



Hotham Mission cooking coordinator Carlotta Pischedda with fresh ingredients from the garden.

Cooking classes a tasty treat

Carlotta Pischedda

Hotham Mission provides education support, food relief and other general support to young people and their families in North Melbourne and surrounding areas.

One of the Mission's programs, Food for Thought, is an initiative in which we work with schools, community service providers and agencies to provide young people and families with access to fresh and non-perishable food.

Since February we have been running weekly cooking classes for Years 11 and 12 at nearby Mount Alexander College. Our aim is to teach students how to cook delicious meals from scratch using fresh ingredients and to show them that preparing a good meal requires patience and creativity.

The cooking program fits into the college's extra curricular offerings. The school has been most helpful in getting the innovative program up and running through the support

of teacher Jordan Donnelly.

Once students understand the basic chemical principles of cooking, they are able to make anything they desire. By learning about emulsification, proper vegetable cooking techniques and how to identify and fix errors, students develop the knowledge and skills they need to prepare delicious and healthy meals.

Teaching the students to cook in a 75-minute class is challenging, but the youngsters' enthusiasm makes it all worthwhile. Together, we have tackled complex dishes like ramen and vegan burgers, as well as simpler recipes like bruschetta and stir-fries.

There is no formal assessment and no marks or grades are awarded. The emphasis is on enjoyment, the acquisition of culinary skills and the satisfaction that each of the 22 students gains.

The organisation is simple. Fresh fruit and vegetables are usually bought at Alphington Farmers Market. The dishes are prepared on Mondays in a Mount

Alexander College kitchen and, on Thursdays, are eaten by the class and their guests, students from nearby Flemington Primary.

We make sure the food, always either vegan or vegetarian, not only tastes good but also looks attractive, with a premium placed on bright colours. A recent highlight was a red curry, with care taken that it wasn't too spicy for tender taste buds!

At the end of each class, it's been heartwarming to hear the students' positive feedback. Many have said how much they have enjoyed the class and that they plan to try the dish at home for family and friends.

"It's the most fun I've ever had at school, and cooking is the best thing I've ever learned," Year 12 student Jack said after a recent session. Our cooking program has obviously proved to his taste.

Carlotta Pischedda is coordinator of Hotham Mission's Food for Thought program.

Ready ... set ... join the race

The Queensberry Cup returns to North Melbourne on Saturday 21 October. Even though it is more than four months away, there's been lots of work preparing for it. There's a new racetrack course planned, one that will be faster and more demanding than the 2022 inaugural version.

We are calling for local performers who want to get up on stage. We're also looking for sponsors and stallholders who value the opportunity to connect with up to 10,000 attendees on the day. And we're keen for people to join the community committee to shape the event.

Billycart entries open on 17 July, so start thinking about your creation now! See www.queensberrycup.org.au for all the details.



St Mary's Anglican Church hall in Queensberry Street hosted its annual fete in early May. Locals who braved the cold, wet and windy weather were rewarded with a fine selection of handcrafts, paintings, and home-made cakes and preserves. Prolific gardener and News columnist Marion Poynter was among those whose talents were on show. See page 16.





Goodbye and thanks, Geoff

The Rev. Geoff Pound arrived in 2019 as the new minister at the West Melbourne Baptist Church. Little did we know what we were in for.



Geoff immediately became enmeshed in our community and a selfless advocate for refugees and all those on the margins. He also quickly became a great friend of the News. It was a win-win for both of us.

Geoff saw that the News was itself a community builder, one that complemented his own fine work. The paper in return appreciated his own excellent stories, all of which arrived with his disarming humility: "Do you think this is good enough? Will it suit?" It always did!

With Geoff's encouragement and support, the News became a better paper, a warmer one more reflective of this extraordinarily diverse area.

Geoff has moved on from our community and, despite my best efforts to dissuade him, he has decided he will not be part of the News' future.

Geoff, the News will always be in your debt. You were the best friend the News (and its editor) could ever have hoped for.

— Maurice Gaul,
editor of the News



Farewell to Prime teacher Bill

The North Melbourne Recreation Centre Prime class farewelled one of its longest-serving gym instructors, Bill Mooney, at Gardiner Reserve at the end of April. Bill (seated in the photograph) will be heading off on a motorbike trip through the Outback to Darwin and return.

A-1's Mark Hands seen back in town

Spotted on Errol Street: Mark Hands, owner of A-1 Used Computers previously located on Queensberry Street. Having recovered from a stroke, Mark has been in Portland for the last six months caring for his mother. He brought her to Melbourne for treatment in hospital, and she will happily be going back home soon.

Mark said how much he misses all his former customers and friends in North Melbourne, and plans to return when circumstances allow. We have missed you, too, Mark, and hope to see you back before too long to fix all our ageing and ailing computers.

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All programs at The Centre
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Enquiries: 9328 1126
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Arts House Neighbourhood Briefing

Come along and hear about Arts House's Season 2 program (July-December), as we unveil a freshly painted North Melbourne Town Hall.

Co-Artistic Directors Emily Sexton and Nithya Nagarajan will chat through our performances, exhibitions and talks.

Meet your neighbours over a light morning tea, and enjoy a cello music performance from Season 2 artist Zoe Barry.

10.30am Wednesday 5 July

FREE

www.artshouse.com.au for more info

St Michael's mural links us to the land

Luisa Vivarelli

St Michael's Primary School's new colourful mural was officially unveiled to the community during Reconciliation Week, which began in the last week of May.

The spectacular painting was designed to reflect our connection to Wurundjeri land on which our school sits.

A parallel aim was to represent our students' journey and to depict the many connections and relationships in our school community.

The mural was painted by contemporary Aboriginal artist Merindah-Gunya ('Beautiful Spirit' in Peek Whurrong language).

Merindah-Gunya is a proud Kirrae and Peek Whurrong woman of the Gunditjmara nation of south-western Victoria.

Positioned in the new undercroft,

the mural faces Flemington Road and is particularly spectacular at night when illuminated by the lights in the undercroft.

Principal Denise Hussey is thrilled at how it has quickly become a striking community landmark.

"When driving past our school last night, I could see how prominent it is. It looked wonderful," she says.

"Children have been bringing their parents to show it off. They are so proud of it and the school," acting deputy principal Angela Flint says.

Another innovative arts project involves the two beautiful canvases currently on display in our new building. They were created after our visual arts teachers worked with Merindah-Gunya.

Luisa Vivarelli is visual arts educator at St Michael's.



Aboriginal artist Merindah-Gunya with her mural at St Michael's.



The Melbas: Nami Nelson, Louise Olliffe, Janine Dillon, Jane Olliffe and Laura Lynch.

Marvellous Melbas ready to welcome a refugee family

Geoff Pound

North Melbourne resident Dr Louise Olliffe, senior policy adviser for the Refugee Council of Australia, recently decided to take her own advice.

Last August, Louise saw an article about how everyday Australians can sponsor refugees to come here. She had been aware of a pilot program, Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP), and thought, "Why not put my money where my mouth is?"

What was needed was not so much money but a group of five volunteers who were committed to providing support to a refugee household for the first 12 months after their arrival.

Louise decided to act. "I sent a message to the people in my network who I thought might be interested in doing something like this. Soon, our group, which we've called 'The Melbas', was formed," she says.

Now The Melbas are waiting to welcome a family of five (mum, dad and three young children) from Oromia, a regional state of Ethiopia, who have been living as refugees in Kenya for many years.

Before being matched with a refugee household, the Melbas had to complete a two-day training course, undertake the standard police and working with children checks, open a group bank account, complete an initial settlement plan with a budget and start fundraising.

It has been helpful for the Melbas to have Louise, a researcher and consultant on refugee policy, as the leader of the group. However, one of the five – Louise's sister, Jane Olliffe – is adamant that anyone can get involved in the program and no special expertise or experience with refugees is necessary for a CRISP group to be successful.

"To anyone contemplating forming a CRISP group, give it a go! You will

be part of a team and there is lots of support out there," she says.

Louise explains that training and support are both available for a newly formed group. "The Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) provides both training and ongoing support to groups. The only requirement is a group that works well as a team, is willing to listen and learn, and to help solve problems as they arise, and to walk alongside a family in their first year in Australia."

As the Melbas wait to welcome their new Ethiopian family to Melbourne, Louise says she is thrilled with the new group.

"I've really marvelled at how incredibly open, inventive, capable and skilful the Melba women are, and how generous people in our networks have been. There is amazing goodwill in our community!"

Geoff Pound has been a regular contributor to the News since early 2000. (See page 2)

Community Comment

Simonds College principal Peter Riordan quizzed his staff about their childhood sporting heroes



Christian Tringali, college captain

My childhood hero was basketballer Shaquille O'Neal, one of the greatest of all time. At 2.16 m and 150 kg, he was a monster.



Robert Anastasio, deputy principal

My hero was Peter Bosustow, an early-1980s star at Carlton. Jack Dyer got it wrong when he called 'Buzz' just a "good ordinary player".



Molly Brown, head of PE

Michael Jordan was the greatest – better than Magic, LeBron and Shaq. He led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles and he transcended basketball.



Alicia Keighran, Year 8 coordinator

Tia-Clair Toomey-Orr is still my hero. A six-time CrossFit winner, she's the world's fittest woman. A shining light for women in a male-dominated sport.

Choir warms up to find its voice

Kate Ritchie

The weather might have turned cool in North and West Melbourne, but this term's focus for the SingNoW community choir has turned out to be a real heart warmer.

We have been supporting appeals and activities for more than 20 years – ranging from a billycart race (local Queensberry Cup) to a bushfire appeal to raising money for the township of Mia Mia to get a new fire truck. When we see a good cause, we put our singing voices on.

This term the choir has decided to become part of 'Voices for Generations', an Australia-wide movement to sing together and contribute to National Reconciliation Week, which started in the last week of May.

We decided to take up the challenge to support this excellent cause and also to spotlight The Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

In just three rehearsals, our excellent leader Susie Kelly has turned us into



Sing NoW choristers are all smiles at rehearsal.

performers fit to appear on that other *Voice* show, the TV one.

However, back to our challenge. We had to learn a two-part harmonised adaptation of *From Little Things Big Things Grow* and to recall the inspiring story behind Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody's wonderful lyrics.

Susie's moving arrangement with its cadences and crescendos and the inspiring tale of Vincent

Lingiari showed how when people unite behind a cause, great things can happen. Here, a community choir hitting the right notes and an Indigenous voice.

The awesome recording of our choristers giving full voice to this anthem, our smiling faces and perfect harmonies can be seen on The Centre's Facebook page. It is going to be an earworm, a song you won't be

able to get out of your mind, for some time to come.

It's such a heart-warming song. We all totally enjoyed learning it and we hope you will enjoy it, too.

Meanwhile, we await the opportunity to get onto that other *Voice* on TV.

We can be contacted through The Centre, Errol Street. If you'd like to be part of a bigger voice, we rehearse

on Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 8.30 pm at Sokol, 497 Queensberry Street during school terms. All are welcome.

Kate Ritchie is a member of Sing NoW.

Want to know more?

Check out our video at www.facebook.com/thecentrenorthwestmelbourne/videos/629114912425670

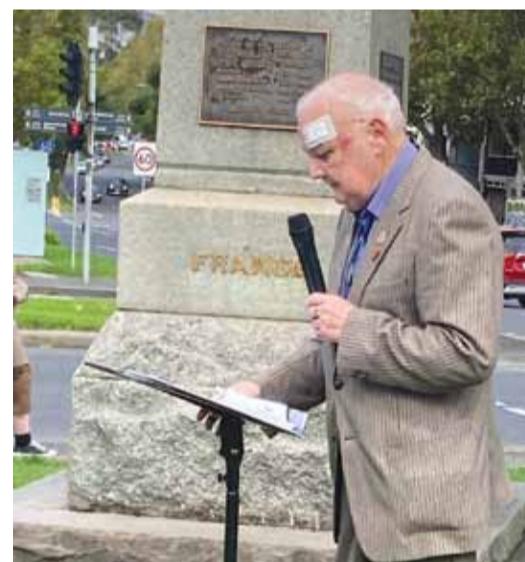
Anzac Day: a time to honour those who serve



Anzac Day was marked with a local ceremony at the cenotaph on the corner of Hawke and King streets. The gathering was presented by Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women (North & West Melbourne Sub-branch) together with The Centre.

Attendees were addressed by Legion secretary Trevor Evans (right) and Michael Halls (far right). Unfortunately Legion president Charlie Elliot was absent this year as he is in hospital recovering from a spinal infection.

The ceremony included wreath laying, flag raising and the haunting notes of the Last Post performed by bugler Allan Hessey, and was followed by refreshments at the historic Legion hall.



Anna embraces a new life in Vietnam

Anna Huynh

Hello to everyone in North and West Melbourne from sunny Vietnam.

It's now three long years since, as a North Melbourne resident and an international student of media and communications at Swinburne Uni, I joined the *News*.

I wrote one story – then COVID exploded. It hit me hard as I had no work, no income, no Australian citizenship or financial support of any kind. I simply couldn't cover my tuition and living expenses.

I was totally isolated. I couldn't eat or sleep. I had no money. It was a freezing winter. I had no option but to return home and I flew out of Tulla, enclosed in a full-body PPE suit that turned the plane into a sauna.

As soon as we landed in Vietnam we were all bussed to two-weeks' quarantine in a military base in the mountains. I wrote about this experience for the summer 2020 *News* and I was honoured that my story won the award for best feature in a community newspaper in Victoria.

I have since created a new life in Vietnam. I completed my media course online and picked up some short-term work here in Vietnam. Then, a breakthrough! In January I began my new 'official' job working remotely for a Singapore-based event service company.

While I am currently mainly working

in Vietnam, the new job will require me to travel around Asia in the next few months. So who knows, you might bump into me in Thailand or Singapore!

North Melbourne is never far from my mind and I often think of my years spent in that beautiful area. I really miss the cafes, the squeaky 57 tram, my regular walks to the Queen Vic market to pick up fresh produce, and laying down my picnic blanket in the parks.

Have things changed since 2020? I love to keep up with the local news through The Centre's regular e-links to the *News*. When I see stories and pictures of local people and places, I miss them all. But I don't miss the galloping inflation that my Melburnian friends constantly complain about.

I'm excited that I have recently been asked to be a volunteer translator for The Centre. I hope my doing so will help local Vietnamese to connect with the wider community.

The road since my return in late-2020 hasn't always been a smooth one. But with my new job, I'm now happy and settled. Life is good.

I hope to be back for my graduation in August. If I do so, my first stop will be the Errol Street cafés. I bet the coffee is just as good as I remember it.

*Anna Huynh wrote regularly for the *News* in 2020 and has since sent occasional updates on her new life in Vietnam.*



Anna at work in a Saigon café.

Facelift for Town Hall ahead of its 150th birthday

Anyone who has been in Errol Street in recent times will have seen the scaffolding dominating the corner of Queensberry and Errol streets.

The City of Melbourne is restoring the facade of the iconic Town Hall.

It's timely work, with the magnificent Victorian-era building approaching its 150th birthday. It was built in 1876 to a design by architect G. R. Johnson.

The work, which is scheduled to finish in mid-2023, is being done in sections, starting on Queensberry Street then moving onto Errol Street and the 26-metre clock tower.

The council is also considering four different scenarios for the creation of a new public space next to the Town Hall.

The new space was proposed by the council in June last year.

The preliminary layout options are being considered by the council's Future Melbourne Committee.

A report to council noted that "once confirmation of viable layouts has been determined, community engagement to determine the level of community interest and support for the viable layouts can progress".

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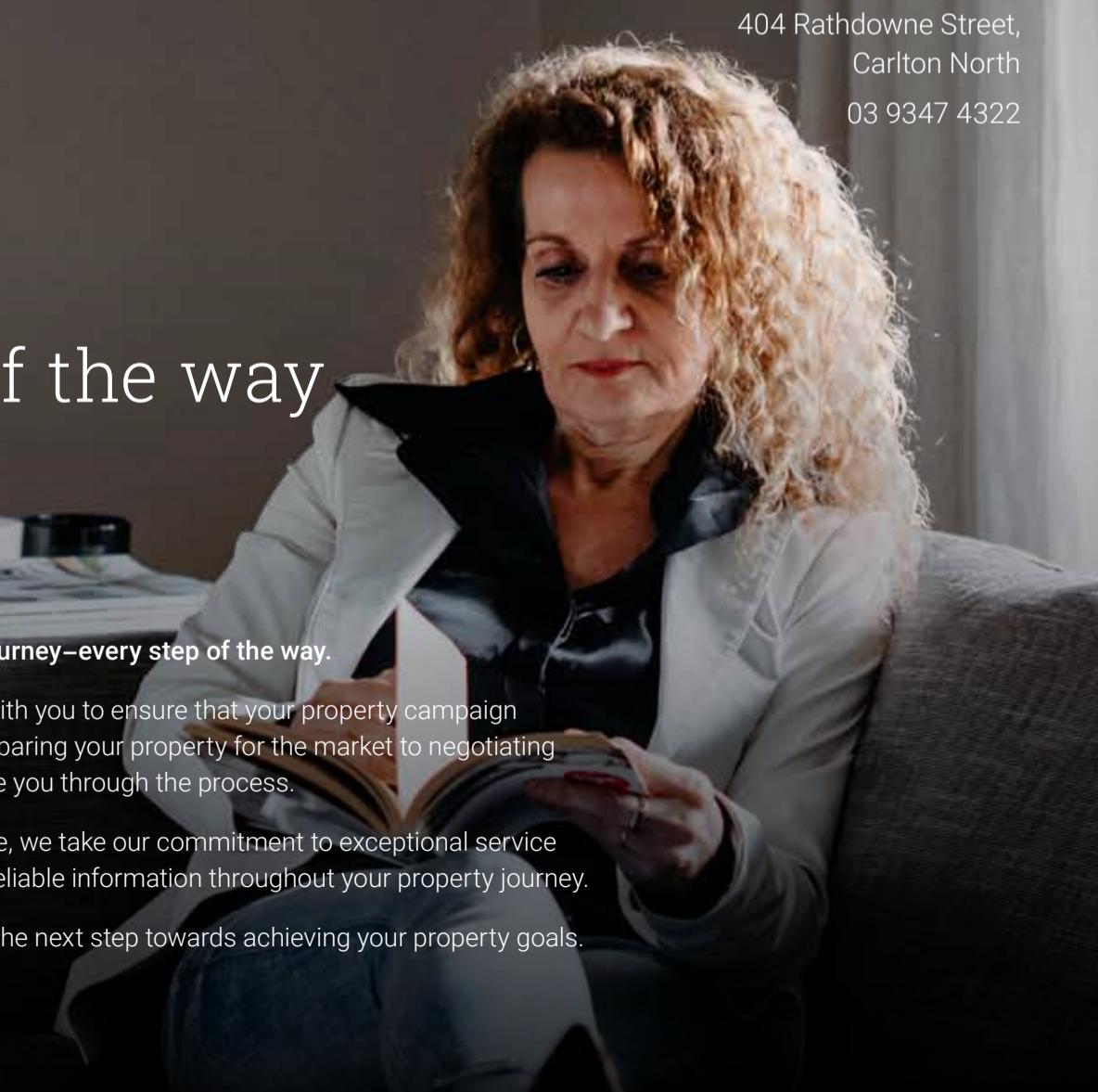
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Michelle Brett

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

McEwan's naughty caper was to nab Draper's paper (1884)

Robert McEwan was charged with stealing a newspaper that belonged to Ebenezer Draper. McEwan had been employed by a local newsagent to sell papers and, upon being one short, took the paper that had been left on Draper's Curzon Street verandah. McEwan was fined five shillings or 24 hours imprisonment.

Madden judged to be mad and sent to the asylum (1884)

Edward Madden was charged by police with being a lunatic. The court was told Madden had led a sober and industrious life but had recently suffered from fits of religious mania. Two doctors deposed that he was unfit to be at large, and the bench ordered that he be sent to Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum.

Selling dodgy gin proved no tonic for ill hotelier (1884)

Two local licensees, Michael Godfrey (Commercial Hotel, Curzon Street) and John Longham (Royal Park Hotel, Queensberry Street), fronted the Bench charged with selling inferior gin. Godfrey claimed he had been ill, but each was issued a strict warning and fined 20 shillings for placing the inferior liquor in J.D.K.Z. bottles.

Nicholls gets dressing down for nicking two dresses (1886)

Elizabeth Nicholls was charged with stealing two dresses from the Lothian Street home of James Carlton, where she had been working as a housekeeper. After he had found her intoxicated, he noticed that the garments were missing. Nicholls was arrested and the dresses were recovered. The bench ordered she be jailed for a week.

Baby on the way gives Mary a way out of jail (1886)

Mary Williams was charged with assaulting Catherine Thomas who testified Williams had struck her on the head with an axe. The defence argued that Thomas, overcome by passion, had fallen over a chair, cut her head and then smeared blood on the axe. The bench upheld the charge but extended leniency as Williams was entering her confinement.

Eva on slippery slope selling bad bananas (1888)

Thomas Eva was charged with selling food unfit for human consumption. Inspector Taylor of the Board of Health had noticed bad bananas in Eva's shop at the market. He testified that Eva had thrown them away and begged him not to pursue the matter. After Eva told the bench rain had spoiled the bananas, he was fined ten shillings.

Meat Market a home for Jane's creativity

Annette McQuarrie

Jane Clifton may be best known for her role as the tough-talking bookie Margo in the long-running Network 10 series *Prisoner*.

However, this talented singer, artist, writer, actor and cabaret performer has many more strings to her bow.

From her hit single *Girl in the Mirror* released by Mushroom Records and produced by Joe Camilleri, to television roles in *Neighbours*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* and *Carson's Law* as well as starring in musicals *Menopause the Musical*, *Mum's the Word* and *A Pack of Women*, Jane has had an extraordinary career.

She is also a successful author.

"I was first published in 2003. I wrote my book at the library because there was no room in my house where I could shut the door and my kids were quite young. But then I needed a little space of my own where I could leave my laptop, because I couldn't do that in the library," Jane says.

Photojournalist and close friend Chris Beck told her about the Meat Market in Blackwood Street, North Melbourne. This iconic Melbourne venue is home to artists, musicians, performers and other creatives.



Multi-talented entertainer Jane Clifton.

A small studio space had just become available, perfect for Jane to write in. She jumped at the opportunity.

In her 18 years at the Meat Market, Jane has produced three crime novels; a memoir (*The Address Book*), a book of poetry and has begun painting.

She says the venue is "such a great community".

"All sorts of creative people have shared this space, from author Shane Maloney (Murray Whelan Series crime

novels) to the Australian Jazz Festival," she says.

"You can either speak to people who want to talk to you or you can just lock your door and not be there. And we all look after the space. It's a beautiful, quiet space when all I want to do is work."

In 2018, Jane committed to writing one poem every day, eventually producing an amazing 365 poems in the year. They were published in 2019 under the title *A Day at a Time in Rhyme*.

Jane went on to perform, to positive critical acclaim, a successful one-woman version of *A Day at a Time in Rhyme* at La Mama Theatre.

She says it was a packed performance. "I lifted 40 of the poems out and I used slides, a couch and a writing table – it was a tight hour."

Way back in 2008, Jane had started writing a sitcom about being a marriage celebrant – but instead she decided to become one and she has never looked back.

Is there another memoir in the pipeline? "Yes! I'm writing a memoir about being a celebrant! There are so many stories and I'm also exploring the strong desire for ritual that we seem to have."

After a long career in the entertainment industry, she is confident there are still opportunities for young performers today.

"There are lots of colleges that can teach you about the business, but there are still the same number of jobs. I always say if you want to do it, you will find a way."

At 71, Jane is still practising what she preaches.

She sings with guitarist Jeff Burstin every Thursday night in South Melbourne; she is planning an art exhibition of her sketches and oil paintings; and she is in negotiation with Showcase Victoria to tour *A Day at a Time in Rhyme* throughout regional Victoria next year.

The whirlwind that is Jane Clifton is a force to be reckoned with.

Annette McQuarrie recently left the News after writing regularly for two years. She was enticed back by the chance to meet the legendary Jane Clifton.

Want to know more?

Jane Clifton's *A Day at a Time in Rhyme* is available through Amazon or via Jane's website <https://www.janeclifton.com.au>. Jane sings each Thursday from 7.00 pm at Claypots Evening Star seafood restaurant, South Melbourne.

Leveson Hotel strikes gold over 150 years



A long-lasting landmark: The Leveson hotel now ... and the El Dorado then.



The Leveson's manager, John Fox, behind the bar.

Felicity Jack

The Leveson Hotel, at 46 Leveson Street, North Melbourne, is still sometimes referred to by older residents of North Melbourne as the Eldorado, a name given to it in 1872. The name was changed in 2002 by then new owners, John Fox and Corey McKernan. For the past 10 years John has managed it with his wife, Emma.

Leveson Street was one of several roads used by those hoping to make their fortune on the goldfields. Former local historian Dr J. R. Blanchard, whose writing on the derivation of North Melbourne's street names is still a trusted source, wrote:

Leveson St was one of the busy routes to the 'diggings', where people believed there was unlimited gold for the picking and a rare opportunity of quick wealth. So the hotel took the fabulous name.

Blanchard's words are taken from an article by Barbara Gilchrist, published in July 1984 in the *North Melbourne News* (now the *North and West Melbourne News*). This piece borrows freely from that article.

Built in 1871 and licensed in 1872, the Eldorado was a solid-brick building with nine rooms, and it also housed North Melbourne's first bank, the English, Scottish & Australian bank that had moved from the Empire Hotel in Errol Street.

Blanchard also mentioned that a colourful figure of the early days was a boxer, who went by the name of Starlight. He lived at the Eldorado and trained in one of its upstairs rooms.

Much has changed over the decades, but much has remained the same. Barbara reported a lunchtime visit with family and friends to the Eldorado, which had then recently

Hotham History Project



been taken over by new managers, brothers Andrew and Ian Lindsay. Alf Quattrochi had been a previous owner before he moved to Errol Street's Town Hall Hotel.

In her story of now 39 years ago, Barbara praised the food served – tender schnitzels, fresh calamari steamed inside crispy batter. Vegetarian dishes were not yet on the menu so vegetarian Barbara asked the chef to provide her meal.

The result was more than she could eat. She reported it was: *a huge plate of dressed avocado pear, half a well-ripened Camembert cheese, tomato, lettuce, spring onions, coleslaw and just-crisped carrots and squash in melted butter with crackers.*

Many dishes mentioned – such as veal and chicken parmigianas, schnitzels, steak, calamari and fish – are still on the menu. The one thing that has definitely changed is the prices.

Barbara quoted a steak sandwich for \$2.80; the most expensive dish cost \$5.80. The food bill for four adults and three children totalled \$21.90.

The personal involvement of current manager John (known to many as 'Foxy') is similar to what Barbara would have enjoyed. It is that which contributes to the success and popularity of the Leveson.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.



Fanta the cat listens intently to Dr Seuss' Cat in the Hat.

Pets lend an ear to help young readers

Zelda Balsam

In March, a group of excited Grade fours and fives from Coolaroo South Primary School visited the Lort Smith Adoption Centre to be part of the nationwide Australian Reading Hour.

The children came to our Campbellfield adoption centre to do a bit of reading, but it wasn't standard classroom reading. No! They came

to read to our shelter cats and pet therapy dogs.

Megan Nutbean manages Lort Smith's pet therapy and community programs.

"Reading-to-animals programs are common in the US and are becoming increasingly popular in Australia. Studies show these programs to be beneficial for both children and animals," she said.

For children, reading to animals helps to improve feelings of safety and calm and provides a non-judgmental audience if the child lacks confidence in reading.

For shelter animals, being read to has been proven to reduce the stress, improve socialisation and ultimately make it more likely they will be adopted and find happy homes.

A trial run a week before the children's visit ensured they would be safe and the animals wouldn't be stressed.

Adoption centre manager Amanda Doolan selected Kobe the rabbit as the bunny for the test run.

"He had only just arrived at the centre and was nervous and skittish," Amanda said.

However, Kobe managed the session with flying colours. While he initially cowered in the corner of his hutch, he was quickly curious and hopped closer when little Harry began reading. Soon he was leaning so far out of his

cage he was almost landing on the page.

On the big day, many animals were read to. Kobe came back with his bunny mate Esteban for a second session.

Several shelter cats – Lucipurr, Fanta and Freddie – listened intently, while therapy dogs Pippa and Maddie loved the attention as the delighted youngsters read them stories.

The children absolutely loved it. "I liked reading my orange cat, Fanta, a story. She followed every word," 10-year-old Daisy said.

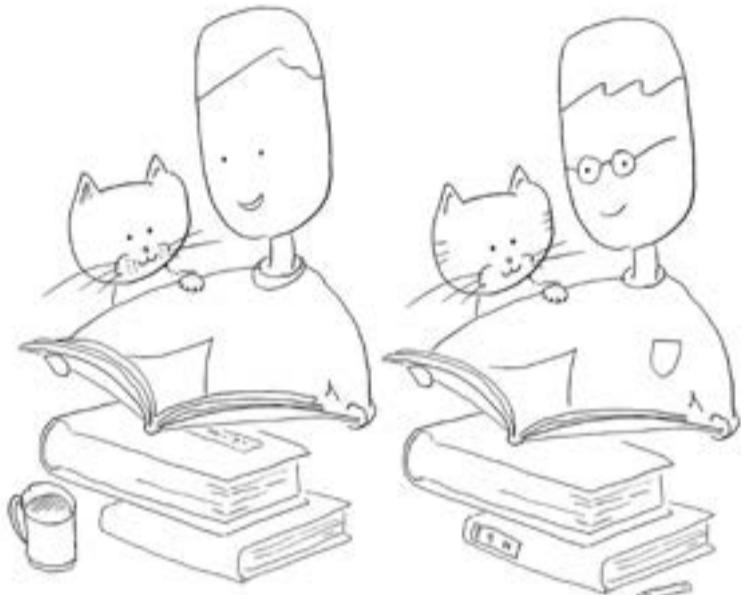
For eight-year-old Alex, a reluctant reader at school, the hour of reading to Pippa was a highlight. "It was much better than going to Timezone. I don't really like reading books, but the dogs loved it."

Lort Smith partnered with Hume Libraries to host the Australian Reading Hour event. We hope to be able to welcome more children into the adoption centre to read to the animals. They're good listeners!

Zelda Balsamo is digital marketing officer at Lort Smith.

Spot the Difference

News illustrator Ed Zhao has set readers a challenge. These illustrations may look the same, but there are 13 differences. Track them down and colour in the drawing. (Answers: page 27)



Kobe the rabbit is all ears as he enjoys Harry's story.

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Following our acquisition of a multi storey building on Chetwynd St and the completion of refurbishment of existing areas, we are thrilled to announce that SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE has become **ONE SCHOOL ON ONE CAMPUS**. By 2023 all students across Year 7-12 will be based at our West Melbourne site.

Limited places are currently available in 2023 for some year levels. Contact the school directly to begin the enrolment process.



Thank you, Eva, the lady of pianist fingers. It was Eva who found me. She was one of about seven people (also Jasper the gorgeous toy poodle) who stopped on the corners of Howard and Victoria streets last November when I was in the throes of a heart attack. Then she called an ambulance for me. My doctors have said that my event scored a nine out of ten for severity. I got so astoundingly angry.

★★★

Much of this year has seen me getting angry. I called our local police station complaining about noise caused by my loud upstairs neighbor, the one I frequently complain about. So I tried to raise a preemptive noise complaint against her, by calling our local Melbourne North Police Station. I have been hung up on by many people for many reasons, but never before have I been hung up on by a police officer. I've just got back from the station after entering a complaint.

★★★

Here's a note for those of you who have friends who attend ConFest alternative lifestyle festival. I was at ConFest in April but, as I didn't have a tent

VERY IMPRESSIVE

or a car, I was living in the communal costuming tent of Rainbow Camp, where my luggage was treated as a communal free-for-all. I would really like these items returned:

- A button-down long-sleeved shirt in brushed cotton, red tartan.
- Fluorescent yellow trilby with branched 'horns' on sides, yellow/black frog brooch on front.
- Most notably (don't know how anyone could have thought it was a freebie), my latest personal journal, which I had recently picked up again after starting it in 2017.

★★★

Paris has banned electric rental scooters, saying that "they're an unsightly blight upon the cityscape". Yet the City of Melbourne has extended their own trial by another six months, just to prove that we Really! Really! Don't Want Them!

★★★



There are so many sayings today that we borrow from Sir Willy Shakespeare. Knock, knock! Who's there? Fight fire with fire. Come what may. Bated breath. Faint hearted. Naked truth. What's done is done. Love is blind. Laughing stock. Full circle. Wild goose chase. Set your teeth on edge. Off with his head. Brave new world. A sorry sight. Green-eyed monster. The world is my oyster. Out of the jaws of death. Heart of gold.

★★★

Let's speak of powerful women. Cleopatra ascended the throne at 17 and died at 39. She spoke nine languages, including the language of Ancient Egypt and had learned to read hieroglyphics. She knew Greek and the languages of the Parthians, Hebrews, Medes, Troglodytes, Syrians, Ethiopians and Arabs. With this knowledge, any book in the world was open to her. She also studied geography, history, astronomy, international diplomacy, mathematics, alchemy, medicine, zoology, economics and other disciplines.



Country singer Dolly Parton wrote *I Will Always Love You* and *Jolene* on the same night. When the first song was atop the charts in 1974, Elvis wanted to record his own version. Dolly was interested until Elvis' manager, Colonel Tom Parker, said it was standard if the King covered a song, half of the future rights would go to him. She refused the deal. "I said 'I'm really, really sorry' and then I cried all night. Something in my heart told me not to do it, and I didn't."

How we painted the old town red when LBJ came to visit

TOBIN'S TALES Gavan Tobin

Alexander Road (the Tulla Freeway opened in early-1970) towards the CBD.

I waited, 35 mm camera in hand, in Flemington Road, near the Royal Children's. My dad, armed with his new 8 mm movie camera, was nearby, and his flickering film, now digitised, is a priceless record of that memorable day. It shows Army helicopters shadowing the motorcade, accompanied by dozens of police cars and motor cyclists, with squads of armed police or secret service agents perched atop Flemington Road bridge.

LBJ's car, with secret service agents clinging to the boot, whizzed past at a fair clip, too quick for the film to capture any details.

However, a photo I took reveals a grinning and animated LBJ waving expansively with an impassive, almost glum, Holt sitting beside him.

As the motorcade reached the city, the police, fearful of student protests, diverted the president's car from Elizabeth Street, westward at Queensberry Street. Thus it was that the world's most powerful man was driven through the streets of North Melbourne.

The story of LBJ and his entourage being sprayed with red paint in the CBD is an urban myth. In fact, the incident occurred in Domain Road, South Yarra, when he visited the Brooks, who had hosted the then young American aviator during World War II.

The Age next day reported that two anti-Vietnam student protestors, brothers John and David Langley, had seized the opportunity in a quiet suburban street, and had thrown two red and green paint bombs, the colours of the Viet Cong, at LBJ's car.

The relatively minor incident made international news when a secret service agent, the appropriately named Rufus Youngblood, was photographed liberally streaked in what looked like blood. His 'bloodied' shirt is still held in Melbourne Museum.

The same Youngblood had written himself into history when, in November 1963, he had bravely thrown himself over then Vice-President Johnson to protect him, just moments after President John Kennedy, one car in front, was fatally wounded by an assassin in Dallas – ironically in LBJ's home state.

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

Beware cons and scams with lures and bogus cures

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

They sometimes rely on the 'social proof' principle, which means people tend to follow the actions of others, to either make a request seem more reasonable or to exploit a victim's trusting nature.

If these tactics fail, they may also exploit the difficulty some people have in refusing requests from those perceived as being superior in rank or expertise, using tactics such as impersonation of authority figures or technical jargon designed to intimidate or confuse their targets.

Social engineers also like to create a false sense of urgency and scarcity designed to pressure their targets into making quick decisions, often

without much thought, and to share sensitive information.

However, if none of these tactics produce any meaningful results, they can also resort to other methods to collect privileged information about their target to gain their trust.

For example, they may 'dumpster dive' to search through rubbish bins or discarded removable devices containing valuable information; 'shoulder surf' by covertly observing their target enter their PIN or password; carry out a 'lunchtime attack' by accessing an unattended computer where the user hasn't logged off or hasn't locked the screen; or 'tailgate', which

involves following closely behind someone who has already been granted access to a secure area.

Being aware of these tactics and not falling for them is one way to stay ahead of the scammers.

Of course, being wary of any unsolicited emails, phone calls or text messages, and doing your own research about any job offers, investment opportunities, or other requests for money; using strong, unique passwords for all of your online accounts; and keeping all your digital devices up to date with the latest security updates are all good ways to stay safe online and protect your information.

For now, I hope Auction Rooms has been able to restore their Instagram account and can continue to showcase their delicious products to their 19,000-plus followers!

Nebojsa Pajkic is a local resident and an information security professional. Send your cybersecurity questions to nebojs4@gmail.com and you may be featured in a future issue.

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Yong enjoys studies and local life but feels train fares not so fair

Kashifa Aslam

International students are prized in Victoria as they provide a significant source of revenue for the local economy. However, few people grasp the challenges faced by students who come here to study.

One international student living in North Melbourne is Pui Tung Yong from Hong Kong. She is studying for her master's degree in analytical analytics at RMIT and supporting herself by working as a barista near Macaulay station and as an analyst in Essendon.

Yong found picking up those two-part time jobs wasn't easy.

"I applied for hundreds of positions and never got a reply. International students find it hard to find work as there is a lot of competition from people with a working holiday visa," she says.

Finding suitable accommodation was another problem. "Studio apartments are so expensive. It took forever to do inspections and to go through the process."

Yong feels fortunate to have found her North Melbourne apartment. "Finding accommodation is less competitive in this area and it's been a good choice. However, I'm not happy with the high rent and it will increase later this year."

Given her own part-time job as a barista, it's no surprise that Yong has checked out North Melbourne's booming coffee culture.

"I'm really picky about the beans and the milk. There are so many good cafés here. I really like Twenty and Six Espresso in Queensberry Street," she says.

Yong enjoys the local community and is determined to keep up her health and exercise regime. "I joined a 'meet up' and that led me to play volleyball at the North Melbourne Recreation Centre in Arden Street. I walk there from home and I meet many new people," she says.

Yong says she found living near the station inconvenient early on. "I couldn't buy groceries and dairy and I was a long way from the market. But the new ALDI is just five minutes away so I'm happy now."

She admits not everything is perfect and she is critical of train fares. "It's a weird system! If I take the train to Melbourne Central, just a station or two, they deduct \$4.60. At home in Hong Kong, the fare reflects the distance," she says.

"To be honest, I prefer taking classes online to paying \$9.20 daily to attend university. But I know I'm lucky to be here."

Kashifa Aslam is community outreach and communications coordinator at The Centre.



Pui Tung Yong takes a break from her studies and two part-time jobs.

NW  **MN**
NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

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This study led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in partnership with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. It has been approved by The Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee.

Phet's pet gets a prize

Nancy Lane

Phetdavan Sounthonnavong, the manager of the Australian Volunteers Program in Laos, recently came to visit me in North Melbourne for a few days.

My husband and I delighted in showing Phet (pronounced 'Pet', not 'Fet') around the neighbourhood. Her experiences here were in contrast to my experiences as a volunteer in Laos (see story in the autumn News).

Phet's favourite shop on Errol Street was The Paw Principality. At her home in Vientiane, she owns a German Shepherd cross named Peanut.

"I tried to buy her a collar in Laos, but they were all too small. This shop has such a variety of products, and I found a collar that was big enough," she said.

Phet explained that when she brings gifts to her son and daughter, Peanut gets upset if she doesn't get something. "As soon as I put the new collar on her, she started showing off," Phet reported later.

Another favourite was Chemist Warehouse, very different to the smaller pharmacies in Laos that carry only the most common medicines.

"I could have spent days there. I could get vitamins, supplements, allergy medications, so many things. They even had higher quality hairbands than what I can get in Laos. I bought loads of things to bring back," Phet said.

As we toured the streets, Phet enjoyed our telling her about the history of the area, what some of the buildings were and how their use had changed. She also liked the street art.

However, what she enjoyed most on our walks was the flowers blooming in people's front gardens. "I saw so many different kinds that we don't have in Laos. I liked looking at them,

smelling them, and taking pictures," she said.

She particularly liked the roses. "Some of them were really big – not like in Laos."

Phet was grateful that we taught her how to buy a Myki ticket and to use the 57 tram.

"I had tried to ride a tram before, but it was difficult to know what to do because it was during rush hour. I still haven't mastered it completely, but now I understand much better how the system works," she said.

A British friend had told Phet that she had to try meat pies. We cooked some for her one evening, and served them complete with tomato sauce.

"I like it. There's nothing the same in Laos. Our national dish is laab, a spicy salad made with minced and fried meat, fish or mushrooms and served



Phet's dog, Luka, in Vientiane, wearing her new collar from Paw Principality.

with sticky rice," she said.

Finally, I asked Phet what she missed most about Australia when she got back to Laos.

"I miss the cool weather and the less polluted air. That's not something you can buy in a shop."

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.



Lao visitor Phet with Nancy Lane in Queensberry Street.

Dr Jane heads north to find sun and help a son

John H. Smith

After six years at Premier Health Partners in Adderley Street, West Melbourne, Dr Jane Habib left the practice last month.

When prompted how she felt about retirement, Jan responded directly. "I am not retiring. I am going to Ballina in northern New South Wales to help my son who has just started his GP training in nearby Alstonville."

Jane recalls her arrival at Premier Health. "When Dr Margaret McDowell retired, I started seeing a lot of her patients. I have really enjoyed my time here and I'm very sorry to be leaving," she says.

"The practice has an interesting and varied patient base, whom I have really enjoyed getting to know – I will miss them."

"I will also miss the staff who are all dedicated to ensure our patients receive timely care – they are the best team I have worked with in my career."

A Queenslander, Jane took an unusual path to qualify as a doctor.

While working in Lismore, her interest in naturopathy led her to complete a four-year degree. She went on to study medicine at the University of Queensland but continued her interest in holistic health.

"I still believe that the naturopathic principles of preventative medicine are of primary importance in health and wellbeing," she says.

She draws a clear distinction between medicine and naturopathy. "Mainstream medicine is good at treating many acute and identifiable health issues. But it is often not



Dr Jane Habib in her rooms at Premium Health partners.

helpful when the illness doesn't fit the standard medical framework. Preventative medicine can help with chronic diseases such as osteoarthritis."

Jane's approach to general practice also included being a strong advocate for, and practitioner of, women's health.

She is looking forward to her next move, which will allow her a break and to reconnect with her many friends in northern New South Wales from her time in the Cairns and Armidale areas prior to starting at Premium Health.

Her planned return to the area holds other attractions for Jane. "I'll enjoy the warmer weather, the beautiful rainforests and the beaches. I'm also looking forward to having time to enjoy my grandsons," she smiles.

Au revoir, Dr Jane. Your patients and friends in North and West Melbourne will miss you.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

Batman Street finds name but loses former grandeur

Stephen Hatcher

Batman Street begins at Flagstaff Gardens and ends at Adderley Street beside West Melbourne's South Dynon train maintenance facilities.

The street was initially named Roebuck Street, to recognise John Arthur Roebuck, a British politician born in Madras in India.

In 1860, the name was changed to Franklin Street West in honour of Sir John Franklin, a British Royal Navy officer, arctic explorer and governor of Van Diemen's Land.

In 1907, the name changed again to honour grazier and explorer John Batman, best known for his role in the founding of Melbourne.

The street had been alienated in April 1851, and land sites were promptly taken up. One of the new landowners was the second premier of Victoria, Sir John O'Shanassy.

Early pioneer, businessman and politician John Pascoe Fawkner also bought land on the street. Fawkner had arrived in Port Phillip on the *Enterprise* (sic) in August 1835, three days before Batman's party. As the colony grew he established Melbourne's first pub, hotel and newspaper.

RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

The building at 40 Batman Street, once known as James Dixon & Co. after the manufacturer of the cordial

and vinegar that supplied many Melburnians, was converted to residential use in 2001.



In the early 1960s, the Bolte state government acquired then demolished four magnificent Victorian terraces at number 60. A new building is currently used by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

One of the four demolished dwellings had been home to police constable August Albert and his family.

Batman Street today.
Photograph: Stephen Hatcher

In the late 1890s one of Australia's great manufacturing enterprises, W.G. Goetz & Sons, moved to Batman Street from Queen Street. They conducted all manner of metal engineering works, which contributed to the benefit of a growing nation.

W.G. Goetz remained in Batman Street until 1939. Their factory has since been demolished and today is home to a four-storey contemporary office building.

St James' Old Cathedral, Victoria's oldest church, was moved stone by stone from Little Collins Street and, in 1914, was rebuilt on the corner of Batman and King streets.

In 1895 the street had 50 splendid Victorian-style homes (sadly, all now gone), a Wesleyan church, a vinegar brewery, a paper mill, a hotel, and the Victorian Iron Rolling Mill.

Today, it hosts a number of high-rise blocks of flats, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, some commercial buildings and St James' Old Cathedral.

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

Want to know more?

Discover more about the history of Batman Street at www.melbournestreets.com.au/batman-street.

From Europe's darkness to a new life in Australia

John H. Smith

'Displaced persons' was the impersonal label given to North Melbourne resident Elizabeth Cham's Polish family at the end of World War II.

Her father, Jozef, an illiterate peasant, had been a prisoner in the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp, near Weimar in Germany, and her mother, Aniela, had been a slave labourer in a German munitions factory.

Jozef and Aniela met in Gablingen displaced persons' camp, near Augsburg, after he was freed from Buchenwald. Elizabeth was born in the camp.

At home in North Melbourne with husband Sebastian Clark, she says she is indebted to Arthur Calwell, Immigration Minister in Ben Chifley's post-war Labor government.

"Our family arrived in late 1950 and benefited from Calwell's policy of



Elizabeth Cham. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

welcoming European immigration to Australia," Elizabeth says.

Jozef picked up labouring work on the Ballarat White Swan Reservoir

where the family began a new life. "Earning only the basic wage, he managed to buy a block of land in 1951," she says.

Within a year, he had built a shed on the block, and Elizabeth's sister, Valdie, was born. In 1955, he built a house, which became the family's permanent home.

Jozef developed a large vegetable garden to feed the family. "Only later did I realise he was doing organic farming," Elizabeth smiles.

The two girls benefited from Australia's free state education system. Elizabeth left school at 15 and began a six-month typing and shorthand course to prepare for office work.

"I had transcended all the barriers to success that my situation had placed in front of me," she says.

An office job in the department of history and philosophy of science at the University of Melbourne sparked a love of learning. Encouraged by friends, she studied at night school

then began at the university as a student.

A watershed in Elizabeth's life came in January 1975 when she was hired by the office of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

"I was very junior, but because I could do shorthand and typing, he would call me to Kirribilli House to write letters. It was a great way to learn how things worked," she says.

Elizabeth stayed with Whitlam into opposition and saw both sides of politics. "From him I learned that, with time, effort, knowledge and action, you can change things."

She says she was privileged to have known the Labor icon. "His impact was to raise our sights to embrace a more equitable way of life for the nation."

After politics Elizabeth began work with large philanthropic foundations such as Felton and Buckland, then spent a decade as full-time secretary of Philanthropy Australia.

"I thought I knew how the world worked. But in Australia philanthropy is well hidden. There is no public accountability here – whereas in America, philanthropy thrives on it," she says.

Since then, Elizabeth has completed a PhD in philanthropy and she is an energetic advocate for greater transparency in this field.

As a board member of the Australia Institute, a socially concerned public policy think tank, Elizabeth continues to apply her experience and education to work for the betterment of the nation.

She is driven by concern for her children and grandchildren. "I want them to have the kind of opportunities I was given."

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

A quiet life of community service

Flora Sciarra

Patricia Harwood's life has been one of endless service to others.

In her working life, this now-retired pillar of our community showed her nurturing nature. "I was a midwife and a relief hospital supervisor. I did agency work and worked with a church nursing service in Brunswick," she says.

Patricia's history of community volunteering work is exhausting. "I've volunteered since 1979 with Vinnies in the local area. I was a rep on the ecumenical council at St Michael's, a lovely group," she says.

Patricia enjoyed volunteering with The Centre's Homework Club, which provides schoolwork assistance to local children. "I began soon after I retired and left early last year. I think I was there for 20 years. I started with Laurence Angwin who now runs the group."

It was fitting that, 12 months ago, in National Volunteer Week, Patricia was celebrated as The Centre's volunteer of the year.

"Of our more than 100 volunteers, we chose Patricia to salute her many years of faithful service volunteering for our Homework Club," Centre director Ariel Valent said.

Patricia's early years in the Hunter Valley where her father ran a dairy farm sowed the seeds for her commitment to those less fortunate. "Mum was one of 11, we didn't have much. We wore home-made clothes or hand-me-downs."

Patricia says it was her upbringing that taught her to help people. "That is what Mum and Dad showed me and I've just continued it. I feel like that's what we are here for, to help others," she says.

Frugality was the order of the day in childhood. "Mum was a good teacher. She showed us wild strawberries and wild cherries. You can cook wild cherries. When we came to live in Kew, there were wild cherry trees in gardens. Mum couldn't understand why there were cherries on the ground and not being used."

True to her placid nature, Patricia enjoys a quiet life. "At the moment I'm

doing a jigsaw that one of my Centre friends gave me. It's very difficult because it's all cats," she smiles.

As Patricia sorts through her belongings, she is always thinking of others. "I'm giving away things that I don't really need anymore. I enjoy reading and I've got my volunteer work on Mondays and involvement in my church," she says.

The Centre, which she has served so selflessly, remains a large part of Patricia's life, and she enjoys the monthly morning teas and regular day bus trips.

"The last trip was to Ballarat to see the begonias, just after the Begonia Festival. They were absolutely glorious. After lunch, the bus stopped and we saw swans crossing the road to go to Lake Wendouree."

This humble woman, who has given so much of herself to our community, prefers to stay quietly in the background.

"I don't like attention. No fanfare at all. I just like to get on with it."

Flora Sciarra writes regularly for the News.



Long-time community volunteer Patricia Harwood.

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Maltese migrants celebrate local links

Patrick Ferry

Nearly 150 members of the Maltese community gathered at the Victorian Archives Centre on Saturday 5 May to mark the 75th Anniversary of the 1948 Malta-Australia Migration Agreement.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, many newly arrived Maltese migrants lived in boarding houses and other accommodation in the West and North Melbourne area before moving further afield. Many Maltese remain staunch North Melbourne fans.

The event was organised by the National Archives of Australia in partnership with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. and Public Record Office Victoria.

An associated display *Restricted to Assisted: Maltese Migration to Australia* can be viewed at the Victorian Archives Centre until 20 July.

Patrick Ferry is assistant state manager for the National Archives of Australia based at the Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne.

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Malta-Australia Migration Agreement at the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne.

Photographs: National Archives of Australia & Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.



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Mr Tucker builds local café culture

Amna Bakhtiar

North Melbourne's Melrose Street has turned from a quiet shopping strip of grocery stores, barber shops and vacant shopfronts into a vibrant social hub.

The revolution began after Jacob Stammers visited a friend on nearby Buncle Street a decade ago.

"I noticed there was no coffee shop on Melrose, and I thought I should start one," Jacob says.

He began with the smaller Pocket Café at 29 Melrose Street.

"It was an oddity then, having a café in this street. Everyone told me it wasn't gonna work," Jacob laughs.

He proved them wrong. Pocket Café quickly became the go-to java joint with a selection of bagels and pastries, and when there was an opportunity to take over a bigger space, Jacob seized it. Mr Tucker was born at Number 17.

Before his café days, Jacob had worked in the corporate world, in marketing and project management, until he decided he'd had enough of the office grind and took the plunge into food and hospitality.

"I've always had a love for hospitality and cooking from student days and then working in hospitality and events in London. Now, it's nice to work for myself," Jacob says.

Mr Tucker offers delicious pastries, bagels, sandwiches, brunch and lunch options and ready-to-eat frozen meals, with half of the menu coming from the Pocket Café days.

Jacob says the menu has changed little. "Whenever we try to change things or introduce new dishes, we get in trouble from our regulars", he says.

Mr Tucker survives on the locals' love and loyalty for the little café, which Jacob says has quickly become a community hub.

"We're an accessible neighbourhood place to hang out. People come here and all these friendship groups have grown."

The bagels and pastries and the recently introduced takeaway pizzas have proven so popular that Jacob has taken over the place next door and turned it into a spacious indoor seating area.

He has big plans for Mr Tucker. "We might bring back our evening service in spring and summer and we're looking into offering a dine-in space for private events."

Amna Bakhtiar is a new contributor to the News.

Right top: Mr Tucker founder and owner Jacob Stammers.

Right lower: Juniper and Ruby help visitors to Mr Tucker feel welcome.



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See page 24 for details

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

VICTORIA

Ice is warm at Gold Leaf

Laura Misale

On the western end of the increasingly popular Victoria Street strip, Gold Leaf Thai Massage offers specialised Thai and remedial massage therapy.

Gold Leaf Thai opened last October and operates under husband-and-wife duo, Phil and Ice.

Walk in the door and you'll be greeted by Phil at reception, and you might well find him practising his golf swing behind the front desk. If you avoid his airy follow-throughs, you'll be greeted by the always smiling Ice.

"My real name is Arunrat, but everyone calls me Ice," she says.

Ice came to Australia from Thailand in 2016 on an international student visa. "I lived around the middle of Thailand, near Bangkok, and I came to Australia with the dream of earning a better income," she says.

Phil puts his nine-iron to one side and joins in the conversation. "Ice was the supervisor in a factory where there was a very tight pay rate, so she came to Australia for the better opportunities for herself and for her family."

Ice recalls Thailand fondly and explains how she picked up her nickname. "When I was born, my father chose my real name, Ai. But, when I grew up, I didn't like it because it's too short and in Thai it means 'cough a lot'. So, when I turned 18, I changed to Arunrat which means sunrise."

"Arunrat is a bit of a tongue twister," Phil grins.

"Yes, when I came to Australia, the nickname Ice sounded better and it was still linked to my birth name," Ice adds.

In another nod to her Thai roots, the first thing you will see as you enter Gold Leaf Thai is a framed talisman cloth sitting at reception that represents Ice's family.

She had it made in Thailand. "There are five people in it. It's spiritual and for good luck, it tells the story of my family in the Thai language."

Ice has been practising Thai massage since arriving in Australia. "Traditional Thai massage is very ancient and was first used to treat the King's family, it's all about stretching the muscles and putting pressure on trigger points," she says.

Then, when COVID hit, Ice knew she needed to expand her skill set and she enrolled in a diploma in remedial massage.

Phil says he was the lucky recipient of Ice's regular remedial massages as she studied during the endless lockdowns.

"Remedial massage is based on Western theory. Looking at the skeleton and all the muscles and how they are connected reveals what is causing the pain," he explains.

"It was interesting because for the practical sessions, Ice had to set up her laptop with the camera on, allowing the supervisors to watch and provide feedback."

Ice now combines the two techniques of Thai and remedial massage to provide a unique therapy for clients.

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Visit Gold Leaf Thai Massage at 355 Victoria Street, West Melbourne. Or phone 0434 439 092.



Owner Arunrat ('Ice') extends a warm welcome at Gold Leaf Thai Massage

KRYPTIC KWIZ

Maurice Gaul

See page 27 for the answers.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

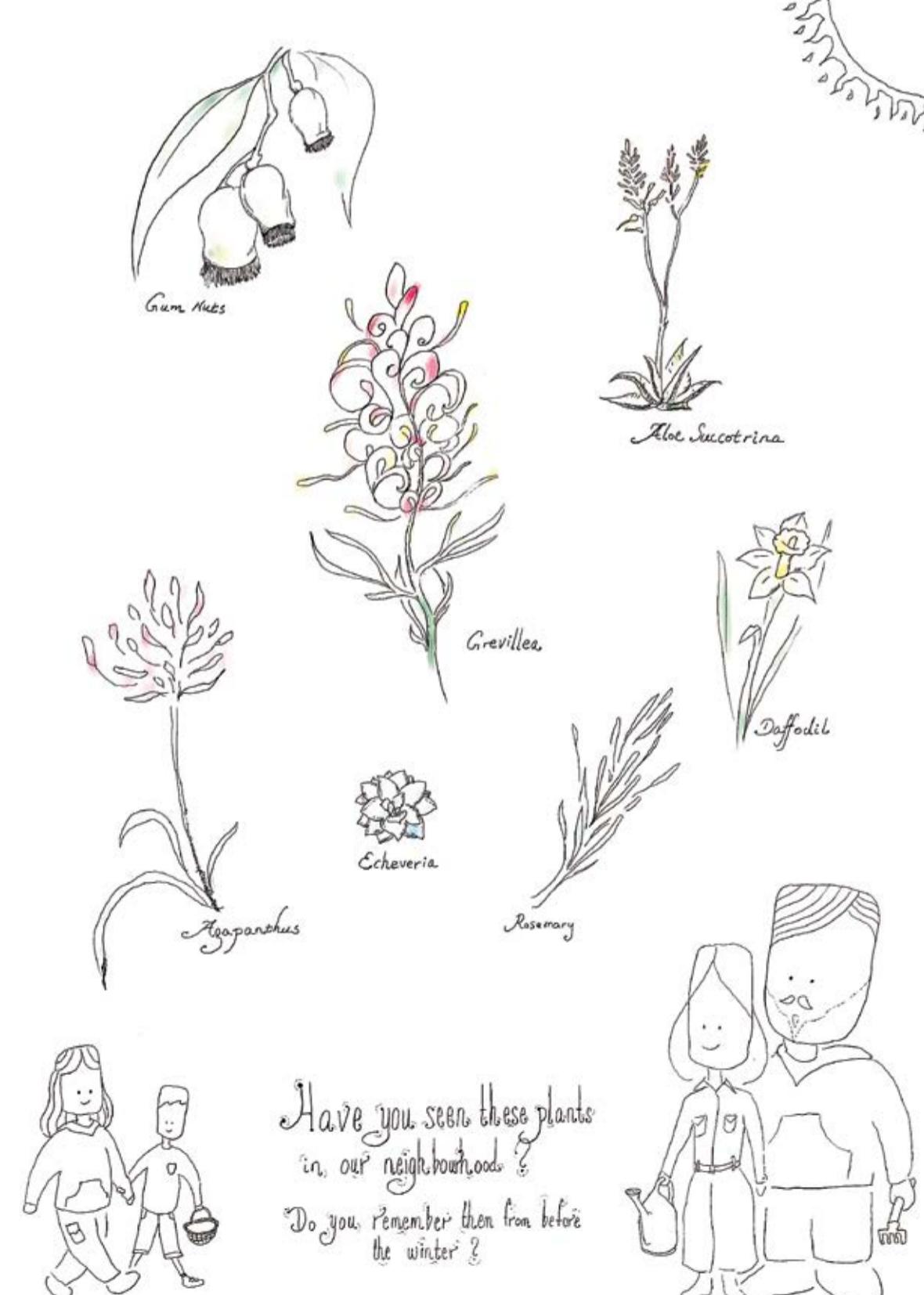
Here are 30 of the players in our men's (Socceroos) and women's (Matildas) football squads

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| Duke | Foord | Fowler | Gauci | Goodwin | Gorry |
| Grant | Irvine | Kennedy | Kerr | Mabil | Metcalfe |
| Micah | Mooy | O'Neill | Raso | Redmayne | Ryan |
| Souttar | Vine | Wheeler | Wright | Yallop | William |

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

- 1 I'm unable to sleep with Tom in Seattle
- 2 I'm a Unionist crushing Confederates
- 3 I'm now regretting that I did Dallas
- 4 I'm an intern who wed a Dirty Digger
- 5 I'm losing an 'r' to be a bloody mess
- 6 I'm always Bean a goofy character
- 7 I'm Tony and Maurs on a lonely planet
- 8 I'm strolling along on a Dover beach
- 9 I'm Dave's girlfriend in Snake Gully
- 10 I'm a demonic coach who won a flag
- 11 I'm a bird chaser in a NSW electorate
- 12 I'm a hard drinker behind the stumps
- 13 I'm sounding like a heat-and-eat snack
- 14 I'm at the Cup, top-hatted and pissed
- 15 I'm a book from the Old Testament
- 16 I'm keen on horses and won 12 Cups
- 17 I'm a dual silver sprinter in the '30s
- 18 I'm Kath telling Kim to look this way
- 19 I'm our cricket skipper in WSC days
- 20 I'm Liz's partner, always full of gaffes
- 21 I'm pint-sized with three Cup seconds
- 22 I'm one of Penny's wooers on Ithaca
- 23 I'm swearing I love you, I'll have a baby
- 24 I'm Grey Wiggle, a famous net dancer
- 25 I'm a high-flyer with big brother Wilbur
- 26 I'm Madam Butterfly with Olympic gold
- 27 I'm serenely orbiting around Venus
- 28 I'm Huxley's dystopian villain if I lose 'o'
- 29 I'm where Calwell said DLP will wither
- 30 I'm *The Age*'s ex-economics scribe

Illustrator Ed Zhao takes a botanical walk



Arts House works are RISING

Lucy Crossett

RISING is music, food, art and culture, under moonlight, in the heart of Naarm (Melbourne) and at Arts House, we've got three gigantic works as part of the festival.

Dance, ceremony and oration bring the legendary story of director-choreographer Daniel Riley's great-great-uncle into the now in *Tracker* by Australian Dance Theatre.

Performed in the round by an all First Peoples cast, and anchored firmly in the present, it's an intimate and restlessly inventive ode to shared cultural resilience across generations.

The mechanics of care come under scrutiny in Geumhyung Jeong's uncanny installation of needy robots in *Under Maintenance*. Come and



Performer Tyrel Dulvarie in *Tracker* by Australian Dance Theatre. Photograph: Johnathan VDK

Courthouse now in session

Zara Winter

The Courthouse Hotel, a much-loved North Melbourne institution, has just undergone a post-COVID facelift as new owners revitalise the historic building.

Located on the corner of Queensberry and Errol streets, the Courthouse offers an exciting pub experience with a classic British-inspired menu and a wide range of craft beers.

The hotel was one of the first gastro pubs in Melbourne, a legacy that has been retained by the new management. Co-owner Ryan Berry remembers going to the hotel more than a decade ago. He has focused on maintaining the

building's integrity while introducing a modern twist.

After falling into disrepair in early 2020, the Courthouse Hotel's re-opening highlights a positive trend in the restoration of local venues following COVID lockdowns.

The updated menu ranges from perennial pub classics such as porterhouse steak to oyster mushroom pappardelle and coq au vin.

With a focus on a high-quality, gastro-pub experience, The Courthouse is tipped to once again become a local favourite.

Zara Winter is a volunteer at The Centre



Heavenly pastries and coffee in Victoria St with love from Korea

Hannah Parsons

The Flour is a wonderful little patisserie in West Melbourne. Opened just last December, this little spot of pastry heaven is waiting for you at 199 Victoria Street.

The bakery is owned by pastry chef April Yoonhee Bae. She runs it with her husband, award-winning barista Harry Ko, who serves to-die-for coffee made from beautifully roasted, hand selected beans.

Korean-born April began her baking journey in Australia 10 years ago. "I was working as a pastry chef in a restaurant then I injured my wrist. I was also a bit bored and I got into baking canelé at home," she says.

That was the start of April's baking journey. "I started The Flour in 2017 as a home-based business. I just love cooking and it sort of went from there, and now here we are, in West Melbourne," she says

If you don't know canelé, you're in for a treat. It's an exquisite French pastry flavoured with rum and vanilla and with a soft custard centre and a thick caramelised crust. If you've got a sweet tooth, you'll fall in love with it.

April has honed her skills to make the perfect canelé and admits it remains her personal favourite. "Definitely! But it's really tricky to make.

Yes, there can be both love and hate involved," she says.

The Flour's attractive decor was created by April's sister, Sarah, and it reflects their Korean roots.

The floral logo was designed by a Korean-based artist they found on Instagram. The Flour's name is intentionally ambivalent, hinting at both the flour used in the baked goods and the blooming of a flower in the way they hope the business will bloom.

The transition from April's online home-based business to the Victoria Street patisserie involved lots of planning and a slice of good fortune.

"We were lucky in lockdown when many shops closed, including a pastry shop next door. We had to find a place as our baby grew," she says as her energetic toddler wriggles on her lap.

There is a delightfully eclectic note to The Flour. The pastries are classical French, many ingredients are Korean, and the fruits and veggies are pure Aussie from the Queen Vic market, just 50 metres away.

"Some people ask us if we're Japanese or something. We want to be Korean," April says.

Hannah Parsons is a new contributor to the News.



The Flour owner and pastry chef April Yoonhee Bae.



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Rotary barbecue keeps up Moomba tradition

Neville Page

Moomba, Melbourne's iconic festival, is believed to be named from an Aboriginal word meaning 'Let's get together and have fun'. For 70 years, fun has definitely been the order of the day.

For around 15 years, the Rotary Club of North Melbourne has been called on by the City of Melbourne to help feed the masses attracted to the Moomba parade. Our club's involvement has been our main annual fund-raiser.

We have fired up our barbecue for the event's various venues over the years. This year we set up in Kings Domain Gardens, just near the Shrine.

More than 1,000 people took part in the famous Moomba parade, with all of them finishing in a tight 60-minute window. It was our club's huge task to feed all those hungry mouths.

On the big day, we managed to do this by military-like planning. We had three serving lines and 25 volunteers kept the entire process running smoothly. For a club of only 21 members, that meant getting family and friends to join in and lend a hand.

It's always an exciting barbecue to work on as most of the parade participants turn up in costume, and some of those costumes are quite extreme. Our club members hail from 12 different countries, so we were able to find a member to engage with parade participants that were representing many different nationalities.

Our North Melbourne club is a dab hand at barbecues.



North Melbourne Rotary's barbecue at Moomba drew lots of hungry visitors.

Another major project we recently completed successfully was at the Mother's Day Classic, a hugely popular fun run, which we cater for annually. This very worthwhile annual event raises funds for breast cancer research and awareness.

Our involvement entailed doing all the cooking. We left the Mother's Day Classic committee to collect and keep all the takings.

Similar to the Moomba parade, many participants turned up in costume. It was both gratifying and heart warming to see so many people dressed in pink, the colour of the day.

So many runners participated in memory of their mother or another family member or friend who had been lost to the disease.

With our involvement ending around lunchtime, we were able to head off and get together with our families for Mother's Day.

Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.

Flash mob shares the joy of dance and music



In early April, Melbourne was flash mobbed several times by 70 dancers in the CBD, accompanied by an ensemble of drummers. This joyous street performance was organised by Mitzi McRae of Melbourne Djembe: West African Drum and Dance and her dance students, including North Melbourne residents Wendy Cook, Helen Morton and Myrna McRae.

Garden produce in demand at St Mary's fete

Marion Poynter

In autumn, our North Melbourne backyard garden was bursting with wild growth. It was a busy time when we gathered the ripening fruits and set to making use of them.

Usually around early May, St Mary's Anglican Church holds its annual fund-raising fair. COVID put a stop to this for three years, but on a Saturday in early May, we once again held a successful fair (despite the foul weather). Some lovely handcrafts and paintings were sold, as well as lots of home-made cakes and preserves.

In the weeks leading up to the big day, much of the produce in our garden was transformed into all sorts of delicious concoctions to sell on the

GARDEN GLORIES

Marion Poynter

produce stall. The figs, ripened under their protective net, were picked, and made into fig jam and spiced pickled figs. And from the bountiful supply of mint, I made a good supply of mint jelly.

Meanwhile, I dug up our annual crop of Jerusalem artichokes and packaged them up to sell with an accompanying recipe for a delicious Jerusalem artichoke soup. The lemon cordial made from our just-ripened

lemons soon sold out, as did the little posies I had put together from bits and pieces gathered from the garden.

Arriving home exhausted, but satisfied, from the busy day, we prepared to spend the night in front of the telly, having dinner and watching the Coronation.

Then I had a sudden urge to make a special dessert for the occasion. I picked some rhubarb from the garden, and using our recently



A garden posy for sale at St Mary's Church Fair.

for spring-flowering bulbs. This year I ordered a batch of yellow-flowering autumn crocus, and a large assortment of different shaped and sized tulips, all in various shades of red.

I planted some in pots and some in clumps under the trees. I look forward to seeing their bright splashes of colour amongst the green foliage in the months to come.

I had hoped that my book, *In My Own Backyard*, would be ready to sell at the church fair for Mother's Day. However, its publishing is still in progress, so I guess it will emerge as the spring bulbs appear.

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

Zaahoos' magical music tour

Geoff Pound

"We're the Zaahoos, an amateur family band, formed during COVID lockdown six. I'm Saiya and I'm almost 12, this is my brother Kai and he's seven, and this is my Dad, Ed, and he's way too old!"

So began an entertaining, one-hour concert by the Zhao family in the Flagstaff Gardens on a fine Sunday afternoon in March. Ed's wife, Apeksha, the manager and chief encourager of the band, was seated on the grass in front of the sizeable and totally entranced audience.

The performance was a free event for anyone who was out and about enjoying the Gardens, but onlookers were encouraged to donate money to the charity of their choice.

As the concert's compere, Saiya (also known as 'Ya Ya') told the audience the family was taking them on a "musical adventure from Bosnia, through to Turkey, over the Caucasus Mountains, to the oasis of Central Asia".

Nine songs were performed, all of them in the language of their country of origin. At the start, Saiya issued a gentle warning.

"We're an amateur group, not a professional band like the Silk Road Ensemble. We sing for fun. Sometimes we may not pronounce



Saiya ('Ya Ya') Zhao introduces the Zaahoos' family band.

things correctly, so if you speak any of the languages of these songs and we get it wrong, please accept our apologies. My dad likes to butcher the pronunciation!"

The family's musical adventure began when Ed's Arabic oud was shipped to their West Melbourne home during COVID lockdown five.

Ed (also known as 'Ba Ba') played a number of instruments in the concert. To accompany a Turkish song, he played an Azeri kamanche. "The bowl of our kamanche is made of a pumpkin. How many instruments do you know that are made of a

vegetable?" Saiya said.

For an Azerbaijani song, Ed played the duduk, a flute made from apricot wood that was bought from Armenia.

Young Kai (also known as 'Han Han') played a range of percussion instruments. One, a Turkish darbuka (drum), had been acquired during the Zhao family's recent trip to England.

For the next number, Kai played the bongo drums, accompanying a Uyghur folk song while beating a colourful doira that the family had bought in Uzbekistan.

The multicultural audience was then treated to what Saiya introduced as "a frolicsome and flirty tale from the late Ottoman period," a soulful song about the value of friendship and a lament about a girl who lost her lover in the Russo-Turkish war.

The Zhao family concert concluded with a Bosnian song that included lyrics from a sultan on his deathbed, a wistful Azerbaijani song expressing the longings of a young man to his bride, and several Uyghur love songs.

Geoff Pound has been a regular contributor to the News since early 2000.

Want to know more?

To learn more about the Zaahoos, visit ed-zhao_arts on Instagram or contact Ed via www.edzhao.com



Ed Zhao and his son Kai ('Han Han') performing in Zhao family band.



Artist Luka Wild at his Proudkind pop-up shop.

Popping up with pride

Nancy Lane

The rainbow community of Melbourne has a new reason to jump for joy.

Artist Luka Wild has recently opened his Proudkind pop-up shop in North Melbourne. Proudkind is a local clothing label that celebrates identity, community, feminism and self-worth.

At 54 Errol Street, in a beautiful heritage building just two doors from The Centre, the Proudkind shop also stocks handmade items by other local makers and artists from River Studios in West Melbourne. These include ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, textiles and more.

Both the shopfront venue and River Studios are managed by Creative Spaces for the City of Melbourne.

The shop is hosting special events as well, including a Gaymes Night every Tuesday, speed friending, crafternoons, workshops and art exhibitions.

Queer/trans artist Luka started the Proudkind label in 2017. His hobby of creating fun, statement T-shirts for marches and rallies led him to design a special tee for the marriage equality plebiscite. The design was featured in local media and then made it to an Australia Post commemorative stamp.

Over the years, Luka has continued to expand the Proudkind collection. He still designs colourful slogan tees, but has added a range of clothing and accessories, ranging from stickers and pronoun pins to pride flags and home décor.

Luka is passionate about creating

uplifting and empowering designs that focus on embracing identity and self. He says it is his "own little way of giving back" for all the support and guidance he has received from the LGBTQIA+ community after moving to Melbourne.

"I am always in awe of the amazing power of community and the support it provides," he says.

Even as a young child in rural New South Wales, Luka knew he was not living his true identity. "I had no knowledge or language to explain it. In effect, I knew I was trans, but I also didn't know it existed," he explains.

As he matured and moved interstate, Luka says he became more involved with the queer community. "Although I knew I was queer and trans, I had never embraced or lived it before. Once I did, one by one I came out as almost everything you can possibly come out as: bi, then gay, trans, then non-binary, then pansexual and polyamorous, too."

Luka is grateful that, through the support of Melbourne's queer community and local groups like FTM Shed, he is able to feel at home here, living a fulfilling and authentic life. "A sense of belonging is such an integral part of happiness, and that's why I'm such an advocate for visibility and community," he says.

During June, designated as Pride Month, drop into Proudkind to find a perfect gift for a friend or just to treat yourself. The pop-up runs until 16 July.

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.



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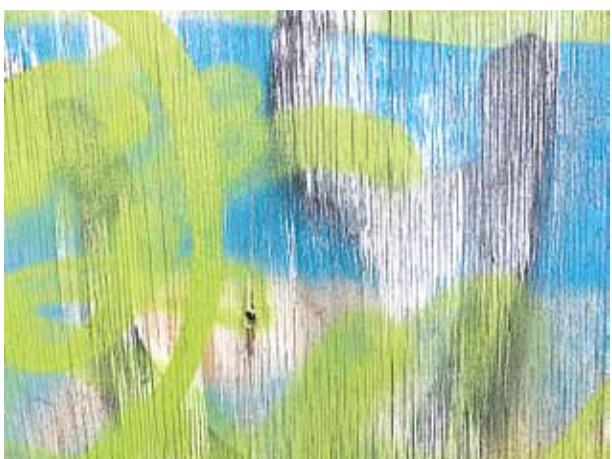
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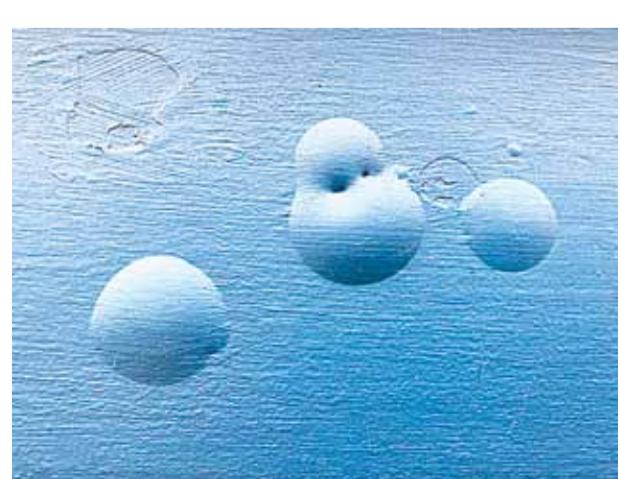
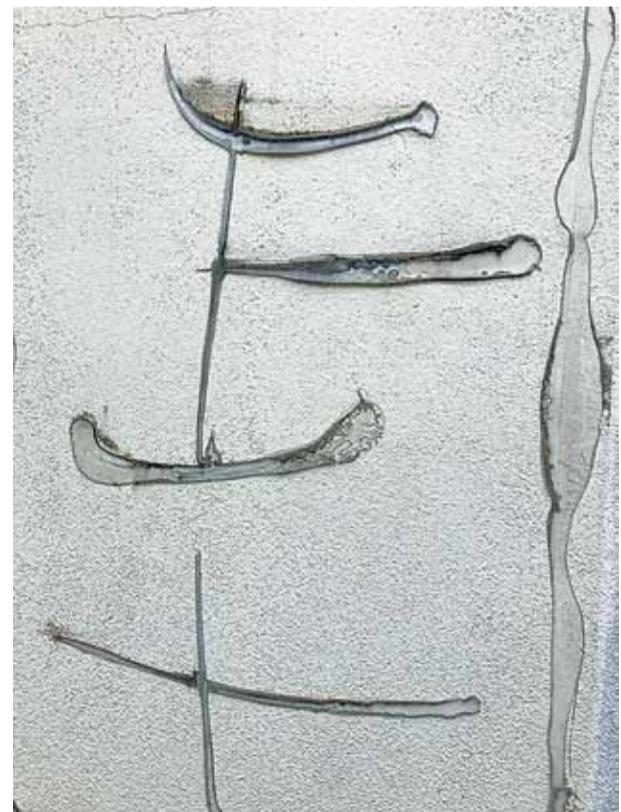
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Abstract art on every street

As you walk around North and West Melbourne, you might notice houses in disrepair, badly in need of sanding and repainting. However, remember that old adage: **Beauty is in the mind of the beholder.** Now look again, to see what Nancy Lane sees – marvellous works of abstract art.



Vale, artist Paul Kathner

Jenny O'Donnell

Well known in the theatre world for more than four decades as a gifted scenic artist, Paul Kathner, a long-time North Melbourne resident, died in May.

Paul was born in Sydney in 1935. He studied at East Sydney Tech. before starting his career under the tutelage of noted scenic artist Bill Constable and Elaine Haxton of the Independent Theatre.

He worked for J.C. Williamson's and created sets for the Borovansky Ballet, the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and the John Arden Theatre, among others. In 1963 he moved to Melbourne to work for St Martin's Theatre as resident designer and scenic artist, succeeding John Truscott.

Paul worked for J.C. Williamson's for a number of years and on its closure co-founded Scenic Studios with Ross Turner in 1976. Among their work is the State Theatre curtain and the musical *Cats*.

He designed sets for the Australian Opera, the Australian Ballet, Adelaide Festival, Melbourne Theatre Company, Melbourne City Opera and Hong Kong Ballet and others.

He designed and painted hundreds of sets for ballets, operas and musicals during his long career, and many of today's scenic artists were trained by Paul at Scenic Studios.

He also designed numerous liturgical banners, vestments and fittings including banners for St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne; the Police Academy, Glen Waverley; St Andrew's, Brighton; and the stage backdrop for St Mary's, North Melbourne.

For 20 years, he designed the backdrops for the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival.



Paul Kathner in his studio.

Photograph: Jenny O'Donnell

Paul also gave numerous talks about scenic design, theatre history in Australia, and the Ballets Russes, for which he was a consultant for the National Gallery of Australia exhibition. In 2014, Paul received an OAM for service to the performing arts through scenic art and design.

Initially trained in landscape painting by his father, filmmaker and painter Rupert Kathner, Paul was a keen observer of the Australian landscape, devoting himself to painting it after his retirement in 1998.

Since 1990 Paul held seven exhibitions of his work, including at the Melbourne Arts Centre and several at Tacit Contemporary Art, Collingwood, where his final exhibition was held in May.

His art books, his archive of theatre programs and scores of set and costume designs have been donated to the National Library of Australia, the State Library of New South Wales, the State Library of Victoria, the Arts Centre Melbourne and the Performing Arts Museum.

Jenny O'Donnell was Paul Kathner's friend.

Metro on track but problems remain for school numbers

New residents' forum re Metro Tunnel train operations

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) have set up a new series of information sessions on the future stages of work for the new Melbourne Metro, planned to open in 2025.

After lobbying by NWMA reps Peter Gerrard and Rachael Palmer during 2022, RPV held the first of a series of information sessions by Zoom on 2 May. The attendance is limited to the accredited community representatives in the Community Reference Groups (CRGs) for the Metro's five new underground stations and tunnel entrances.

NWMA has been represented at the Arden and Parkville CRGs since 2018, but these meetings deal only with construction aspects of the new Metro, not with its future testing and operations.

The first information session heard presentations by experts on the path to Day 1 operations, including critical



testing and commissioning activities, and on dynamic testing in the tunnels in 2023.

The information given at the session on 2 May was provided on a confidential basis. But when information gets cleared for wider distribution, the NWMA will be able to pass that on to its members.

Schooling North and West Melbourne children

The long-awaited partial opening of the new North Melbourne Primary School Molesworth Street Campus

on 15 May was welcome news. However, the change in school zoning this year, bringing West Melbourne back in, hasn't put a dent in the over-enrolments at Docklands Primary School (DPS) as the government predicted.

It's estimated this has relieved DPS of only 10 students, so the Docklands school – which opened only two years ago – is still predicted to reach 750 enrolments in the next few years. It was designed for 525 students but currently has 540.

DPS has changed the demographics of Docklands, and newly settled migrant families are now choosing to stay in Docklands rather than move out to the suburbs. To combat this, the Education Minister recently announced that a new DPS 'temporary' campus would be established within The District Docklands shopping centre, 300 metres from the existing school site. DPS families are outraged



Artist's impression of the new Arden station. Source: www.bigbuild.vic.gov.au

at the compromised situation they will have to live with for the next 5–10 years while the government considers a permanent solution.

The next question is how will University High School (UHS) keep up when the increased number of Docklands children

start to put extra pressure on enrolments? UHS has capacity for 1700 and currently has 1800 students and counting, already surpassing enrolment projections for 2024.

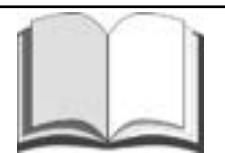
This is putting enormous stress on the ageing facilities, and students are learning

in repurposed spaces, like conference rooms, and some classrooms have been split in half.

Want to get involved with campaigning for better school outcomes for our inner-city kids? Contact NWMA at info@nwma.org.au.

BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chris Saliba



Greek Lessons

Han Kang

Hamish Hamilton, RRP: \$35

A woman has become mute after a series of traumatic personal events. Her mother has recently died, and she has lost a custody battle for her son. The woman (who remains unnamed) takes up a course in classical Greek, exploring how language is used in philosophical works by Plato and Socrates.



The Greek teacher (also unnamed) is experiencing trauma of his own. He is slowly losing his sight and is sure to go blind. In a series of flashbacks, he ruminates on past relationships, especially one with an ill woman with whom he had become seriously involved. As the Greek lessons progress, the teacher wonders about his silent student, until an accident in a stairwell brings them together.

Han Kang is a South Korean writer, best known to English readers for her 2016 Man Booker International Prize-winning novel, *The Vegetarian*. *Greek Lessons* (translated by Deborah Smith and Emily Yae Won) is a 2011 novel appearing for the first time in English.

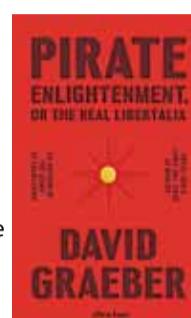
It is a compelling story, written in a subtle and introspective voice, examining love, death and trauma. An unforgettable novel that is both melancholic and poetic, one that rewards close reading.

Pirate Enlightenment, or The Real Libertalia

David Graeber

Allen Lane, RRP: \$35

Anthropologist and activist David Graeber (1961–2020) makes the case that when rogue English pirates in the late 17th and early 18th centuries sought refuge in northern Madagascar, it led to a cultural and political fusion with the Malagasy people that was a forerunner to the Enlightenment.



There was much fascination with pirate lore at the time and, in 1724, *A General History of the Pyrates* was published in London (its rumoured author was Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*). It included a description of an egalitarian Madagascan pirate state called Libertalia. Libertalia was pure fiction, but another Madagascan state, the Betsimisaraka confederation, established in 1712 by the son of a British pirate and a Malagasy queen, maintained an egalitarian government for close to 40 years.

The historical pirate record is thin and Graeber uses the verbs "seems" and "appears" a lot when fleshing out his arguments. Even though *Pirate Enlightenment* is more wish fulfillment than anything else, Graeber's intellectual energy and curiosity can never be in doubt.

My Dad is a Tree

Jon Agee

Scallywag Press, RRP: \$24.99

A young girl in overalls stands in her backyard with her arms spread out. Her father is sweeping a path nearby. The girl's name is Madeleine and the father asks what she is doing.



"I am pretending to be a tree," she says. "Because a tree gets to stay outside all day long." Madeleine asks her father to join in. "Well, OK, Madeleine," he says. "But only for a minute!" Soon an owl descends on the father and a robin nests in his hair. Chicks start chirruping on his arm and a butterfly tickles his nose.

Things seem to be getting out of hand when a squirrel climbs his leg. When the father protests that this is all getting too much, Madeleine cheerfully says, "That's OK, Dad. Trees aren't bothered by stuff like that."

A new picture book from writer and illustrator Jon Agee (*Lion Lessons*) is always a treat. *My Dad is a Tree* builds up a delightfully comic situation as the mildly agitated father must stand still and endure all manner of wildlife, while his bemused daughter looks on. A story that celebrates nature's wonders, with a secret lesson on the benefits of mindfulness.

Ages 3+

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

MJ leads the way at the Zoo

Adrienne Harrowfield

Year 10 student Mohammad Jaber represented Simonds College in this year's innovative Zoo Youth Leadership program. Only 30 students from Victorian schools were accepted into the program and Mohammad, known to all at school as 'MJ', was awarded one of six scholarships.

He says he heard about the innovative program in a science class. "I applied because I was interested in building skills in leadership and conservation. I was also keen to meet students my age."

For two school weeks, 15-year-old MJ and his fellow



Year 10 student Mohammad Jaber at Werribee Open Range Zoo.

participants visited the Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, the Port Phillip EcoCentre and the Werribee Open Range Zoo.

All gained valuable behind-the-scenes access to areas where specialist zookeepers

showed them their work with various animals, including the seals at the Melbourne Zoo.

"We learnt how soft plastics are adversely affecting marine environments and hurting the seals. We also learnt about conducting surveys and what

careers are available in Zoos Victoria," MJ says.

It was the personal contact that he enjoyed most. "I learnt a lot from Jen, a safari guide at Werribee Open Range. She'd spent six years on a ship studying marine animals,

mainly humpback whales. She was so inspiring," he says.

MJ was thrilled to extend his knowledge about various animals. "We saw how a seal was X-rayed and how they are trained to behave for a vet's medical check. We saw how a bird was trained to pick up a rock to hit an egg for food," he says.

As well as a focus on specific animals, the program covered wider conservation issues.

At Port Phillip EcoCentre in St Kilda, a study determined how much rubbish, especially plastics, was found in a specific area. "We saw how biologists helped the local penguin colony by making them a new habitat and how vets support the health of this population," MJ says.

At the end of the youth leadership program, MJ and other participants presented their findings and recommendations to Zoos Victoria's community conservation team, promoting

a campaign to reduce soft plastics litter.

MJ developed his own leadership plan that is now being implemented at Simonds to help reduce the use of soft plastics, both at school and at home.

The program has enabled MJ and other youth leaders to discover that science leadership isn't something one is born with. Rather, it's a mindset and a skill that can be developed over time.

For MJ, his involvement in the program has been potentially life changing. "I'd really like to get into working with animals in the Zoo, because I met so many people working there who told me their backstory and how rewarding it is," he says.

"I've also learnt there are lots of jobs at the Zoo, not only just those working directly with animals. It has inspired me to think creatively."

Adrienne Harrowfield is science faculty leader at Simonds.

neighbourhood (Bill Hannan)

Amy on the corner is distraught
she had to leave the bloke that beat her up
and now she's not allowed to see her daughter
the courts don't listen to the kids she says
they say the mother's only after vengeance
and then believe his bullshit and his blather

Glenda knows about markets
she's a big investor it seems
but lives modestly at eighty-one
she serves us tea and scones
and rails politely against market regulation
the best ones swim, the rest deserve to drown

past the roundabout on the corner
the Wesley bus takes local children
to the safe harbor of private schooling
the hostess sees that they are served
golden toast with purple jam
and their favourite flakes of muesli

in Brunswick Street the dreamers
have coffee and focaccia
for breakfast after ten
in spring I see them chatting
at tables on the pavement
of schemes financed by optimism

Mrs Portobello made us coffee
and reminded us in her aussieish Italian
the man for whom she left home is long gone
the children have left home too with lovers
she knows that what will happen is going to happen
but hopes that when it does she's not alone

the young girl is in bare slim legs
the bloke in skin tight jeans
lovers I imagine
were it to rain
they'd probably just keep on walking
under the umbrella of their passion

our street is now a street of shades
Brendan and Mal have died
and Mavis is under the knife
their ghosts pass us by
smiling in that amiably distracted way
we have when memories have replaced our lives

before the deck where Bet was wont to sit
and indicate what should be cut right back
we've built a barrier against the dog
a modest affair of trellis and some rocks
with stakes for peas and beans to climb
through which pug-faced Hugo has already dug

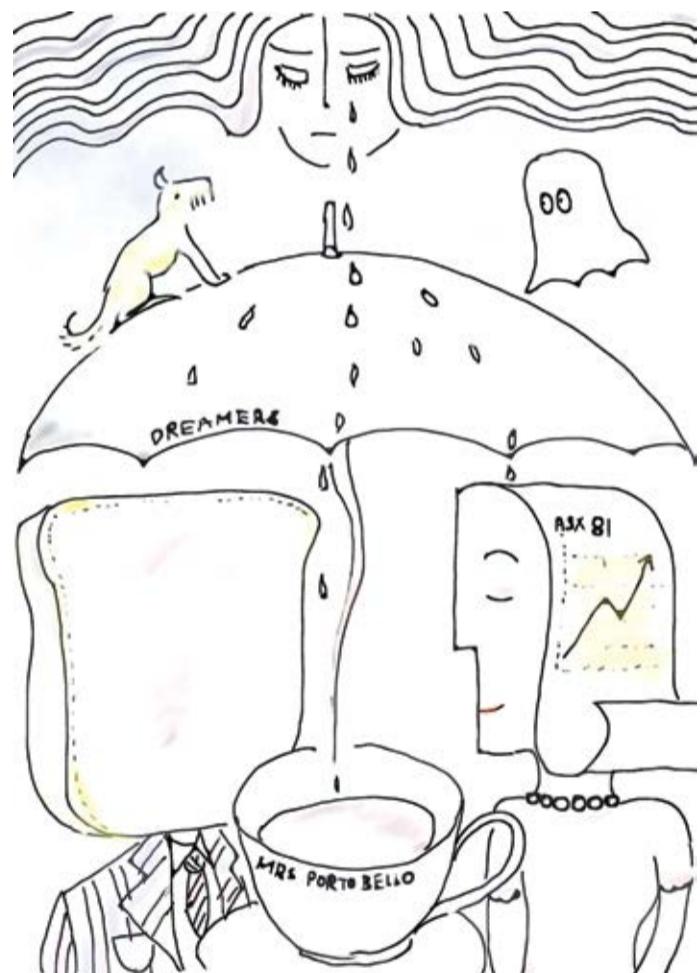


Illustration: Ed Zhao

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

ADAM BANDT MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW.

142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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✉ adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

🐦 @AdamBandt

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adambandt.com



THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

Ellen Sandell



My oldest child, Ada, started school this year. She couldn't wait for her first day of Prep and was so excited to join her friends at the local public school.

For most parents, choosing where to send your children to school is a big decision. Families often spend a lot of time looking at school zones when deciding where to live. Watching my daughter run and chat with her classmates and neighbours on her way home from her first day was a huge joy for me and an important reminder of how important it is to have great local schools.

For many families living in North Melbourne, sending their kids to North Melbourne Primary School is an easy choice, especially as it now has two great campuses. So, it has come as quite a shock to residents living in the North Melbourne public housing estate to find out that their kids are not zoned to this local school!

Awil lives in the Sutton Street tower. When we went to enrol his daughter in Prep last year, he was really disappointed to hear that she wouldn't be starting school with her neighbours. Awil's children are zoned to Debney Meadows Primary in Flemington and have to cross busy Racecourse Road to get to school.

While Debney Meadows has amazing families and teachers, Awil was surprised he wasn't zoned to North Melbourne Primary, given he lives in North Melbourne, and his nieces and nephews, who live just down the road, are zoned to this school.

We are a diverse community, and our public schools should reflect this. However, the school zone for Debney Meadows is almost entirely made up of students from the North Melbourne and Flemington public housing towers, with very little private housing in the zone.

Awil and other families from the public housing towers are worried that their kids are being stigmatised by being concentrated into one school, while kids from private housing are concentrated in a different school down the road.

There are also concerns about access and safety with families having to cross busy roads and navigate the on- and off-ramps to CityLink to get to Debney Meadows.

Residents are campaigning to have the public housing estate included in the school zone for North Melbourne Primary, and for school zones to be considered with an eye for better diversity and inclusion. A community petition has already reached more than 500 signatures.

This is an issue that really deserves a conversation, and I'm calling on the government to look at local school zones to make sure all kids, whether they live in public or private housing, get access to the same great local education and that our schools reflect the amazing diversity of our local community.

Want to know more?

If there is ever anything I can help you with, please get in touch:
office@ellensandell.com



Richmond before a 1941 game at Punt Road. Centre row: Jack Dyer (fourth from the left) captain-coach Jack Titus (fifth).

Photograph: SLV; photographer: Charles E Boyles

Tiger Jack retained his stripes

Maurice Gaul

The Limerick Castle Hotel, on the Errol and Queensberry corner, has always been a footy pub.

It was a popular watering hole after North Melbourne's home games at the Arden Street Oval.

The footy link continues today under genial co-owner Bernie Sheehy, a retired barrister and a hugely popular identity in this city's football circles.

An even more famous footy figure at the tumbledown pub was Richmond legend Jack Titus, who was licensee until he met a tragic end at the hotel in 1978.

Recruited as a youngster from Castlemaine, Titus played 294 games from 1926 to 1943, including 202 straight, and became one of the greatest Tigers of all. A goal-kicking freak, his career 970 goals remains seventh on all-time lists.

Always known as 'Skinny' because of his jockey weight of 66 kg, Titus thrilled crowds with his spring, spectacular marking and deadly accuracy that saw him top Richmond's goalkicking 11 times.

Jack Dyer, the fearsome 'Captain Blood' who demolished many opponents in that brutal era, described his will-o'-the-wisp teammate Titus as the best player, pound for pound, he had seen.

Apart from his on-field brilliance, Titus was a much-loved figure at Richmond. A dapper figure with his signature bow tie, he was an incorrigible jester with his banter and ready wit.

After retiring, he remained an influential figure at Punt Road, who served the club as selector, vice-president, VFL delegate and even coached the Tigers for most of 1965.

Titus' personal charm and footy fame saw him ideally suited for the role of publican and he ended up owning several suburban pubs before taking on the Limerick Castle.

It was there that he met a tragic end. *The Age* of April 20 1978 reported that "Jack Titus died after an incident at his North Melbourne hotel".

The slightly built 70-year-old, who in his playing days had never shirked an on-field physical encounter, had collapsed minutes after ejecting a man from the bar.

The Age quoted a Limerick Castle patron speaking on Titus' personal charm. "Jack never needed to use muscle. He just had a way of keeping things under control."

Surprisingly, today's co-owner Bernie Sheehy, a fount of knowledge on all things football, knew nothing of Titus' untimely end. "I've never heard anything about that. That's all news to me," he said.

However, one colourful story, possibly apocryphal, about Titus' passing has survived and it inevitably involved the irrepressible Jack Dyer.

In the next telecast of Channel Seven's rambunctious Sunday midday *World of Sport*, a stand-up argument in the studio reportedly took place between short and very rotund compere Ron Casey and Captain Blood, still a hugely intimidating figure despite his then 64 years.

Casey reportedly demanded Dyer deliver a eulogy to his old Tiger teammate. Dyer refused. It is said the less-than-athletic Casey actually shaped up, most unwisely, to the fearsome Captain Blood.

The impasse ended when Dyer reluctantly went on camera to deliver a few words, read out from a page, head down, his diction even more garbled than usual.

The reason for Dyer's reticence is part of football legend.

The great Captain Blood, reputedly the toughest footballer of all time, was said to be embarrassed that he had left his false teeth at home.

Richmond historian Rhett Bartlett, son of the immortal KB, takes the story with a grain of salt. "I'd need to see a clip of it to be convinced," he says.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.



Awil and Ellen Sandell holding petition for public housing residents to be zoned to North Melbourne Primary School.

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Tragic plane crash brought horror of war home to our suburbs

Maurice Gaul

It's not every day that a plane crashes in North Melbourne. But 1943 was in a very different era.

The tide of the war was turning as the fear of Japanese invasion receded. War-weary Melburnians, who had dug trenches in city parks and installed air raid sirens in fear of enemy bombing raids, saw Civil Defence Day (Saturday 4 September) as a welcome diversion.

The day was intended to showcase civil defence preparedness for any attack on Melbourne.

It began with a parade of civil defence vehicles through city streets, then special trains carried 60,000 citizens to Flemington Racecourse to watch a march-past of 10,000 civil defence volunteers. It was to be followed by a display of Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) aerial manoeuvres.

However, the day ended in tragedy as horrified spectators witnessed an out-of-control dive bomber plunge into North Melbourne, killing two RAAF officers.

The day had started benignly with the march-past then demonstrations that included responses to simulated gas attacks, incendiary bombs and oil fires. Then the RAAF aerial display began with demonstrations of ground strafing, low-level bombing and parachute drops, to be followed by dive bombing.

At 3 pm, two Vultee Vengeance dive bombers took off from RAAF Laverton, just west of Melbourne. American-built twin-seater planes, they were designed to dive almost vertically without deviation. At the time, the RAAF was deploying the planes in New Guinea against the Japanese.

The dive bombers, escorted by Spitfire fighters, approached Flemington from the west, with the afternoon sun behind them. While the Spitfires circled the racecourse, the dive bombers were to perform 10 minutes of simulated attacks on targets on the ground.

The first bomber to make its run

on the target was piloted by Flight Lieutenant Richard Roe, with Flying Officer James Harris in the wireless air gunner's seat.

Roe began by using a battle tactic, diving from the 'eye of the sun' at almost 500 kilometres per hour. He dropped a dummy bomb on the target, then pulled out of the steep dive at about 300 metres above the ground.

He gained altitude and performed an apparent 'victory roll' (an aerobatic manoeuvre in which a plane would spin horizontally as a sign of victory or celebration before climbing sharply).

As a second Vultee Vengeance made a run on the target, Roe did a second dive, pulling out at less than 200 metres from the ground. He appeared to begin a second victory roll but didn't complete it. Flying upside-down, his plane disappeared from sight, obscured by a low hill and houses.

The shocked crowd watched in silence as a giant plume of black smoke rose over North Melbourne. The plane had flown on out of control for two kilometres, losing altitude over Kensington before skimming over Macaulay railway station, narrowly missing a packed waiting train.

Ted Arnold and his wife, watching from their car while stopped at the Macaulay Road railway level crossing, saw the plane roll onto its back then slam into the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Corporation warehouse and mill. A sheet of flames shot from the building.

Another eyewitness, Ettie Corbett, was cycling on Macaulay Road near the railway line when she saw the plane heading towards her. "I was so terrified that I fell from my cycle," Melbourne's major newspaper, *The Argus*, reported her as saying.

Two other eyewitnesses were Eileen Evans and her son Ron. Eileen was a cousin of pilot Roe who had told them to stand on a North Melbourne street corner from where they could see the aerial display over Flemington. Roe had promised to 'dip his wings' for them during the display.



Huge 60,000 crowd at Flemington to watch the air display.



Plume of smoke in the distance after the plane crashed.

Ron, nearly 90, still remembers how the shock had so traumatised his mother that she never spoke of the event again.

The plane had crashed into the warehouse's roof at an estimated 640 km/hour. Several fire brigade units prevented the fire spreading. Fortunately, there were no employees there at the weekend. Two resident cats, kept to control the grain store's mice, used up some of their nine lives in surviving the blast and raging fire.

Sightseers who raced to the scene reportedly souvenired fragments of the aircraft. *The Argus* reported that had the plane continued a bit further, it would have slammed into a densely populated neighbourhood.

Both Roe, who was posthumously awarded the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry in New Guinea, and Harris were killed instantly. Both were buried with full military honours.

Within days, the RAAF convened a closed court of inquiry. While it ascertained no definite cause of the crash, it found that Roe had deviated from his flight instructions by performing unauthorised aerobatics at an unsafe height.

It also identified a design flaw in the quick-release buckle on the pilot's safety harness. This could be accidentally knocked undone, most



Left: Flight Lieutenant Richard Roe



Above: Flying Officer James Harris

an infant daughter. Zena was granted a war widow's pension; however, in a case of bureaucracy gone mad, the RAAF pursued her about deficiencies in her late husband's service issue underclothes.

In time, a new buckle for the safety harnesses in Vultee Vengeance aircraft was developed and the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Corporation was compensated for the damage done to its warehouse.

The North Melbourne air crash did not make front-page news in *The Argus*, and was bumped to page 3 by news of Allied advances and the visit of the wife of President Roosevelt. Perhaps readers had become inured to wartime tragedies.

Only in the 1990s was a memorial plaque erected in Macaulay Road at the scene of the crash.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Photographs: Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs documenting the day of the crash and its aftermath. State Library of Victoria

This article borrows heavily from the groundbreaking research by Patrick Ferry, assistant state manager for the National Archives of Australia based at the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne.

Patrick's research, based on reports in the Melbourne *Argus* newspaper, was originally published in the *Latrobe Journal* (November 2022), which is available online.

A story on the air crash by North Melbourne identity Bill Hannan was published in the 2009 winter (June) *News*.



Firefighters desperately fighting the fire in North Melbourne.

Walk-off at Wave Hill gave birth to land rights

Georgie Preston

Long-time North Melbourne identities Kay and Rob Oke met in 1966 at the University of Melbourne through their mutual interest in Aboriginal affairs.

For four years they volunteered for Abschol, a student body seeking to boost Indigenous educational opportunity.

They campaigned for the 1967 referendum to include Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in the census. "Thirty of us camped out in the city so we wouldn't be counted either," Rob says, recalling being joined by then SRC president, Gareth Evans, a future Labor minister for foreign affairs.

Rob remarks that journalists thrive on confrontation or dispute. "However, the only thing that happened then was the security people told us to pull our boil-o jug out of the plug," he says.

A more dramatic protest had started in August 1966 in the Northern Territory, when hundreds of Aboriginal stockmen, led by Gurindji man Vincent Lingiari, staged strike action at Wave Hill station, nine hours south of Darwin.

The Gurindji strike against the station owners, the Vesteys, was driven by poor pay and harsh labour conditions. It soon captured national attention.

Late in 1969, Kay and Rob hitch-hiked to Darwin then on to the protest site at Wattie Creek, where the striking Gurindji had moved from their Wave Hill station workplace to be closer to their ancestral sacred sites.

Now known as Daguragu, it is the birthplace of the Aboriginal land-rights movement.

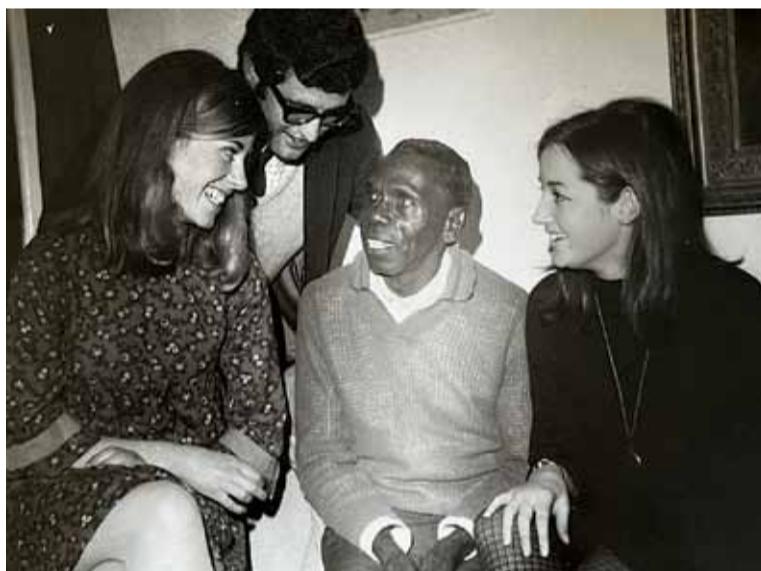
The Okes visited as practical helpers, not as curious tourists. "About 100 people were living there then. We slept out of the elements in the roundhouse. There was a famous pet pig, and goats making all kinds of noise during the night," Kay says.



Rob and Kay Oke at home in North Melbourne.

The Gurindji morale was low. While the settlement had a power supply, coolroom, bakeries, school, store, toilets and petrol pump, the strikers' energy was flagging. "Initial support had dried up, and people had largely forgotten about them," Kay says.

Kay and Rob returned to Melbourne and their report on conditions at Wattie Creek renewed public interest. Their energetic advocacy with politicians and unions also proved critical. "Whatever was needed, we did it," Rob says.



Gurindji man Mick Rangiari in Melbourne on a 1968 speaking tour. Kay Oke is at right.

Early in 1971, the Okes returned to the Wattie Creek protest, delivering a Land Rover bought via fundraising. The vehicle was used to collect food and supplies from Katherine. "My ASIO file noted my role in buying the Land Rover," Rob grins.

Kay and Rob found the strikers' morale had improved, mud bricks were being made on site and houses being built. Social service benefits gradually became available and donations increased.

The Wave Hill strike lasted until August 1975 when, in the dying days of Whitlam's Labor government, the Gurindji became the first Aboriginal community to have their land returned.

The momentous occasion, now seared into our nation's history, is indelibly captured in the iconic image of Whitlam pouring a symbolic handful of soil through Vincent Lingiari's fingers.

Eventually, negotiation and passing of legislation saw First Nations people claim land title if they could prove a

traditional relationship to the country. The dispute, and its symbolic resolution by Whitlam, is captured in Paul Kelly's stirring anthem, *From Little Things Big Things Grow*.

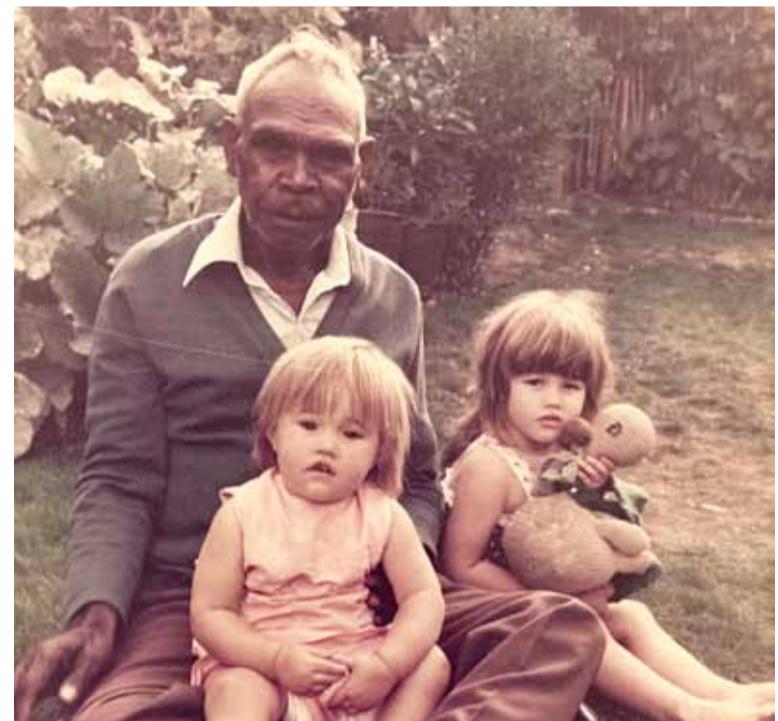
The Okes returned to Wattie Creek in 2016 for the 50th anniversary of the walk-off. Many notables attended, including then Greens' federal leader Richard Di Natale. "The pollies were flown in of course," Kay says dryly.

Kay and Rob recall the Wattie Creek area as a dustbowl. However, just 15 months ago, the area was totally flooded.

"To think of it underwater is surreal. When we were up there building houses, no one imagined that they might be flooded. We were more concerned they might blow over," Kay says.

Rob says they have maintained an active interest in Aboriginal affairs. "We're optimistic the Voice referendum will succeed later this year."

Georgie Preston writes regularly for the News.



Pincher Nyurriniarri with Oke children, Cathy and Nicole (1976).

POWER SAVING BONUS is back!

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QUEENSBERRY CUP

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Now seeking applications from performers, community groups, committee members, sponsors & stallholders

Visit www.queensberrycup.org.au or call Ariel (03) 9328 1126

The Centre Courses & Activities (Jun-Sep '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 Street, 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. Tuesdays and Thursdays now in fabulous Quaker Centre venue.

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

Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West 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

Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

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

Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Timetable: Term 3 classes begin week commencing 10 July and conclude week commencing 11 September. Pilates classes operate according to the school term timetable.

Costs: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per class when booking for full term or remainder of term. Casual enrolments (\$28 per class).

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.

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.

Mondays 11 am - 12 noon (except 3 July)

West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre

4 Miller St, West Melbourne

Wednesdays 10.30 am - 11.30 am (except 5 July)

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

Cost: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) 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. \$60 (\$45 Concession), including lunch and morning tea.

Fourth Tuesday each month 9.30 am - 5 pm

Departing from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Creative Pursuits

Sing Now! Community Choir

Join music director Susie Kelly in this inclusive community choir for adults of all ages. The choir sings music from across the world and spanning many decades. No previous experience required.

Thursdays 7 pm-8.30 pm (not 6 July)

Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne

Cost: \$18 (\$11.50 Concession) per session when booking for the term.

Casual enrolment online \$25 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. Book early to secure your place. **FREE**

Monthly on last Tuesday of the month 6 pm-7.30 pm

Will run 20 June instead of 27 June

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Coming up later in the year:

Digital Journalism

Movie Making

Digital & Communication Skills for Volunteers

Express your interest in these and other programs.



Community Gatherings

Seniors Morning Tea

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

First Tuesday each month 10 am – 11.30 am (ongoing)
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), 3.30 pm-5 pm.
The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne

Community Walks

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

Last Saturday of the month 10 am-11 am. Bookings essential
Leaving from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

WomEmpower

WomEmpower is a group for young women to gather for games, activities, chats and fun each week! Includes guest speakers, craft sessions, language exchange and cooking classes. For young women 15 to 25.

Wednesdays, 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm, 19 July – 13 September
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne and online.

Presented by Hotham Mission

Bookings and enquiries: programs@hothammission.org.au or call (03) 9326 8245

Arty Fridays

Bring your painting, drawing, knitting, weaving or any other arts or craft project along, share some skills and enjoy a morning tea with fellow enthusiasts. **FREE**

Fridays, 10 am to 12 noon
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

Thursdays 3.30 pm-5 pm (during school term)
– Library@TheDock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

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.

Tuesdays 4.30 pm-6 pm (except 27 June & 4 July)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$120 (\$100 concession) (\$15 casual if available)

Monday Art Club

Local artist Rebekah Symons leads kids aged 7 to 12 in a fun exploration of drawing and mixed media. Follow your creativity and be astounded by what you can create.

Mondays 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm
(except 26 June & 3 July)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$120 (\$100 concession) (\$15 casual if available)

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

See page 26

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. This friendly course will help you maximise your productivity and minimise frustration.

Wednesdays 10 am-12.30 pm
(starting 12 July for 10 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$65 (\$50 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 manner 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, 1 pm – 3 pm (starting 9 August for six weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$35 (\$25 concession)

Spanish for Fun

Learn the language spoken by more than 500 million people across the Americas and Spain: Español A small and friendly conversation-based class that will prepare you for travelling. With Colombian-born Katherine Taborda.

Tuesdays 6.15 pm: Basic Steps II (a little knowledge)
7.15 pm: Basic Steps I (no experience necessary)
(starting 11 July for 10 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$175 (\$115 concession)

Financial Literacy

This course will help you set financial priorities and develop a budget. Understand what's going on in the current economic climate in Australia and how this impacts your everyday life. Instructor Leah Huynh, who holds a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment, believes having control of your finances has immeasurable positive influence on mental health, relationships, work and life in general.

Saturdays July 22, August 5 & August 12, 10 am – 1 pm
Docklands Neighbourhood House
District, Shop 2, 4 Wharf St. Docklands
\$90 (\$50 concession)

Podcasting

Make your own podcast pilot! Learn about the storytelling craft, researching and synthesising information, presentation and interviewing, audio editing and podcast distribution.

Saturdays July 29 & August 19
1-4 pm, plus online activities
Docklands Neighbourhood House, District, Shop 2, 4 Wharf St. Docklands; and
Library @ The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands
\$60 (\$35 concession)

Event Management

Learn 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 the event teams organising the North Melbourne Queensberry Cup Festival in October 2023.

Saturdays 26 August and 2 September.
1-5 pm, plus online activities
Culminating in Queensberry Cup on 21 October.
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$70 (\$50 concession)

Reach out to us for help

We hear a lot about the 'cost of living crisis' these days. Almost everyone seems to be affected by rising prices of food, petrol, gas and electricity.

It rolls off the tongue, but when you break it down, 'cost of living' is a bleak concept. It's the costs one must endure if one wants to live. If you can't meet these costs, the alternatives are destitution or death.

This month The Centre has been assisting an elderly gentleman, John Sutcliffe, a local of more than 50 years. He started working in a box factory at the age of 10 and spent most of his working life as a technician for Telecom/Telstra. When he retired in 1993 after 44 years of service, he was recognised as the longest serving technician.

Like most retired people, John is on a fixed income. In his case, he gets about \$30,000 a year from a Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation pension. He says he should be getting about \$55,000 a year, but the rules were changed by the Howard-Costello government in the year he retired. Until a year ago he also received the age pension, but again changes to eligibility criteria dictated that he was no longer entitled.

John bought his North Melbourne terrace house in 1979. When his hot water service broke down recently, he could not afford to fix it, so he now has to resort to cold showers. And the windows at the back are in a state of serious disrepair, but he doesn't have the financial means to fix them. I worry for him as winter sets in.

John lives in fear of rates rises and, understandably, he is nervous of more rule changes that would set him back even further. While his main aim is to live in some dignity, he is also seeking symbolic recognition of his situation.

I suggested to John that he make a submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Cost of Living. He knew that making a submission was unlikely to lead to an improvement in his own circumstances, but thought it was a good idea that decision-makers in Canberra heard directly about the struggles of someone in his situation. Let's hope that this inquiry leads to real outcomes that relieve pressures for all people struggling with the cost of living.

At The Centre, we have been grappling with what we can do for people facing financial challenges.

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR

Ariel Valent



The first thing we do is give people a message that they are not alone and that help is available. Our local charity sector is very strong. There is material aid available from St Vincent de Paul, Hotham Mission, Red Cross and others. At The Centre we have some vouchers to buy fresh food at Queen Victoria Market. About one in four people report experiencing food insecurity in the City of Melbourne. If you do need help, just ask.

We've also been helping dozens of people claim their \$250 Power Saving Bonus. Thanks to the Victorian state government, every household in the state is eligible for this cost of living relief. It's \$250 in your bank account; you get to decide what to do with it. Just bring in a recent electricity bill into The Centre, and we'll help you through the process.

We also make sure that we have a range of free programs on offer. Community Walks, Music Club, Men's Afternoon Tea Arty Fridays and our various Homework Clubs are all completely free. And we offer a range of low-cost programs as well.

Lastly, with the assistance of Leah, a local financial planner, we have developed a financial literacy course designed to help people with budgeting and taking better control of their finances. See page 25 for the details.

Centre re-branding

It's well overdue, but The Centre is finally moving on our plans to re-brand. Our bold plan extends to a new name, a new visual identity and a new website.

'The Centre' is a bit generic and 'The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne' is more than a mouthful. We don't know what this local Neighbourhood House will be called, but we're looking forward to the change.

The Centre has teamed up with two young North Melbourne designers to bring this project to fruition. Dan Truong Design and Mai Nguyen UX are collaborating on the re-brand project and are even donating some of their services.

Our website will particularly benefit from the upgrade. Presently, only one person has the special retro-coding knowledge needed to update The Centre's website, which goes some way to explaining why it is often out of date. However, following a process of discovery and definition, Dan and Mai will create a fully functional, user-friendly website that is easily for a number of us to update.

If you have any ideas what we should be called, thoughts about colours or imagery, or particular features you'd like to see on our website, be sure to get in touch at admin@centre.org.au



Designers for the new Centre website, Dan Truong and Mai Nguyen.

NW MN

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

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

Did you know that the stories in this paper are written by a team of volunteers, not professional journalists?

If you enjoy reading the News and might be interested in writing for it, you could soon see your words and your name in print.

Support always on hand from experienced team members

Curious? Contact editorial@centre.org.au or 9328 1126



School Holiday Program

The Centre is hosting a range of awesome activities to keep young minds and hands engaged when school is out.

Make A Game Workshop

Is your child interested in coding? Making art and games? If so, then this three-day workshop is perfect for them! Instructor James Klonis covers 2D game creation, art and code - and shares how he makes a living from what he loves to do. At the end of three days, participants will have their very own prototype original game. Some coding experience an advantage but no experience necessary.

Suits young people aged 8 to 15.

Monday 26, Tuesday 27 & Wednesday 28 June

11 am - 3:30 pm (Monday, Tuesday);

1 pm - 5:30 pm (Wednesday)

The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne

\$130 (\$95 concession)

Also runs 3, 4, 5 July in Docklands.

Comic Book Art

Who loves to draw, watch cartoons or read comics? Learn how your favourite characters are created, and the basics of comic creation through a playful, fun and engaging workshop. After 90 minutes, you'll have a character created, ready for a comic! Suits kids aged 6-12.

Friday 30 June

12.30-2 pm

The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne

\$16.50 (\$11 concession)

Clay Play for Kids

A fun class where basic techniques of clay making are taught and kids are encouraged to make an object of their choice. A small vase, a cat figurine, a tea cup, anything you can think of! Suits budding artists aged 5-12.

Monday 3 July

2-4 pm

The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne

\$27.50 (\$16.50 concession)

Enchanted Forest

This workshop aims to connect children to their curiosity and imagination. Using just card and paper, children will get to make their very own bird-filled enchanted forest panorama. With Colombian artist Katherine Taborda. For children aged 5-12.

Wednesday 5 July

2-4 pm

The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\$27.50 (\$16.50 concession)

NOTICEBOARD



The North & West Melbourne News is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers predominantly from North and 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

The News is a program of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc, a registered charity. Costs of producing the News are met through advertising, sponsorships, subscriptions and donations. Donations of more than \$20 are tax deductible through the ANHCA Public Fund for DGR.

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.

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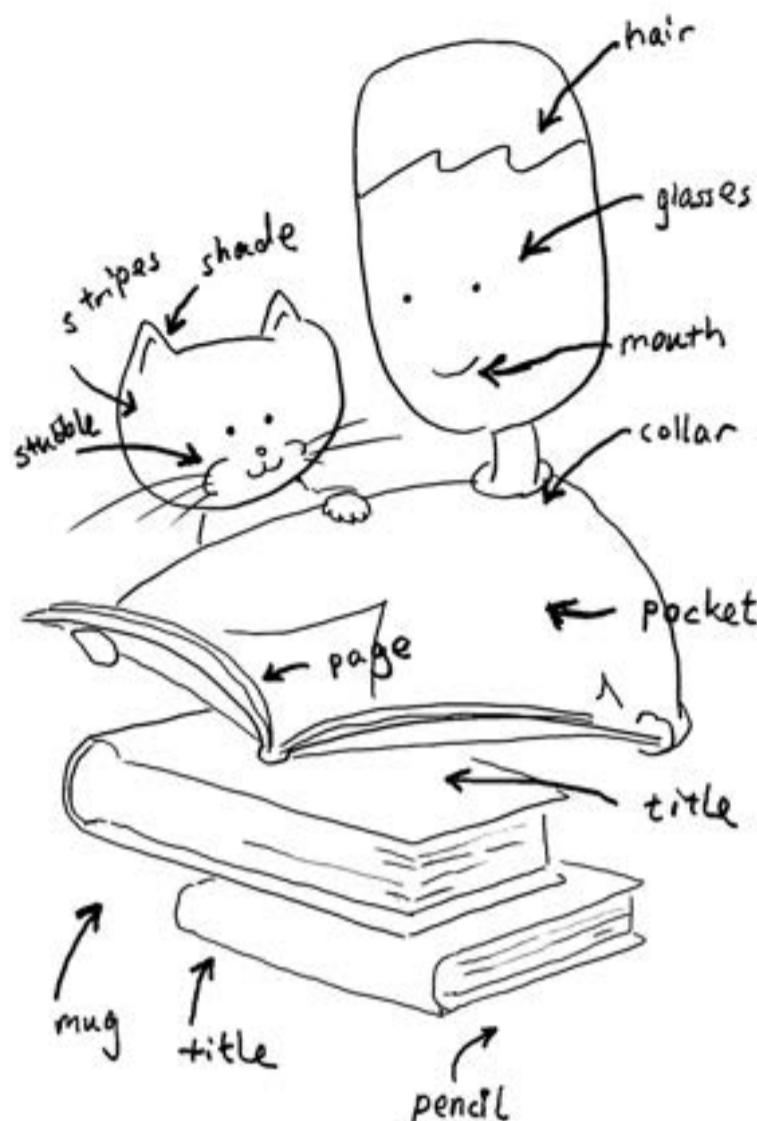
Publisher: Ariel Valent

Circulation: 7,700

Printed by Express Print
5 Jones Road, Morwell 3844



Spot the Difference (page 20) answers



Kryptic Kwiz (page 14) answers

1. (Matthew) Ryan (Meg Ryan, 'Sleepless in Seattle')
2. (Charlotte) Grant (Ulysses S. Grant)
3. (Alanna) Kennedy (John F. Kennedy)
4. (Thomas) Deng (Wendi Deng wed Rupert Murdoch)
5. (Katrina) Gorry (gory)
6. (Nathaniel) Atkinson (Rowan Atkinson, Mr Bean)
7. (Clare) Wheeler (Tony & Maureen Wheeler, 'Lonely Planet')
8. (Mackenzie) Arnold (Matthew Arnold, 'Dover Beach')
9. (Aver) Mabil (Mabel, 'Dad & Dave')
10. (Craig) Goodwin (Simon Goodwin, Melbourne)
11. (Mary) Fowler (Fowler NSW electorate)
12. (Keanu) Baccus (Rod 'Bacchus' Marsh)
13. (Hayley) Raso (Rice-a-Riso)
14. (Sam) Kerr (Sir John Kerr)
15. (Teagan) Micah (Book of Micah)
16. (Jason) Cummings (Bart Cummings)
17. (Matilda) Metcalfe (Ralph Metcalfe)
18. (Aaron) Mooy ("Look at Mooy", 'Kath & Kim')
19. (Tameka) Yallop (Graham Yallop)
20. (Michael) Duke (Philip, Duke of Edinburgh)
21. (Joe) Gauci (Darren Gauci)
22. (Harry) Souttar (Penelope's suitors, Homer's 'The Odyssey')
23. (Elly) Carpenter (Tim Harden, 'If I were a carpenter')
24. (Andrew) Redmayne (Andrew Redmayne)
25. (Bailey) Wright (Orville & Wilbur Wright)
26. (Linda) O'Neil (Susie O'Neil)
27. (Lydia) Williams (Serena & Venus Williams)
28. (Caitlin) Foord (Henry Ford, 'Brave New World')
29. (Cortnee) Vine (Calwell 'Wither on the vine')
30. (Jackson) Irvine (Jessica Irvine)

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

Spring 2023
Copy deadline: Friday 11 August
Publication: Friday 8 September
Summer 2023
Copy deadline: Friday 3 November
Publication: Friday 1 December

There are new Victorian Child Safe Standards in place to help protect children from abuse. The Centre has drafted three documents and we would value your opinion about them. Below is the draft Child Safety Statement of Commitment. We have also developed a Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures.

To view the full documents and to have your say, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/gTrwseCA8f> and respond by 10 July.



The Centre's Child Safety Statement of Commitment

We want children to be SAFE, HAPPY and EMPOWERED.

We support and respect all children and young people, as well as our staff and volunteers.

We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse, so all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently with The Centre's robust policies and procedures.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities whenever we are concerned about a child's safety or comfort: we follow those obligations rigorously.

The Centre is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, thereby preventing and removing those risks.

We have robust human resources and recruitment practices to reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing board members, staff and volunteers.

We are committed to regularly training and educating our board members, staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.

We are committed to engaging our local community to ensure the relevance of our child safety policies and practices.

We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, as well as children from socially, culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We have specific policies and procedures in place that support our board members, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

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

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 | | |



Photographer Jim Weatherill joined locals in Leveson Street for the annual celebration of all things linked to the Spanish language.

