temporalities Gallery.

The pair felt North Melbourne would be a perfect spot and jumped at the

chance. "There's a shift happening in the area. There's lots of cool, artistic young people living around here. And if cool shit is happening, people will come," Nick said.

The pair aimed to support emerging artists who had never shown before or might not even have gone to art school. "One of these hadn't been to art school, while upstairs we had a solo show by a Swinburne secondary school student," Nick said.

He chose to reject what he termed the "VCA boys' club". "We've got a mixed mob here, gender queer people, people of colour. It's good to see those here who may feel uncomfortable in other spaces."

Nick summed up his values neatly. "We're a contemporary gallery, we support great art made by good people in a space where young artists can sell their work and get full commission then put it on their CV. That's so cool!" he said.

Nick and Lilly ensured the gallery's Errol Street location was a safe space for everyone.



Nick Currie and Lilly Skipper welcomed a "mixed mob" of artists to their Errol Street storefront.

"It wasn't a rancid basement, it wasn't the grungy vibe that can make PoC [People of Colour] and AFaB [Assigned Female at Birth] uncomfortable. It was just right for everyone to feel safe and included," Nick said.

Temporalities' 12-week run also had its lighter moments. One evening,

during a gallery opening, a car and the No. 57 tram collided outside the front door, causing many people to arrive late.

"We just kept the door open and the whole crowd all ended up eating at Sushi Noodle Town. The Townie pub even thanked us for bringing so many customers in," Nick laughed.

Another memorable moment came when a couple was sprung making out in a back room. Then there were the Weet-Bix boxes, used in an art installation, which got progressively nibbled away during the display.

Georgie Preston writes regularly for the *News*.

Homework takes a back seat when firefighters visit

G. Peter Robert

The North Melbourne Language and Learning Homework Club cohort has grown from very low and inconsistent numbers pre-COVID and during lockdown into a stable and happy environment of 10 students in the Year 4 to Year 6 band mainly from St Michael's Primary and North Melbourne Primary School. It is a truly multicultural group from Arabic, Chinese and African backgrounds living in or close to the Alfred Street public housing estate. The Homework Club generates a "feel good" ambience enjoyed by all and observed in the smiling, appreciative parents.

The students work diligently for an hour or more in both Maths and English followed by snacks, fruit, hummus and board games. It has become a tradition that parents arrive 10 minutes early and bring younger siblings for the pickup, which



A visit from local firefighters was a highlight of the last day of term for the North Melbourne Language and Learning Homework Club students.

leads to a wonderful and inclusive community spirit for all to enjoy. Special thanks to Dawn and Julian for their outstanding tutoring (we really could not do it without you).

It's not all about the books, as North

Melbourne Primary School Year 6 student Yusuf said.

"The fire truck day was an awesome last day of term in Homework Club."

When the fire truck's arrival was announced, "we all burst out in

excitement", he said.

"We saw and met the amazing firefighters. We learnt about different hoses around the truck and what to do in case of a fire. I like the fact that they spent time teaching us. We even

got to play games on top of the truck.

"It was a very fun day as we did lots of things together, which was nice."

G. Peter Robert is supervisor of the NMLL Homework Club.

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

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146 Peel Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051



NWMA takes a look back over the year's activities

The North and West Melbourne Association (NWMA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 31 August via Zoom. The following members were elected or re-elected to the committee: Kevin Chamberlin, Jacqueline Stevenson, Janet Graham, Peter Gerrard and Simon Mitchell-Wong.

There are several unfilled positions, providing an opportunity for interested members to join the committee during the year.

A resolution that Association membership fees continue to be set at zero was passed.

The chair, Kevin Chamberlin, presented the committee's annual report for the calendar year 2021 and invited attendees, and especially members who represent the NWMA in various groups, to comment on

current issues and campaigns. Some of these have been well covered in previous articles.

The Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne, Consultative Committee (CC)

came under heavy criticism, the redevelopment of the former public housing estate being described as "really miserable".

After a series of CC meetings being cancelled at the last minute, the meetings ceased altogether in June. Homes Victoria did not respond to members' complaints.

While the new private and community housing on the site has been delayed, with former tenants left in the dark regarding their options to return, the Molesworth Street Campus of North Melbourne Primary School has progressed rapidly with 'consultation' absent from the process.



City of Melbourne (CoM) and Presidents of Resident Associations meetings

NWMA representatives have been attending these meetings, which are designed to connect and gather feedback from local associations, since their inception.

Recent forums have focused on safety and planning issues, with regulation of e-bikes and e-scooters and better lighting in the city being key topics. The CoM is investigating whether CCTV cameras on private

high-rises can be linked into council networks.

NWMA representatives suggested asking Neuron and Lime to provide the police with tracking facilities to enable police officers to reach speeding e-bike riders and advise them on appropriate and legal behaviour.

Our representatives also raised concerns about Docklands Primary School, forecast to exceed capacity in 2023, and the school's plan to accommodate students in the nearby shopping centre.

Regarding planning, we suggested that mandatory Floor Area Ratios (FARs), as endorsed in the West Melbourne Structure Plan, be rolled out across all areas. FARs are seen as effective in encouraging better building design and reducing speculation by developers. Unacceptable planning applications force residents to object, resulting in stressful and costly VCAT hearings.

The CoM spokesperson agreed there was merit in this idea but said the

State Government had not shown much support for the FAR approach.

Meet the Candidates

The NWMA joined with the Kensington Association in hosting a successful Meet the Candidates night on 27 October at Kensington Town Hall.

Eight candidates for the state election on 26 November, including one appearing by video link, outlined their policies in three minutes. Questions from the floor followed before each candidate had a further 90 seconds to sum up.

CoM Neighbourhood Portals

The last of the new online Neighbourhood Portals recently went live. Described as "one-stop shops for important information to help you live, work, study and play in your neighbourhood", the portals for North Melbourne and West Melbourne can be accessed at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods.

James Gardiner struck gold with a pram factory

Felicity Jack

James Gardiner won a reputation for philanthropy and generosity. He is best remembered as a founder of the North Melbourne Football Club and was also elected president of North Melbourne's Speedwell Cycle Club in 1896.

I've pursued the history of this astute businessman since my story in the spring *News*. He arrived in Australia in 1849, just one year old, on the *Medway* with his blacksmith father, also James, his mother, Elizabeth, and three-year-old sister, also Elizabeth.

In 1851, James Snr was one of four lucky men who struck it lucky on the Bendigo goldfields. An 1890 letter to the *Argus* by mining engineer G. M. Newman claims that he and James Snr were in a group who were the first to discover gold in that area. James Snr later settled in North Melbourne and worked as a wheelwright.



Prominent businessman James Gardiner.

Young James attended St Mary's Church of England school until aged 11. He was then employed at various companies including a toy factory, a timber-bending business and an engineering works. His last place of work was Zander's bond warehouse in Flinders Street.

By 24, James had learnt the necessary skills to embark on his next

project, the establishment of a pram factory next to the family home on the corner of Leveson and O'Shanassy streets.

This endeavour was probably partly funded by a legacy from his father since it is unlikely James would have accrued enough capital through his own employment to establish such a venture. He was soon exhibiting and winning prizes at international exhibitions.

By 1886 James was employing 14 men, and the factory was running three full-time furnaces. He was using six tons of iron weekly and turning out 170 perambulators. A protectionist, he used only locally sourced materials, with the prams' handles made of colonial mountain ash and the wheels being tinned on the premises.

He worked hard to research the most appropriate materials and to perfect the design. One innovation,

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



quoted in the *North Melbourne Gazette* of 1886, was the addition of an extra wheel to the prams.

He became a Hotham town councillor in 1891 and was mayor from 1893-94 and again 1900-05. An 1895 article in the *North Melbourne Gazette* read:

The laurel wreath in connection with municipal affairs is the fight that he

waged in regard to the minimum wage being fixed at 7 shillings per day, and to his credit it is said that he fought the matter so persistently and so manfully that the point was carried. James was never content to be second best. The February 1896 *North Melbourne Gazette* describes a beachside picnic that he attended in his role as councillor. There were a number of races, including one for 'old buffers':

The old buffers' race brought out a phenomenal spurt on the part of Cr. Gardiner who was second till about three yards from the tape, when he shot forward and came in, a splendid first. James clearly inherited not only wealth from his father but also his skills, determination and enterprising spirit.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.

A place with no freshwater springs – right in our midst

Dryburgh Street begins at North Melbourne train station (curiously, in West Melbourne) and runs north to Flemington Road.

The word Dryburgh has ancient origins and was popularised by Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott. It roughly translates as a "place without freshwater springs" by Scotland's River Tweed beneath Eildon Hills, Berwickshire, with its ruined abbey and a village, both of that name, set in rich natural beauty.

First mention of our Dryburgh Street was in October 1853 when architects Vieuxseux & Taylor advertised a land sale in the *Argus* newspaper. The first recorded birth in the street was five months later at Westbourne Cottage when a Mrs Forbes had a son.

In 1858, the Irishman John Jordan, a city councillor, moved a motion calling for a proclamation of Dryburgh and surrounding streets to be officially acknowledged by the Governor of Victoria, the Scotsman Sir

RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

Henry Barkly. It was officially gazetted in 1867.

Over the years Dryburgh Street

has been home to people of diverse backgrounds. Notables include sketch artist Christopher West who drew



Photograph: Stephen Hatcher

View from Dryburgh St, Melbourne in 1855, and the mayor of Hotham, auctioneer Robert Langford.

Other noted residents include professional painter/engraver John Calder, a business partner of famed photographer Charles Nettleton. In more recent years, John Landy, middle distance running legend and later Governor of Victoria, and his wife lived in the street.

Like its namesake in Scotland, our Dryburgh Street's buildings began as modest low-rise dwellings with a few mixed-use buildings. While the Dryburgh region of Scotland has become a conservation area, the same cannot be said for our street.

The increasing trend to apartment living, with little to no parking, is overwhelming us and comes at the expense of valued heritage homes, resulting in the loss of too many unique abodes with private gardens.

Our Dryburgh Street once had more than 200 low-rise single and double

storey heritage dwellings. It also had Mrs Marshall's ladies' finishing school, the Hunt Club, the Laurel and Shakespeare hotels, and Gardiner Reserve.

By 2022, the desirable period homes have dwindled to just 106, having been replaced by 26 blocks of flats and some industrial buildings.

Is today the right time to call for the strengthening of heritage protection laws to save those remaining homes and to protect the desirable low-rise nature of our streetscapes?

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

Want to know more?

More about our Dryburgh Street www.melbournestreets.com.au/dryburgh-street. See Christopher West's 1855 sketch <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/109374>.

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

Ellen Sandell



Where there's a will, there's a way

During the hard lockdown of public housing in 2020, Hana (who lives in one of the North Melbourne public housing towers) had just had a premature baby at 26 weeks.

Her baby was in hospital, but because of the 'hard lockdown' she wasn't able to leave her apartment to visit her baby or even get expressed breast milk to her in hospital.

Hana and her husband were incredibly distressed. Imagine not being able to visit your premature baby in hospital, or even get them the breast milk they need. No-one at the towers would help them, and they contacted me for help.

After a few very intense days, along with some amazing other people (including wonderful staff at the Royal Women's Hospital and some journalists), we were able to get the Premier's office involved, ensuring Hana could get breast milk to her baby and could visit her in hospital.

This was an incredibly distressing time for Hana, her husband and their kids, and it should never have happened. Fortunately, the story has a happy ending.

Recently, while I was visiting public housing residents in North Melbourne, I ran into Hana and her

little girl who is now a thriving two-year-old. She was busy playing with her brother after they'd just returned home from kinder.

Following the hard lockdown of Melbourne's public housing towers, the Ombudsman made a number of recommendations to the Victorian government on ways to make amends and ensure that nothing like this happens again.

However, the Labor government has refused to implement several of the recommendations, including apologising to people like Hana.

Residents I've spoken to are annoyed. They believe offering an apology is the least the government could do.

Sadly, public housing residents are too often ignored and neglected by governments. The Greens and I will keep fighting for more public housing homes to be built to meet an obvious need, and for more support for residents, such as free wi-fi and proper maintenance.

It was so lovely to catch up with Hana and her family and see them all doing so well.

Want to know more?

If there is anything I can help you with, email: office@ellensandell.com.



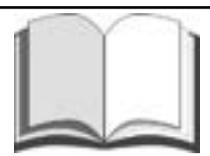
Ellen with Hana and her two-year-old daughter.

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.

BETWEEN THE COVERS

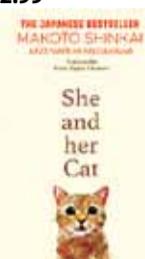
Chris Saliba



She and Her Cat

Makoto Shinkai

Doubleday, RRP: \$32.99



Four cats – Chobi, Kubo, Cookie and Mimi – roam through four human stories about loss, anxiety, loneliness and grief. While each is a stand-alone tale, dealing with an individual's problems and traumas, the cats know each other as a little community and form almost a collective chorus, with the narration swapping between the feline and human.

They observe their human owners in trouble – all women, hence the book's title – and try to nudge them in the right direction. The cats hold a bemused view of the human world, with all its frailties and worries, and feel somewhat superior with their no-nonsense attitude to the cycle of life and death.

She and Her Cat is the debut novel from anime filmmaker Makoto Shinkai (translated by Naruki Nagakawa). It's a sensitive and intimate portrait of vulnerable people trying to live the best they can, but still struggling. The book's bustling urban environment – of trains and busy streets – adds to the atmosphere of quiet alienation.

A gentle, oddly soothing novel about how we come to realise the simple joys of life through suffering and adversity.

Confidence Man

Maggie Haberman

HarperCollins, RRP: \$34.99

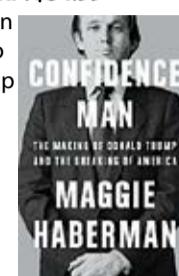
Maggie Haberman is a journalist who has covered Trump for decades. Like Trump, she's a born-and-bred New Yorker.

Unlike other memoirs and biographies that paint Trump as a cartoonish ogre, Haberman has drawn a nuanced, fully fleshed portrait. *Confidence Man* argues that if you want to understand the Trump of today, it's imperative to look at his past – his years as a 1980s property tycoon and his relationship with his father.

We learn that Trump senior was controlling and brutal. As a property developer in a violent and corrupt 1980s New York, young Trump was more bruiser than businessman, intimidating his way to success and using his father's money.

The second half of the book covers Trump's presidency, culminating in the January 6 insurrection. With superb research and detail, Haberman describes a slow-motion train wreck. Trump's personality grew even more erratic and domineering with unchecked power. In the book's epilogue, Haberman neatly sums Trump up as "a narcissistic drama-seeker who covered a fragile ego with a bullying impulse".

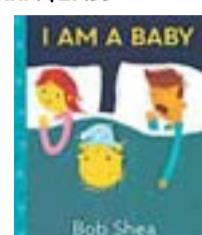
A tour de force.



I Am a Baby

Bob Shea

Walker Books, RRP: \$27.99



I am a baby and I am not sleepy, announces a bubbly newborn, who cheerfully narrates a life spent causing mischief. The poor parents! Daddy is grumbling and Mum is almost driven to drink. The cat is in hiding and the dog is putting on weight, licking up all the food Baby spills on the floor.

Tables are left sticky, nappies are squishy and Mum is exhausted. There's one person who is smiling, and that is Grandma when she comes to visit. The day ends and finally Baby is sleepy. Now the parents can sleep too – or can they?

Illustrator and writer Bob Shea has created a picture book that many parents will relate to. (The relief on the parents' faces when Grandma arrives to take over is priceless.) There are plenty of gags about the chaos a baby brings to a household, about nerves stretched to breaking point, all while Baby narrates this story with a type of insouciant glee.

Colourful, bold retro-style illustrations coupled with a fun take on parenting make this a winner. Ages 2-6.

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

Wayne's pin proved a right royal hit

Lizzy Footner

In the 37 years Wayne Lynch has run his Errol Street jewellery shop, the master jeweller has built strong connections with the local community.

After starting in the industry in 1970 as a 15-year-old apprentice, he is now supported in the business by his son Adam. They focus on bespoke designs and take customers strictly by appointment.

Wayne has many colourful stories to share. One that locals may not have heard is the significant role he played in the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

His creative work was on full show in the opening ceremony. "I won a competition to design a stick pin to be worn on all 300 athletes' uniforms. There was no payment, I was just proud to do it as an Australian," he says.

Wayne's beautiful design, crafted in solid bronze and hard plated in 9 carat gold, helped raise funds for the Australian team. "The public could buy one for about \$50. Thousands were sold and the receipts went to support our athletes," he says.

The stick pin linked the 1986 Edinburgh Games with the 1982 Games held in Brisbane. Veterans will recall the unforgettable mascot Matilda, the giant kangaroo that could turn its head, wriggle its ears and wink its eye.

Wayne's stick pin had Matilda, at left, facing a male partner christened MacRoo – a tribute to the host city, Scotland's second biggest. "Of course, the gender rules and terms have changed since," Wayne says.

He says it wasn't only our athletes and community members who wore his stick pin. "About six were sent to the Royal Family. I later saw a photo of Queen Elizabeth wearing the pin."

Wayne received a letter from Buckingham Palace, signed by the Queen's secretary. "It came in an envelope with the royal logo on it. The

Queen didn't use stamps," he grins.

The framed letter is now a proud memento in his Errol Street shop. "Her Majesty was presented with your badge by the Australian team during the Commonwealth Games and greatly admired it," it said.

Another memory remains. "A customer said to me he had one of the original badges. I said the only way he'd have one is if he was an Australian Games athlete," Wayne says.

The rejoinder came in a flash. "Yes, I was on the Australian team!"

Lizzy Footner writes regularly for the News.



Wayne Lynch holding a diamond in tweezers. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

The Centre Courses & Activities (Dec'22 – Apr'23)

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne hosts programs and activities for locals. Some are brand new, others have been running for decades! We try and offer programs that people in our community want to see happen. Use the following link to register your interest for forthcoming programs and share your ideas about what you think we should offer. Or if you are interested in a course but the time doesn't suit, let us know. Maybe you even want to offer something yourself.

<https://forms.office.com/r/nqyCDTTt5S>

Bookings: www.centre.org.au, 9328 1126, in person at The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne



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

Thursdays 8 pm-9 pm

Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne

Extra holiday classes 10 and 17 January 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 12 and 19 January

Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne

Timetable: Pilates classes operate according to the school term timetable. Term 4 concludes in week commencing 12 December. Term 1 in 2023 starts in week commencing 30 January 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, with a great view, 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

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.

Tuesdays 10am - 11am starting 31 January for 10 weeks

Wednesdays 10.30 am -11.30 am starting 1 February for 10 weeks

Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)

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 (not December)

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 (commencing 2 February)

Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne

Cost: \$17.50 (\$11 Concession) per session when booking for the term.

Casual enrolment online \$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 Tuesday of the month 6 pm-7.30 pm (not December)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Digital Story Telling

A story is not just a lot of information; stories help us connect with others and build understanding. In this course you will work with facilitators to tell your story in a way that engages people in a journey of emotion and learning. You will learn the skills to represent your story in a digital format, using video and audio technologies.

Wednesdays, 6pm – 8pm (starting March 1 for four weeks)

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\$30 (\$20 concession)

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 of our flexible pricing policy, contact The Centre.

Community Gatherings

End of Year Celebration

Join with others from the community for a relaxed celebration to mark the end of the 2023.

Thursday 15 December, 4pm - 7pm
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre & Outside
4 Miller Street West Melbourne
FREE See page 2 for details

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 in January
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.
Last session 8 December; recommences 19 January
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 (not December) 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)
– The Centre, 58 Errol St, North 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, mixed media 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

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)

Mondays 4.30–5.30pm (starting 30 January for 10 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Taste of South America Dance for Kids

A beginners' class for kids wanting to learn folkloric dance! This fun class will teach students the fundamentals of Latin American dancing, origin and keeping rhythm. Participants will get to perform at the 2023 Spanish Language Fiesta. For children aged 6 to 12.

Thursdays, 4:30pm – 5:15pm (starting 2 February for 8 weeks)
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)
\$112 (\$88 concession)

PLUS SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Thursday 19 January, 10:30am – 11:15am
\$14 (\$11 concession)

Skills For Work & Life

Computers: Digital Essentials

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

Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
(starting 1 February for 10 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$60 (\$45 Concession)



Making Your Phone Work For You

Who said phones were made for calling people every now and then? Modern day "smartphones" are mobile computers, and used for all matter of activities. Globally people spend an average of 3.25 hours on their phones each day. So how do we make the most of this time and make sure our phones help us in our lives, not dictate them? This course covers setting up your phone, choosing apps, using the cloud and phone security.

Wednesdays, 1pm – 3pm (starting 23 February for six weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$30 (\$20 concession)

See also Digital Story Telling in Creative Pursuits.

Beginners' Spanish

Learn the language spoken by more than 500 million people across the Americas and Spain: Español A friendly conversation-based class that will prepare you for travelling, or simply get you ready for the Spanish Language Fiesta. With Colombian-born Katherine Taborda.

Tuesdays 6:15pm-7:45pm (starting 31 January for 10 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$181.50 (\$121 concession)

Event Management

Gain an insight into what goes into designing, developing and implementing an event, such as a local community festival. The course covers topics including event concept and design, community development principles, marketing & sponsorship, event staging and logistics, financial management, risk, health and safety, staffing and volunteers, and event evaluation. You will be learning skills hands-on, as part of event teams organising the North Melbourne Spanish Language Fiesta and Holi Festival in the first half of 2023.

Saturdays 11 and 25 February, 1pm – 5pm,
plus online activities and on-the-ground work experience
The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne
\$60 (\$45 concession)

School Holidays

School Holiday Coding Program

Learning coding helps develop both thinking skills and creativity, especially valuable for children and young people. When you learn to code, you are learning to translate ideas, instructions and your imagination into something new - maybe a game, a working robot or something else.

This course will help you learn to code in Python, a popular coding language that is uniquely easy to understand, even for kids with no programming experience, yet is super powerful and drives programs like YouTube, Instagram and Spotify. Over the three days you will learn some of the basic Python concepts, terms and operations. You will write some basic programs and get started on making your first Python application (maybe even a game). *Designed for ages 10-15.*

Monday 16, Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 January
10am to 3pm each day
The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne
\$90 / \$55

Thanks to everyone who came to Queensberry Cup on Saturday 22 October. With 5000 people attending during the day and evening, the theory that locals of North Melbourne and West Melbourne were keen to get out on the street and celebrate post-COVID was proven correct.

We hope you had a great day and enjoyed the festivities in various forms.

Particular thanks to the 30 people who participated in the inaugural Queensberry Cup billycart challenge. Watching young and old take their chances down Queensberry Street on home-made unpowered vehicles was a pure delight.

While we may have wished for a faster course, there was one vehicle that showed the others what was possible. Congratulations to the Furlong family and especially 10-year-old Orlando, who took out the major prize in the impressive ORVI.

Putting on an event like this sure had its challenges. Where do you get 700 haybales at this time of year? What do you do with them afterwards? How can you keep the 57 tram going while running a festival metres from its tracks? How do you keep the event safe but nevertheless thrilling? Why are we setting up in the pouring rain?

The organising team led by Yulay Perez rose to the challenge and answered these questions and more.

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



Many thanks to Yulay and the team of volunteers who helped make this event the success that it was. If you attended and would like to share your experience, please complete our audience survey via the QR code:



We look forward to Queensberry Cup returning next year. If you would like to get involved, we'll welcome your involvement. This is a community festival: for the community, with the community and by the community.

There was further cause for celebration with the *North & West Melbourne News* winning the best community newspaper in Victoria award from the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria. After a couple of years of being

co-runner up, we took out the top gong for 2022.

Congratulations to Maurice, Anne, Janet, Rashi and all the writers, advertisers, deliverers and those working behind the scenes. It is a well-deserved accolade for a newspaper run entirely by volunteers.

The spring issue of the News included a story on new staff member Jorge Jorquera. Jorge is now taking on an expanded role at The Centre as community development and education coordinator.

This follows the departure of Alex Gyles to a full-time role with the Institute for Human Security and Social Change. We also farewelled Furdus Suliman, who will be staying in the local community, working for North Melbourne Language and Learning.

Lastly, on behalf of The Centre, we invite the community to the **End of Year celebration on Thursday 15 December** (see page 2), and wish all our readers a very merry festive season and a fun, productive and satisfying 2023."



Tinesia plays a fine tune on her guzheng

Rashi Jain

Recent visitors to The Centre might have been lucky enough to run into community engagement intern Tinesia Yu.

At the end of her Centre placement, she told the News she had loved her time as an intern.

"I enjoyed designing posters and thinking of ways to engage the community in sports and recreational events," she said.

Tinesia's life has been full of change. Born in the UK, she was just two when the family moved to China. "I made a lot of friends in school because we always had the same classmates every year," she said.

She has fond memories of China's socially integrated community. "I was able to just rock up at my friend's house and hang out with them for as long as I wanted and nobody questioned me."

At nine, the family was back in England where she says she became an introvert.

"I didn't have a lot of friends. My aunty was very strict and made sure I learned my table manners and etiquette," she said.

Outside the home, England proved a culture shock. "The streets were so quiet with barely any people around. China was so noisy with lots happening everywhere," she said.

The rigorous Chinese school curriculum helped Tinesia in England. "I was handed a maths quiz at my new school soon after returning from China. I finished in 10 minutes and ended up studying advanced maths."

At 14, she came to Darwin and lived there with her mother until last year when she moved to Melbourne to further her studies.

For someone who recalls shops and restaurants being open till late

at night back in China, she found Melbourne very different. "It's a bit scary to be out at night when it's so quiet," she said.

However, there's an upside. "I really like Australia because it is not as competitive as China and it is safe and comfortable. China will stay my holiday destination for good food," she smiled.

With all her globetrotting, there has been one unwavering constant in Tinesia's life. It's the guzheng, a zither-like traditional Chinese musical instrument with at least 18 strings and moveable bridges and played with a plectrum.



Tinesia Yu playing the guzheng.

Singers enliven Centre AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne was held at Sokol Melbourne on Monday 26 September.

Twenty-eight people attended or sent in their proxies. Kate Ritchie, Kay Oke and Lorna Hannan were re-elected to serve on the nine-person committee of management.

Normally a procedural affair, this year's AGM was brightened by the addition of music provided by Lisa-Marie Parker Vocal Studio. Kate Schmidli sang *Tonight* from *West Side Story* and 9-year-old North Melbourne resident Mira Devraj sang *Cruella De Vil* from *101 Dalmatians*. Both singers, pictured above, were accompanied by pianist Alistair Smith.



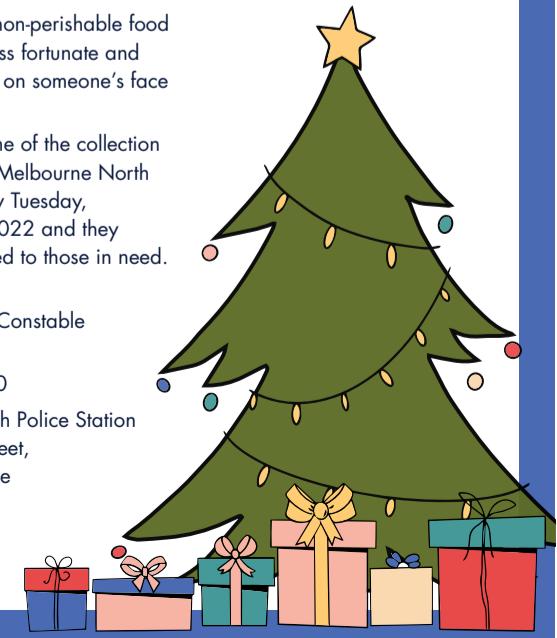
Melbourne North Police in conjunction with the Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee are holding a

CHRISTMAS TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

Donate toys or non-perishable food items to those less fortunate and help put a smile on someone's face this Christmas!

Drop items at one of the collection points or to the Melbourne North Police Station by Tuesday, 13 December 2022 and they will be distributed to those in need.

Enquiries
Leading Senior Constable
Nick Parassis
(03) 8379 0800
Melbourne North Police Station
36 Wreckyn Street,
North Melbourne



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.

Finance

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News distribution

The News is distributed free throughout North & West Melbourne. Get in touch if you know of anyone not receiving their copy. Copies are available from The Centre, North Melbourne Library and online at www.centre.org.au. Subscriptions are \$20 per year (four issues) sent to anywhere in Australia.

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.

Editor: Maurice Gaul

Production: Anne Burgi

Advertising: Janet Graham

Distribution: Rashi Jain

Proofreader: Suzie Luddon

Photographer: Jim Weatherill

Illustrator: Ed Zhao

Writers: Michelle Brett, Lizzy

Footner, Maurice Gaul, Katianna Grosser, Stephen Hatcher, Very Impressive, Rashi Jain, Nancy Lane, Suzie Luddon, Laura Misale, Nebojsa Pajkic, Nicole Pereira, Geoff Pound, Georgie Preston, Zoe Sheridan, John H. Smith, Gavan Tobin

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St Mary Star of the Sea Christmas Concert

Choirs from St Mary Star of the Sea and St Francis Church, Melbourne, accompanied by music from St Mary's magnificent antique pipe organ

Time: Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm

Tickets: \$20 per adult or \$50 per family (includes children under 16 years of age)

This is a fundraiser to help repair the church's roof and gutters, which have been severely damaged by storms over the past few years.

More information and bookings:

www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org

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 15) answers



Kryptic Kwiz (page 14) answers

1. Corr (*The Corrs*)
2. Greenwood (*Whistling Gypsy*)
3. (Elizabeth) Taylor
4. (Robert) Scott
5. (Ingrid) Bergman
6. (Toad) Hall
7. (Erin) Phillips
8. (Cliff) Young
9. Slender
10. Riddell (*Riddells Creek*)
11. Ashmore (*Reef*)
12. (Belle) Gibson
13. Eddey (*Eddie McGuire*)
14. Rennie
15. (Old) McDonald
16. Archer
17. (Gerald) Ford
18. (George) Stephenson
19. (Colin) Powell
20. (Ron) Walker
21. Randall (*Steve Randell*)
22. (Hugh) McKay
23. (*Doubting*) Thomas
24. (*Judith*) Wright
25. (Glen) Campbell
26. Hamilton
27. (Roger) Bannister
28. (Helen) Garner
29. Goater (*Lonely Goatherd*)
30. (Bob) Brown

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

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Summer 2023

Copy deadline: Friday 3 November

Copy deadline: Friday 1 December

Christmas Services, North and West Melbourne



St James Old Cathedral, Anglican

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

Sunday 18 December 10.00am Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 24 December 11.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Sunday 25 December 10.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion

All services live-streamed on youtube.com/stjamesoldcathedral

For more information visit www.sjoc.org.au

St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic

Corner Victoria and Howard streets, West Melbourne

Saturday 24 December 10.00am Mass (English); 5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass;

11.30pm Carols before Midnight Mass; 12.00 midnight Solemn Midnight Mass

Sunday 25 December 10.00am Mass of Christmas Day; 11.30am Lithuanian Mass

Friday 30 December (The Holy Family) 12.30pm Mass (English)

Saturday 31 December 10.00am Mass (English); 10.30pm New Year Eve Mass

Sunday 1 January (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) 10.00am Mass (English); 5.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 8 January (Solemnity of the Epiphany) 10.00am & 5.30pm Mass (English)

Monday 9 January (Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) 7.00am & 12.30pm Mass (English)

St Mary's, Anglican

Corner Queensberry and Howard streets, North Melbourne

Sunday 18 December 8.00am & 10.00am Sunday Service; 7.00pm Carol Service – a Festival of Lessons and Carols

Saturday 24 December 11.30pm Christmas Eve (midnight mass)

Sunday 25 December 9.00am Christmas Day Service

St Michael's, Catholic

456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne

Not available at time of going to press

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic

35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Dryburgh Street)

Sunday 25 December 9.30am (Ukrainian); 11.30am (English)

Ukrainian Christmas: Saturday 7 January 9.30am (Ukrainian); 11.30am (English)

Sunday 8 January 9.30am (Ukrainian); 11.30am (English)

Monday 9 January 9.30am

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist

51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne

The congregation meets in the church hall, 4 Elm Street.

Sunday 18 December 10.00am Service of Advent Carols and Readings

Sunday 25 December 9.30am Christmas Day with Eucharist

West Melbourne Baptist Church

4 Miller Street, West Melbourne

Sunday 18 December 5.30pm Christmas Music by the Melbourne Chamber

Choir and Community Carol Singing

Sunday 25 December 9.30am Christmas Day Service for all the community

Enquiries: 8394 7139

NWMN advertisement sizes and rates for 2023

| Size | Colour | Mono |
|--|------------|------------|
| Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high) | \$1,795.00 | \$1,560.00 |
| Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high) | \$900.00 | \$785.00 |
| One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high) | \$650.00 | \$575.00 |
| One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high) | \$485.00 | \$415.00 |
| One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high) | \$245.00 | \$210.00 |
| One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high) | \$130.00 | \$115.00 |
| Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high) | \$115.00 | \$95.00 |
| • Prices inclusive of GST | | |
| • Book four consecutive issues to receive 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 information and bookings, email: advertising@centre.org.au | | |



A surprise around every corner

Images and words by Nancy Lane

Many North and West Melbourne residents love sharing their sense of humour or sense of the absurd – often combined with a sense of beauty – with their neighbours.

Around a corner, down a laneway ... you never know what you might find. A giant carp on a roller door? A cat who must approve all guests? Perhaps even a brick with a wig?

I love walking our local streets and laneways, peering over fences just to see what I can see.

- 1 Window growing a beard on Haines Street
- 2 Caged brick with a wig on Warwick Street
- 3 Carp swimming up a roller door in Trafalgar Place
- 4 Love-a-duck puppet hanging around on Provost Street
- 5 High up heavyweight on Arden Street
- 6 If a watering can can, so can a cat on Courtney Street
- 7 Driftwood horsing around on Courtney Street
- 8 An octuply locked rubbish bin on Jeffcott at Adderley Street
- 9 The Hanging Gardens of Wing Sing Lane
- 10 Hubcap haven on Purcell Street
- 11 A tartan plaid door on Leveson Street
- 12 A skeletal back gate on Webbs Lane
- 13 Impromptu art gallery window on Courtney Street
- 14 Garden without boundaries on Roden Street
- 15 A cat who has the final say on visitors to Provost Street

