

Local Muslims celebrate Ramadan traditions

Najat Mussa

The Muslim community of North Melbourne and West Melbourne welcomed the new lunar Islamic month of Ramadan on 12 March.

Ramadan is a time of increased worship, charity and good deeds. Socially, it brings families and friends together in festive gatherings around meals to break their fast. Ramadan is followed by the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

This year, two local mosques celebrated Ramadan and observed traditions that promote unity, charity and worship. The mosques allow believers to continue to worship and to hold on to their strong Islamic values.

Australian Muslim Social Services Agency (AMSSA) on Boundary Road in North Melbourne is a local mosque that has served the community for more than 20 years.

AMSSA also engages in many community initiatives and hosts a range of community programs. AMSSA served the Iftar breaking-of-fast meal to the local community each night during the holy month of Ramadan.

Iftar was an open invitation to those who couldn't make it home on time and those who didn't have many family members or friends with whom to celebrate.

AMSSA also hosts the daily Tarawih (it

means rest or relaxation), a voluntary prayer performed after Isha, the evening prayer, every night during Ramadan.

Faduma Mohamed, a North Melbourne resident, is a six-year volunteer at AMSSA. "My favourite part of the nightly Tarawih prayers is seeing the smiles and laughter of the children at the mosque," she said.

Faduma emphasised the important role the mosque plays in the community, particularly during Ramadan.

A second local mosque to celebrate Ramadan was the mosque of the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) in Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne.

For 35 years, ICV has been a pioneer for catering for many of our local Muslims. This year ICV also offered the nightly Tarawih prayers during Ramadan as well as many other services including advocacy and welfare.

ICV's vision and purpose as a community-sector leader is built on the foundation of a common humanity that transcends all differences.

ICV's commitment to creating a strong sense of belonging has led to an increasing respect for shared beliefs and values resulting in deeper connections within diverse communities.

Najat Mussa is a community outreach worker at the Neighbourhood Centre.



AMSSA Centre in Boundary Road, one of two local mosques.



Assembled Thread's Edwina Walsh with samples of hi-vis products.

Sewing up a bright future

Rashi Jain

Assembled Threads is a garment-manufacturing social enterprise that operates inside an unassuming shopfront in Melrose Street, North Melbourne.

Established in April 2021 by Edwina Walsh, it confronts the reality that disadvantaged groups such as new arrivals often face long-term unemployment. Edwina's venture provides training in garment manufacturing and then offers employment at an ethical wage.

Edwina started as a rag trader more than 30 years ago when Victoria's fashion industry was thriving. "All prints and garments were designed and made from scratch at the time, but not any more," she says.

The socially aware Edwina saw the chance to make a significant impact by marrying government support with the clothes-making skills of recently arrived migrants.

"We started with a pilot program that picked hi-vis vests because they are purchased in high volume and made cheaply with virgin fossil fuels," she says.

The business inserted recycled fibres in the fabric to drive a behavioural change about purchasing that product and pushed for production to be local.

"That blends with Assembled Threads' two key pillars of creating social and environmental impact," Edwina says.

After the successful pilot, Edwina's team became skilled in making hoodies, scrubs, shirts, silt socks and eco-bunting.

Assembled Threads provides for organisations' uniform and PPE needs. In doing so, the enterprise is able to support refugee, asylum-seeker and migrant women who are seeking to rebuild their lives in a new country.

The commendable venture has recently launched a recyclable program in partnership with the North East Link project.

"We provide bins on construction sites to recall usable vests then donate some to charity and re-badge others," Edwina says.

She says Assembled Threads faces many costs. "We are an ethically accredited firm paying a proper rate to our employees."

Large Australian construction firm Icon is a key client and has restructured its policies to allow for investing in social enterprises.

Edwina seeks to educate large corporations about the true cost of making garments locally. "We just want to focus on what we do and do it well. The more orders we get, the more people we can employ," she says.

She takes on new arrivals from India, Pakistan, Syria, Tibet and parts of Africa and the Middle East. "We recruit through caseworkers and, once we hire our employees, we train them and support them."

Edwina's work at Assembled Threads is driven by a keen social conscience. "We just need to reeducate people that making garments locally is more expensive but is worth it."

She proudly credits her employees for the business's success and says it is they who are the change-makers.

"They had the strength and resilience to make their way here from camps and then to walk into this door looking for a job. That's brave!"

Rashi Jain writes regularly for the News.



Composting nourishes more than neighbourhood gardens

Josh Rule

While most people know compost is the key to a thriving garden, Xuan Wang knows it also brings neighbours together. Since she launched the City Compost Network, an initiative to get city folk to compost, she's found that strengthening community ties is an unexpected bonus. Xuan believes composting has a social inclusiveness because everybody has food waste. "People might eat very differently, buy different types of groceries, go to completely different stores and have completely different consumption habits," she says. "But you have food waste one way or another." Xuan moved to North Melbourne in 2019, attracted by the suburb's tree-lined streets and the proximity to everything. She also loves the walkability and cyclability of the area. "I cycle with my three kids. North Melbourne has very good parks for children to play in and you meet different types of people by walking or cycling," she says. "There's always interesting things to look at. The architecture is from every decade from the past 150 years." It's also a friendly neighbourhood

and Xuan befriended a neighbour through composting. "She had cooked us food and dropped it off during lockdown, when I was having a second baby and my family weren't able to cook. She offered help, which I really needed at that point in time," she says. While the neighbour has since moved, the friendship has blossomed. Xuan still gives her some Bokashi bin juice, the liquid tapped from a compact Bokashi kitchen composter. The juice, full of nutrients and alive with beneficial micro-organisms, makes a terrific soil fertiliser. "She comes every couple of months to pick it up and, in return, she gives me cut flowers from her garden," Xuan smiles. Xuan's composting journey began when she decided to compost her own food waste. Previously, she had taken it to depots in Brunswick and then Kensington before finally deciding to set up a composting system at home. "I was inspired by what was going on elsewhere," she says. Xuan has become actively involved in helping others who are keen to set up their own composting system and she has recorded podcasts covering a dozen community compost initiatives. "Five years ago, I wanted to do



Xuan Wang helps her friends and neighbours put their food and garden waste to good use.

something, but I didn't know how. That's why I put the podcasts together so that people who want to get into composting don't have to go through

all the hurdles I did," Xuan says. She now has one compost bin, four worm farms and two Bokashi bins at her North Melbourne home.

"I happily take all my neighbours' food and green waste."

Josh Rule writes regularly for the News.

Simonds students swap classrooms for travel

Marina Bartolameazzi

Fifteen Year 10-12 students and three teachers from Simonds College have recently returned from a 19-day study tour of Italy. The students are either studying Italian or related areas of Italian culture such as history, politics, architecture or design. The trip took the boys through Rome, Orvieto, Florence, Rimini, Lake Garda, Verona and Venice. One fascinating side-trip took us to the ruins of Pompeii, which was buried under volcanic ash in 79AD when nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted. The boys spent some hours hiking on Vesuvius and learnt about the geology of the still-active volcano. We were all fascinated to see smoke belching out from the massive crater. After attending the night Easter procession in Sorrento, we were lucky enough to celebrate Easter in Florence. The boys saw the unforgettable Scoppio del Carro (Explosion of the Cart), an ancient Easter tradition in which a cart full of fireworks is ignited in front of the famous Duomo. All students had a family stay in the tourist town of Rimini, arranged by our partner school, the co-ed Associazione Karis. Our students gained a taste of domestic Italian life and attended classes for three days. The Italian students guided our



Marina Bartolameazzi (Simonds) with Lucia Drudi (Karis Foundation) in Rimini, Italy.

boys through Rimini's city centre and explained the city's history. A highlight was when the local hosts treated our boys to a performance of Shakespeare, in both Italian and English. "The hospitality that the Karis Foundation in Rimini offered us was heartwarming. I look forward to the next step of our partnership," teacher Gregory Edwards said. Simonds students also scored a cooking class where some Karis hosts' nonnas taught them to make the traditional local classic *piadina*, an unleavened flat bread stuffed with an amazing array of tasty ingredients

such as prosciutto, squaquerone (cheese) and rocket. As well as being a priceless educational experience, the trip provided endless social highlights. "We played soccer on the beach with some guys in Sorrento. They played guitar for us too. That was the best day," Dimitri Fokianos (Year 11) said. Cassander Branov (Year 12) said the Italian boys were curious about Australia. "I made up a story that I had a pet kangaroo at home, but they kept asking about our 'huge poisonous spiders'." Teacher Peter di Natale reported back to Simonds on the trip's success. "It was truly magical and we'll all remember it for the rest of our lives." As teacher-in-charge of this marvellous trip, my concern was always with the students' welfare. I must admit that some boys who had never had strong coffee before tried it in Italy, loved it perhaps a bit too much, and started having several espressos a day. I have heard just one complaint since we returned. "We are all missing having cake and biscuits for breakfast since getting home," student Dimitri said. One of our youngest tourists, Marco Ranellone (Year 10), made the sharpest critique of our trip. "Miss, Italians never sleep!"

Marina Bartolameazzi teaches Italian at Simonds College.



The Simonds College students enjoyed the sights during their Italian study tour.





Shared stories and social connections

Mary-Anne Hess

The West Melbourne Baptist Church and Community Centre holds regular community dinners on the first Sunday of each month

For \$10 per person (with reduced cost for children under 12 and those experiencing financial hardship) there is always a mouth-watering selection of home-cooked dishes from various cultures as well as locally purchased goodies.

The format of the dinners started in 2019 with gatherings related to Bangladesh. Participants included local residents who originally came from Bangladesh as well as Australians who had lived and worked in Bangladesh.

The dinners have expanded to a wider group from North Melbourne and West Melbourne and even further afield. The evenings regularly attract 40 to 70 attendees.

The dinners offer a chance for social connection and cultural exchange.

We have had attendees from so many backgrounds including: Cambodian, Chinese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Filipino, New Zealander, Papua New Guinean, Thai, Mongolian, Burmese, Bangladeshi, Indian, Afghan, Iranian, Omani,

Syrian, Egyptian, South Sudanese, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Somali, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Italian and even Anglo-Australian.

“The monthly dinner is a great get-together with people from different ages and backgrounds, enabling us to share good food and chatter. It always leaves me with a joyful feeling inside,” says Chinese-born Ed Zhao.

Sally, originally from Sri Lanka, also enjoys the community dinners. “I like coming to the dinners because I really enjoy meeting people from a variety of backgrounds,” she says.

Apart from the attractions of social connection and delicious food, the dinners have also featured performances ranging from song and dance to poetry and interviews with community members.

Mary-Anne Hess is interim community centre manager at West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre.

Want to know more?

All community dinners are held at 4 Miller Street, West Melbourne, opposite the Miami Hotel (5.30 pm to 7.30 pm). Contact Mary-Anne Hess 0403 175 200; email mary-anne.hess@wmbc.org.au or office manager Marcus Chick 0417 372 194; email marcus.chick@wmbc.org.au



Ed Zhao (BaBa) with daughter YaYa and son HanHan.

Banding together

In March, West Melbourne Baptist Church Community Centre hosted an evening featuring the ZaaHoos family band playing instruments from various parts of Asia and singing in Turkish, Azeri, Uyghur, Mandarin, Spanish and English.

The audience was also treated to touching stories from a Syrian man, Mohammed, and Kim, a Vietnamese woman, who moved to Melbourne from their troubled lands. The evening celebrated people coming together and bringing their music and stories.



Community Comment

Sara Pinkowski asked four of her friends how they plan to keep snug and warm this winter.



Trent, teacher

I'll head down the road to Marvel to watch my beloved Roos play. That always gets my blood boiling and warms me up.



Mish, construction

I put a nice little heat pack in my bed before I get in to ensure ultimate toastiness. Much nicer than an electric blanket.



Jess, radiographer

The secret is to pick the right clothes – Uggs and woolly jumpers – plus I love snuggling up to my new puppy.



Cedric, arts student

The best way to warm up and ward off winter's chill is with a shot of vodka. Even better, go for a double.



Merry crosses the thin blue line.

Merry a Rebel for Life in the climate emergency

Merry Kidby

I was arrested during Extinction Rebellion's (XR) 'Rebel for Life' action in March during the civil disobedience sit-in in front of Flinders Street Station. The sit-in was to draw attention to the campaign's main message – that climate breakdown has begun and we must declare a climate emergency. The sit-in happened at the end of a very colourful, slow march, with Blinky

the bushfire-injured Giant Koala and Ms Beehave, the giant bee, as well as lots of folk in costume, musicians and drummers. The sit-in was entirely peaceful, but there were a large number of police – quite unnecessary in my view. However, I now have a lovely photo of me in front of a chorus line in dark blue. Merry Kidby is a local resident and a climate change activist.

Fandango's fresh new look for an old favourite

John H. Smith

Lily Do is the new owner of Fandango at 98 Errol Street. The cute little café is snuggled between Meticulous Room barbershop and boutique toy-and-gift shop Stranger than Paradise. Lily hails from Vietnam where she completed her secondary education. "Then I came by myself to Australia and I lived with an uncle and a cousin," she says. Lily had enjoyed working in her parents' mixed business in Vietnam. "That led me to study business at Victoria University for two years, during which time I also worked in Vietnamese restaurants." After her business studies, Lily says she studied commercial cookery for several years. "I studied bakery, commercial cookery then hospitality. I now have five diplomas." Lily is keen to develop an eclectic menu at Fandango. "I like healthy food and I'm not

focused on just one style. I believe in a healthy body and living and sleeping well," she says. "I am always expanding into new fields, Western, Korean and Chinese food, particularly those that use different types of spices, such as Indian food." Lily's tasty offerings reflect the swing of the seasons. "Warm food for winter, cool food for summer. Our outlook and our emotions change at those times." She believes cafes should keep changing the menu. "When the pumpkin season is in full swing, we look for new dishes like different sorts of gnocchi," she says. Lily is thrilled with the friendly personal connections she is making via Fandango. She has found a new friend in long-time master jeweller Wayne Lynch, whose premises are just two doors away. "When he first walked in, he didn't know I was the new owner, but we soon got to

know each other. I take him coffee in the morning and we talk about how to improve the café," Lily smiles. Fandango might present as a rather narrow shopfront, but the café's secret asset is a magical private courtyard at the rear. "It's a place for people to escape to, away from the hustle and bustle. It's a quiet place where people can meet and talk," Lily says. Lily's life revolves around family. With Fandango closing its doors at 3.00 pm, she says she now has precious time to be with her seven-year-old son. "I now have time to go out with him, to walk in the park and to have dinner with him. When I worked in hospitality, I couldn't do that," she says. "In our Vietnamese culture it is important to connect and to spend time with family." John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.



Lily Do invites you to sample the seasonal menu at Fandango.

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What can ACFE do for you?

ACFE stands for Adult Community and Further Education. It is a government-funded program that allows organisations like North West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre to provide low-cost training. It is for a broad range of Victorians who are above compulsory school age and who are seeking to gain the core skills they need for study, work and life.

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John Keats, the English Romantic poet, in his *Ode to Autumn*, describes the gentle autumnal months that have just left us as the season of mellow fruitfulness. The ode celebrates the plentiful harvest that marks autumn.

In our own North Melbourne garden, when autumn arrived this year bringing its ripening produce, we decided to celebrate with a dinner to farewell friends, who were soon to return to their home in France.

The meal enabled us to showcase various currently available home-grown ingredients. We planned a menu using several fruits – figs, apples and damson plums – and some of our flourishing herbs, including tarragon, mint and basil.

Our dinner menu:

Pimm's No. 1 Cup
Entrée of prosciutto with figs
Tarragon chicken main course
Waldorf salad
Dessert of plum crumble with cream

We started off by serving a refreshing cocktail of gin-based liqueur Pimms No. 1 Cup, decorated with slices of blood orange and cucumber and mint, all picked from the garden. With it we served home-grown olives that had been pickled from last year's crop.

An ode to autumn's bounty

GARDEN GLORIES Marion Poynter



Apples, figs, damson plums and herbs ready to become part of the feast.



Our ripened figs, wrapped in thin slices of prosciutto, and dribbled with a little oil and vinegar, made a splendid entrée. Among our potted herbs outside the back door was a flourishing tarragon plant, and we used this to make a delicious dish of tarragon-flavoured chicken breasts.

Served alongside this was a Waldorf salad using some of our ripe apples chopped into small cubes with walnuts and celery.

We finished the meal with a splendid crumble of our own damson plums, served with thick cream. I followed roughly a crumble recipe from English food writer Nigel Slater.

Everyone enjoyed the meal and I felt very satisfied to have produced it with major flavour contributions from our own backyard.

Topping for Nigel Slater's damson crumble

- 100 grams butter
- 150 grams plain flour
- 50 grams ground almonds
- 75 grams light brown sugar

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

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.
John Keats (1795-1821) – Ode to Autumn

Tasty treats from the garden



Lots of local people came to St Mary's Anglican church for the Garage Sale and Produce Stall on Saturday 4 May. Our autumn garden provided the ingredients for many of the stall items, which quickly sold out. Little pots of potpourri made from dried rose petals, and lemon verbena and rose geranium leaves were popular for Mother's Day gifts. I divided and potted turmeric tubers, and dug up Jerusalem artichoke roots to sell in half kilogram packs with a recipe for a delicious soup. Preserves made from garden ingredients included mint jelly, Seville orange marmalade, fig and ginger jam, and lemon cordial.



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St Michael's students enjoy a colourful day

Sara Nicol

Many oldies will remember their schools as rather drab places. By contrast, St Michael's Primary exploded in colour on the last Monday in March.

Our Colour Explosion Fun Run signalled the end of term one. The school's community engagement leaders and our Parents and Friends Group (P&F) organised the fun day as a school community builder and also a fundraiser for our planned adventure activities playground.

The excited children got behind the planning for the event and raised more than \$17,000. Principal Denise Hussey was thrilled with the day's success.

"Without the parents and friends, events like this wouldn't be possible. We appreciate the P&F's effort and support, especially their help in promoting the event and in joining in spraying colour powder and water as the children ran through the course," Denise said.



May Tran, a P&F member and parent of Year 1 student Tia, found her involvement to be most rewarding. "There's nothing better than seeing the smiles on the children's faces

in school events like this," she said. The day featured many highlights in the event held on the Flemington Road Oval, just near the school. Each

grade followed a designated grassed track as they navigated obstacles while parents sprayed them with water guns, colourful powder, bubbles and slime.



At the end of the course students had to run through a marquee festooned with hanging noodles. Then came the much anticipated 'sliming of the teacher' where three lucky children, London (Prep), Iman (Year 4) and Sebastian (Year 3), were able to dump a bucket of slime on Denise and deputy principal Angela Flint. The hysterical scene involved Denise and Angela sitting on chairs in front of the whole school before having two huge buckets of blue slime dumped on their heads and being totally caked in the revolting stuff.

The children erupted as Denise said, "You will remember this!". She sought revenge as she chased some students but then chose to dump the blue goo on some teachers' heads. Including mine, unfortunately! At the end of this unforgettably colourful day, it was smiles all round. "It was the best day ever, I loved running around and getting colour all over me; my clothes were like a rainbow," Louise (Year 4) said.

Sarah Nicol is a PE teacher and one of two community engagement leaders at St Michael's.

Spot the Difference

News illustrator Ed Zhao has set readers a challenge. These illustrations may look the same, but there are 16 differences. Track them down and colour in the drawing. (Answers: page 23)



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Claudia's group in Chile.



Claudia in action in Cambodia.

Claudia dances around the world

Natasha Hortis

Claudia Aparicio is a popular Zumba instructor at the North Melbourne Recreation Centre in Arden Street. The 38-year-old, originally from Bolivia, and her partner arrived in Melbourne in 2019. They met in Merida, in the north of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and the holiday romance soon became permanent. "Our meeting was very random. Then we just started travelling together," Claudia says. She had already fallen in love with Zumba because of her life-long love of dance. "I've been dancing all my life and I find that dance is not only a healthy way of living, but it also creates great connections and opportunity for an intercultural exchange," she says. Claudia became a Zumba instructor in 2015, and it has led to her travelling the globe. "Zumba is all over the world. It has an amazing way of including every culture, every rhythm, every style in the classes," she says.

Claudia has taught Zumba in many South American countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico and Chile. Cambodia was Claudia's first experience of an Asian country and it remains a personal favourite. "The local culture accepted all of Zumba's Latin styles. They enjoyed it and absolutely loved it," she says. Claudia reveals that she feels right at home in Melbourne. "It is such a multicultural city and I love to be able to eat food from Vietnam or the Middle East," she says. Melbourne also caters to one of Claudia's other passions. "I'm a fan of architecture and I find that Melbourne has a beautiful style that I love." While Claudia plans on staying in Melbourne with her partner, they often discuss future plans to keep travelling so she can teach Zumba around the world. For now, Melbourne will remain their home. "It's the base we needed to settle in, but, yes, we always talk about keeping travelling," she says. "Zumba is the option that allows me to travel and to work."

Left top: Enthusiastic members of a class. Left: Zumba instructor Claudia Aparicio hard at work showing the way

Natasha Hortis writes regularly for the News.

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No more talk of heart attacks, dead dogs or cancer. Only positive things like faces on Mars, alien abduction, who built Egypt’s pyramids, the Bermuda Triangle and whether Elvis is still alive. I’ve been doing drag since my early teens. I won Miss Melbourne Drag 2008 at DT’s hotel in Richmond. I’ve marched in Melbourne’s Pride March since 1999, but this year I had to do it in a wheelchair because of my radiation treatment. As you read this, I’ve been two months in remission.

★★★

I was chatting with a young guy on a ‘dating’ app about how meth is destroying the queer community. I suggested he google my friend Feral Beryl who was killed by meth. In my research I saw mention of our friend Drew Dax. The three of us would go in full drag and create chaos. I discovered Drew had been stabbed to death by his slave. Last time I’d seen him we had a stupid falling out. I later heard that he had been living in a beach caravan.

★★★

VERY IMPRESSIVE

I’m all for public transport being free. Think how many cars and how much pollution would be kept off our streets if it was. Especially our delicious 402 East Melbourne to Footscray bus. I pay for it (by validating my myki) so I think others should also pay. Often on the 402 it seems I’m the only swiper. On the bus, I think of the world indoor athletics championships. I love watching extremely fit sportsmen running in lycra. So entertaining!

★★★

A curious fact about the Pyramid of Cheops is that the speed of light in a vacuum (just over 229 million k/h) coincides with the geographical latitude of the pyramid. They don’t match perfectly and it might be pure coincidence, but it’s still surprising. Another curiosity is that due to hypothetical continental drift, the pyramid has



moved 45 metres since it was built. The builders probably knew the speed of light and also the time (4,500 years) before someone noticed this.

★★★

In Olde England, burial space was limited. So they dug up coffins, took the bones to a bone-

house then reused the grave. When coffins were reopened, 1 in 25 displayed marks on the inside, showing people had been buried alive. A string would be tied to the wrist of a body, passed through the coffin and the soil above, then tied to a bell. Someone sat in the graveyard all night (graveyard shift), listening for the bell. Hence, ‘saved by the bell’ and ‘dead ringer’.

★★★

We Gemini People are the most likely to be seen streaking in an airport. I did it once, en route to a wedding in Tasmania, after trouble passing a metal detector. Soon two security guards escorted me through the terminal in my full regalia of a kilt, sporran, socks, voluminous feathered hat, sunglasses and a walking stick. I was seen by just one person who knew me, as she awaited her flight to New Zealand for her father’s funeral. She tells this story quite often.

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

Paperboys brought the news by flogging the old *Herald*

North Melbourne was a far from glamorous place back in the distant 1950s and 1960s. In that simpler era, trendiness, gentrification and coffee shops were all decades away.

People then got their news from Melbourne’s two morning newspapers, the *Sun News Pictorial* and the *Age* (the *Argus* closed in 1957), or the then dominant afternoon *Herald* (closed in 1990 in a pretend ‘merger’ with the *Sun*).

Newspapers were sold on suburban streets by paperboys (never girls!). These boys, now an oddity of social history, would stand on busy corners or outside pubs that would disgorge hordes of sozzled men after the then compulsory six-o’clock closing.

I was one of those paperboys flogging the *Herald* on North Melbourne street corners. We were paid (not much!) by the number we sold. It was handy pocket money.

My Saturday afternoons were spent at the weekly matinee at the Loco cinema in Victoria Street.

TOBIN’S TALES Gavan Tobin

When the screen faded to black, I’d rush to the newsagents to pick up my designated lot of papers.

On Saturday nights, the *Herald* was in high demand as it had the race results and final footy scores in a sidebar red stop press. We also sold the pink Saturday *Sporting Globe*, full of races and footy reports.

North Melbourne was a battling club in that era, with the glory days of the 1970s’ premierships still years away. On nights after a rare North win, the *Herald* and *Globe* went like hotcakes.

A prime selling spot when North played at

home was outside the old British Hotel on the corner of Abbotsford and Arden. When I tried to pinch it from a bigger and tougher kid one night, he biffed me and left me with a bloodied nose.

The Limerick Castle, on the corner of Queensberry and Arden, would be bursting after games at Arden Street. One night after North pipped Collingwood by three points, I sold all my *Heralds* and *Globes* as the pub emptied just after six. I scored many tips that night!

It wasn’t all good. Selling papers on the street on dark winter nights had its downsides. One night I got clipped by a turning car, leaving my

papers scattered all over the road and soaking wet. That was one of the few nights I finished early then headed home down the back streets.

It was a simpler time, perhaps hard for today’s younger generation to imagine. We’d never heard of stranger danger and of the many perils that we are all now attuned to.

The life of the paperboy wasn’t all roses. One night a drunk bailed me up outside the Courthouse. “Give me the notes, kid, you keep the coins,” he growled.

I was saved by the publican, who had just tossed the bloke out of the public bar. He came to my rescue and gave my tormentor a swift kick up the backside.

Yes, life was very different then!

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

Delete the past safely so it doesn’t return to damage us

A cybersecurity-conscious *News* reader reached out to me recently, seeking advice on how to securely erase data from their laptop.

I was impressed by this request as many people tend to overlook the risks of exposing sensitive information when disposing of unwanted items.

This is especially relevant for e-waste, including items like laptops, desktops, and mobile phones, as highlighted in a recent research study. It found that two-thirds of second-hand USB drives they bought for the study still contained previous owners’ data, posing serious risks of misuse.

Secure disposal of information assets, whether e-waste or physical items such as paper documents, is crucial for data confidentiality.

Businesses are often legally obliged to dispose of sensitive information securely in order to protect their customers’ privacy and to avoid penalties and reputational damage.

While households aren’t held to the same standards as businesses, it’s still wise to take steps to protect sensitive information.

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

Using factory resetting devices is the quickest and simplest method. For most modern devices the instructions are freely available on the manufacturer’s website or elsewhere on the internet.

However, it’s worth noting that this method doesn’t always result in data being completely destroyed, but rather being flagged to be overwritten with new data, which also applies when deleting files.

Until the data is overwritten, it will remain on the device, which means that anyone with sufficient skills and resources will be able to access it. This is one of the tactics that digital

forensic analysts employ in their investigations.

A more secure way would be to overwrite data with new data or to perform a cryptographic erasure, which can be achieved with purpose-built software. There are a few options available online but my favourite is DBAN, which is free and fairly straightforward to use.

Other methods such as degaussing and physical shredding are even more secure but should only be undertaken by professionals and can be costly.

Once the devices are securely wiped, and any identifying stickers or labels removed, they should be responsibly disposed of in e-waste recycling hubs such as those offered by

Officeworks and the City of Melbourne.

Finally, when it comes to other types of household items that can contain sensitive information such as regular mail, it’s worthwhile investing in a shredder, or a pair of shredding scissors, that can be easily bought on Facebook Marketplace for a bargain.

If you want to go the extra mile, you could consider putting the shredded paper scraps in your worm farm if you have one – our secrets are safe with the worms!

As Shakespeare’s Hamlet tells us, we all ultimately end up as food for worms anyway!

Got a cybersecurity question? Write to nebojs4@gmail.com and you may be featured in a coming issue.

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



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The right notes to keep the bears in the woods away

Bronwyn Stocks

My son, Jun, and I joined the Sing NoW community choir late last year.

We look forward to attending weekly rehearsals, meeting up with a fun group of fellow singers and learning to sing a range of songs under the inspiring guidance of Susie Kelly.

In April, my husband Paul, Jun and I holidayed in Japan and – unbelievably – our choir experience came in handy. You’re probably thinking karaoke, Well, yes, we did belt out some of our choir songs, like Fleetwood Mac’s *Songbird* in a Shinjuku karaoke booth.

However, there was another experience where our singing helped us survive!

We had planned to walk part of the Nakasendo trail. This historic route was established in the 8th century to connect Edo (now Tokyo) and Kyoto. It passes through old post-towns and spectacular scenery. Today, thousands of hiking enthusiasts journey along its various sections, with walks ranging from a few hours to weeks.

With limited time, our plan was a 16 km day trek from Karuizawa to Sakamoto. Near the start of the walk the route passes a Shinto shrine, tea



Warning sign for bears.

houses and a breathtaking lookout towards Mt Asama. From here, the trek enters a heavily wooded forest. The path is narrow, with steep sections and some challenging terrain.

We noticed a sign in English, advising that bear activity had been reported. It recommended not leaving food out and advertising your presence with noise. Bears avoid people, but startling one could be dangerous.

We had noticed people in town with ‘bear bells’ attached to their bags and now we knew why! Jun worried that we didn’t have bear bells and

began googling what to do. Paul and I reasoned that bears are endangered, and we were unlikely to see one.

With Jun’s encouragement, we kept up our chatting and occasionally practised our choir songs as we passed through the forest. It was a chilly day and mid-week, so we didn’t meet any fellow hikers, and no-one had to suffer our version of *Dear Theodosia* from *Hamilton*!

We were near the end of the trek and were joking about “surviving bear country”. Then we saw a young bear the size of a large dog bursting through the forest and running away from us. We froze. Wow, a bear! How amazing to see one in the wild!

We debated what to do. Should we turn and go back the way we came when we were so close to our destination? We then heard two very loud growls. Mama and/or Papa Bear were clearly unhappy that we were there! Decision made – retreat!

For the rest of the long walk back, we followed Jun’s advice and stepped up our choir practice to keep bears at bay. We made it safely back without further scary encounters. Who knows what any bears within earshot made of our renditions of *Mamma Mia* and *Ain’t No Mountain High Enough*.

Bronwyn Stocks is a member of Sing NoW choir.



Bronwen Stocks with son Jun in Japan.

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At the Doga youth camp near Malmesbury

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary Club recently sponsored two students from Princes Hill Secondary College to attend the Doga youth camp near Malmesbury. The camp, for Years 9-10 students, offers a program called RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment). Rather than focusing purely on high-achieving students, the program caters for those with a good attitude and who are open to improving their confidence and their leadership skills. They do so by participating in group activities and by meeting students from other schools.

Rotary backs leader training

RYPEN provides participants with a range of ideas and offers problem-solving and social experiences to assist them in forming their own values and moral standards. By presenting the middle-secondary students with the notion of 'challenge by choice', it allows them to broaden their horizons culturally, socially and academically.

Coincidentally, the Doga campsite in Malmesbury has a link to our Rotary club. The site is owned and run by the Doga Youth Foundation whose patron and founder is Fr Joe Giacobbe, a past president of our club. Fr Joe founded Doga more than 50 years ago to address the plight of disadvantaged youth.

Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.

Want to know more?
Our club is a vibrant diversified club and keen to welcome local members. Contact Neville Page on 0414 673611 or nevillepage7@gmail.com.

Students team up to become Eco Warriors

Ellie Yee and friends

At North Melbourne Primary School, some students have been meeting weekly as part of the Eco Warriors team with the aim of improving the school's environment. Our lunch club is open to all Year 3-6 students. Recently, we've been working on making posters to put around the school with the aim of getting more people involved. The Eco Warriors have been putting lids on our mixed recycling bins, indicating what can and can't go in each. The aim is to keep people from throwing the recycling into the wrong bin. For many years, we have been working hard to clean up our school, such as picking up rubbish, raking leaves and doing waste-free Wednesday, which is where we keep our lunches waste free. This year, we will continue to collect data and track the biodiversity at our school, as well as implementing ideas to increase our biodiversity. We also want to continue reducing the school's waste and to recycle paper waste into new paper. One of our goals for the future is to get the 10-cent bottle-collecting program up and running. We hope to create a system for families to donate their bottles to the school, helping to minimise waste and raise money for sustainability in our school. Later in the year, we will introduce a place where you can put your bottles. We also hope to help the students at our school's Molesworth Street campus in setting up an Eco Warriors group.

Ellie Yee, Charlotte Rowe, Ellie Bond, Michelle Zhang are Eco Warriors at North Melbourne PS.

Yummy Bear offers sweet and savoury Thai treats



Daniel Negritas and Pafun Sinpichetkorn offer a delectable array of treats.

Lea Carre

You can't miss the Yummy Bear Bakery. It must be the most colourful café in the world. You'll find its in-your-face candy-pink exterior on the corner of Queensberry and Elizabeth streets, right on the border of North Melbourne and the CBD. Inside, owners Thai-born Pafun Sinpichetkorn and partner Daniel Negritas bake sweet and savoury Thai food on the premises, surrounded by adorable giant teddy bears. The 30-something parents of three have been running Yummy Bear since August. They extend a warm welcome to customers as they offer a tantalising range of colourful Asian flavours. Walk through the shop's pastel-coloured front and you enter a floral wonderland with the sweetest of flowers inside. Equally sweet is Pafun, always wearing a smile and a tulle ribbon – pink, of course – that holds her dark brown hair in check. Pafun arrived in Melbourne 10 years ago. "I came here to improve my English and to bring happiness to people. Yummy Bear is my first experience as a shop owner," she says. Pafun previously sold her Thai

pastries online under the name Chang Bakery ('chang' means elephant in Thai and is a symbol of success) before launching Yummy Bear as businesses returned post-COVID. "I love our local North and West Melbourne community so much," she smiles. Daniel is wearing a pink t-shirt with the friendly bear logo on the back as he explains the café's cute name. "The teddy bear symbolises our comforting food and its cuteness and yumminess," he says. Yummy Bear's decor creates the idea of a child's haven, with cuddly and smiling plushies sitting on the counter facing the café's five tables. Smell the richness of ground coffee and you might miss that the best-selling drink here is Thai milk tea. "We wanted to be unique but also

to stay in touch with popular flavours, like mango and coconut in our ice cream," Daniel says. Pafun says Yummy Bear's cakes are different from the usual Western style. "They're not as rich but with more of an Asian flavour, so you can enjoy them from the first bite to the last without them being too sweet." All the café's tasty fare is made fresh daily in the little kitchen, where they also whip up Asian sponge cakes that are sold in seven shops in the CBD. The café offers a mix of pop music against the hum of the percolator and provides a soothing break from the hustle and bustle of the CBD. Cooking runs in Pafun's genes. Her mother and brother run a restaurant in her home town of Samut Prakarn, just 30 km from Bangkok. She is proud to have mastered latte art and loves to leave a sweet cocoa bear on the top of the coffees she serves. Daniel says the couple's next venture will be launching a new shop. "We are planning to open in the Queen Vic next door." A longer-term project is to acquire a food truck to transport Yummy Bear's cakes to various events and festivals.

Lea Carre is a new contributor to the News. A recent arrival from France, she teaches French at the Neighbourhood Centre.



Homework club enjoys an arty outing in Docklands

Laurence Angwin

One of the Neighbourhood Centre's most successful programs is the homework club. The club enables students from the neighbourhood to get assistance with their school homework in a relaxed and caring environment where they also get a nutritious afternoon tea and can then have a bit of club-time fun with games and bonding activities.

The club caters for juniors (Prep-Year 4) at the Errol Street Neighbourhood Centre and seniors (Years 7-10) in the North Melbourne Library.

The club also operates Prep-Year 4 sessions in the Docklands area, based at the Docklands Library at 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade. The 15 children, all recent arrivals from India, all attend Dockland Primary.

We recently visited the APY Gallery, at 34 Tom Thumb Lane in Docklands. The Indigenous-owned gallery is Australia's home of contemporary Aboriginal art. It exhibits and celebrates the work of early-career Indigenous artists.

The magnificent paintings in the gallery are a sight to behold. Enthusiastic curator Eden Fiske had devised a lesson plan and was keen to open the world of the painters and their paintings to our group.

Prior to our visit the children had been well prepared with school lessons about First Nations people and their artwork. With this background, they were spellbound as Eden ran a Zoom seminar with the APY artists in their Adelaide studio.

The children have excellent English. Many were able to interpret some of the symbolism in the massive paintings and able to identify the seasons, the symbols and the significance of the animal foot prints in the artworks.



Above: The homework club participants showed their artistic skills with colourful 'thank you' cards.

Right: The Zoom session helped students understand the stories behind the art.

The artists were delighted to work with our small Melbourne group and to show and discuss their artwork. For many of the Indigenous artists, it was the first time they had worked with children and they were surprised at how well informed the youngsters were.

The students posed many succinct questions, which were answered by the artists. After the 25-minute Zoom session, Eden let the children explore the gallery. They were intrigued by the beautiful pottery and handicrafts on display.

In the week after the visit, the students made thank-you cards for the APY artists they'd met by Zoom. The cards were then posted to the artists based in South Australia. We heard they were thrilled to receive the cards with the children's artwork and words of appreciation.

Since our session at the gallery, our students have become unofficial ambassadors for the gallery and have introduced their parents and even relatives from abroad to this wonderful world of Indigenous art.

The homework club recommends all Melbournians visit the APY gallery in Docklands, where you will be greeted by friendly curators and world-class exhibitions.

Laurence Angwin is coordinator of the Neighbourhood Centre's homework clubs.



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St Mary's focus on our climate action

Marion Poynter

Keen readers of the News will recall that in the summer issue, well-known North Melbourne local Merry Kirby pointed out that climate change is an absolute emergency now. Many of us would like to do something about it.

Merry felt that though each of us can individually do something and that it is better if we can join with other like-minded locals to make a contribution.

With this in mind, in mid 2021, Audrey Statham and a small group of parishioners of North Melbourne's St Mary's Anglican church – including Helen McCallum, Ewan Ogilvie, Michael Noble, and Tim Pilbrow – established a climate action group.



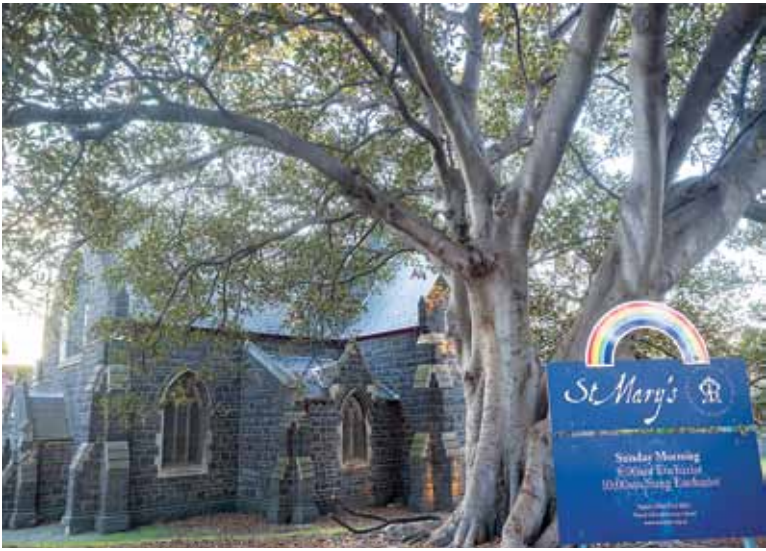
Audrey Statham leads St Mary's climate action group.

Members meet once a month on Zoom with the group discussing such matters as improvements in parish energy use (for example, switching from gas to electricity) and our own waste management (for example, effective sorting and composting).

Discussion also focuses on how best to inform and encourage interest in climate change in our own and in other church communities. Talks on relevant issues have taken place in the church and more plans are in the pipeline.

Tim and Audrey have suggested setting up sessions of a recently invented French card game called Climate Fresk. The game belongs to a French non-profit organisation of the same name.

Founded in late 2018, it aims to



raise public awareness about climate change. A key activity is a three-hour workshop that summarises the Nobel prize-winning IPCC climate report. While the report is lengthy (2,000 pages!), its essential message is covered in a fun, interactive group activity.

The group is also discussing how St Mary's might, along with other parishes, celebrate this year as the Season of Creation to encourage creation care.

At a date yet to be fixed, we plan to host an information event in the St Mary's church hall with a focus on the particularly damaging effect on global warming of methane emissions in landfill – and how we can help reduce it.

We will announce the date of the event later and we will invite all interested locals to attend.

Marion Poynter writes regularly for the News. She is a local resident and a congregant at St Mary's.



Foster carers needed in inner Melbourne

The Lighthouse Foundation, a Melbourne-based, not-for-profit organisation, is aiming to double its number of foster carers in the northern suburbs to provide greater support to vulnerable children and young people.

Lighthouse's Hub Home in Cremorne is a place where foster carers can access training to provide a safe home for children in need, and where both foster carers and foster children receive practical support.

Being a foster carer is a rewarding and life-changing experience. Anyone 21 years or older who satisfies background checks is eligible.

To apply to become a foster carer or volunteer, or to support the foundation in other ways, visit www.lighthousefoundation.org.au.

Illustrator Ed Zhao shares a flowery vision



Ryder Oval work reworked

Jean-Jacques Portail

For several weeks in February, near Ryder Oval at the northern end of Royal Park, teams of workers dug trenches, buried around a hundred metres of cables and installed a large electrical cabinet, in preparation for a planned renovation of the Ryder Pavilion.

At the end of February, beginning of March, the work was finished and the cabinet in place. I was surprised therefore to discover a few days later that the new cabinet had disappeared, replaced by a large pile of earth.

After questioning an employee, I learned that the cabinet had had to be moved some 30 metres further, and new lengths of cable laid to replace the first ones, which were now too short.

The reason given for the relocation was that the cabinet was blocking the view of the scoreboard from the centre of the pitch of the McAlister Oval and, as a result, neither players nor umpires could see the scores.

Relocating the scoreboard, an integral part of the heritage-protected Scoring Pavilion, was out of the question, so it was the electrical cabinet that had to be moved. I wonder how many thousands of dollars this absurd miscalculation has cost ratepayers.

On the renovation of Ryder Pavilion, I understand the need to extend and modernise facilities, particularly changing rooms, to make them more gender inclusive.

However, given that these buildings (with their solar installations and rainwater tanks) were already relatively new, surely it would have been more economical to refurbish the existing structures rather than demolish them entirely to build a brand-new building.

Jean-Jacques Portail is a local resident.



Neil reflects on his Howard Street home

Leah D’cruz

West Melbourne resident Neil Hawthorn spent a long working life as a librarian.

There is a touch of the librarian’s neat precision when he refers to being born in 1967. “I was born on the second of November, its shortest day,” he says.

Neil was still a baby when his family moved into his current Howard Street home, which his grandparents had bought in 1946 after the Germans forced them to flee their native Norway.

Neil is a genial conversationalist and his mention of the house purchase leads straight into a stream of colourful anecdotes.

“My grandfather couldn’t borrow a deposit from the bank as he wasn’t an Australian citizen. So he did what many did. He went to the Vic Market and borrowed money from someone,” Neil says.

North and West Melbourne houses were cheap then. “It was where the poor people lived. Carlton was for the rich people,” he says.

Some of Neil’s memories are ghastly. His grandfather was murdered at South Wharf in 1957 after receiving a death threat. “He was thrown off a ship. Perhaps he’d seen something he wasn’t meant to see,” Neil says.

After the horror of her husband’s murder, Neil’s grandmother created a new life. She turned the house into a boarding house for visiting Scandinavian sailors while their ship was in port.

“She’d make their meals and their lunches when they were working,” Neil says. “They became part of the family and we called them uncles. For years one would return from Queensland with his wife to have Christmas with us,” Neil says.

Many of his stories revolve around his house. “It’s a part of me. I’ve spent most of my life here. Or perhaps I’m a part of it,” he says.

Neil is now facing the inevitable maintenance issues common to all old houses. “Some slate on the roof is starting to slip. You fix one thing



Retired librarian Neil Hawthorn.

and another goes, just like any old building,” he says.

“There is handpainted artwork on inside walls, and the paint is coming off. Heritage Victoria tells me I need to get three quotes to get work done.”

Neil was five when his family moved to Kerang where he finished his schooling before returning to Melbourne to qualify as a library technician. “In my State Library of Victoria interview, they asked only ‘When can you start?’ They were desperate,” he grins.

Neil fondly recalls his 33 years at the library.

“My first job was shelving books. Then I moved into document delivery. We’d send requested articles and books to people around Australia and overseas,” he says.

Soon, stories about library colleagues come tumbling out. “The woman who worked beside me was nearly blind and deaf, but she spoke seven languages.”

Neil says the diverse staff were supportive. “Once, in the reading room, this person said he couldn’t speak English. I called one of our people fluent in French and she helped him out.

“I couldn’t because I only speak English and Australian!”

Leah D’cruz is a new contributor to the News.

Locals miss a chat with Antonino

Laura Misale

Long-time North Melbourne resident Antonino Misale died last December at the grand age of 98. For 72 years, he had been a much-loved figure on our local streets.

Despite his limited English, he collected every issue of the *News*, pored over the photos and loved to point out the people he knew. After I profiled him in the summer 2019 *News*, people began to say hello to him in the street and he felt like a celebrity.

Antonino was born in 1925, in Messignadi, a small village in Calabria, and came to Australia in 1951. He met Venezia and they raised three sons, Agostino, Giovanni and Vincenzo, in the heart of North Melbourne in their Queensberry Street home.

Many locals will recall his daily walks along Errol Street to buy the newspaper and his trips on the 57 tram to the Queen Victoria Market, always wearing his signature blazer and flat cap, always offering a ready smile and always up for a chat.

“The restaurants and shops have all changed, but Dad and his house stayed exactly the same,” youngest son Vincenzo says.

In the house, tables and couches had plastic coverings, the coffee pot was always on the stove and every spare wall space was covered with framed photos telling the story of his life.

“He had grown up with his parents, two brothers and a sister in a house with only two rooms,” Vincenzo says.

“He never went to school but worked on nearby farms, harvesting olives and fruit, and he’d fill his pockets so he’d have food to take home.”

Antonino’s simple life was overshadowed by the harsh realities of World War II.

“Dad would talk about the planes that flew over his town, carrying bombs to drop on the cities. He and his friends felt helpless but thought waving at the planes might stop them from bombing their homes,” Vincenzo says.

Despite having little money and the war raging, Antonino had a keen sense of adventure.

“Dad would jump on trains, clinging to the outside, and ride them



Antonino Misale loved the streets of North Melbourne.

wherever they went. If we ever asked if he’d been to a place in Italy, he’d always say he’d taken the train there and never paid the fare,” Vincenzo smiles.

He recalls Antonino and Venezia retaining their humble traditions. “Every year we’d bottle tomato sauce together for the sugo that Mum would make. We’d get the tomatoes from Peel Street off the farmers’ trucks,” Vincenzo says.

“We never had a car, so Dad took us kids to the beach on the old red rattlers. With no air con, they’d keep the doors open in summer and Dad would put his leg across the doorway to keep us from falling out.”

The boys remember the thrill of the

old Moomba parades. “We always got a first glimpse of the floats as we’d be out in the street outside the house to see them heading to Swanston Street to start the parade.”

Like many hard-working migrants, Antonino laboured on the railways and, despite a meagre wage, always provided for the family. “He used to say ‘I work with pick and shovel, we do things hard way,’” Vincenzo recalls.

The Misale family home was never short of love. Every second Thursday, on railways payday, Antonino would arrive home with a family-sized block of Cadbury’s Dairy Milk chocolate as a treat for the boys.

In his autumn years, he enjoyed spending time with his five grandchildren and, as always, walking the streets of North Melbourne.

When his grandchildren visited, Antonino would proudly display his myki card, regardless of how many times they had seen it. He felt a warm link with our public transport system, and remained quietly proud that his own two hands helped build parts of our suburban railways.

On his famous treks to buy the newspaper on Errol Street, he would always pick up a Tattsлото ticket. He would tell us grandchildren that one day he would win big. He never did.

However, this wonderful man won the hearts of family and all those lucky enough to know him. He will be sorely missed.

Laura Misale writes regularly for the *News*. She is proud to be Antonino’s granddaughter.



Antonio aged 43 in 1969 with sons Vincenzo, Giovanni, and Agostino.



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In March, North Melbourne’s laneways came alive with the sights, sounds and tastes of Spain

Photographs: Jim Wetherill





New local orchestra seeks players

Violinists, cellists, viola and bass players ... the Inner West Symphony Orchestra is looking for keen string players (and percussionists) of all ages to join our growing ensemble. Rehearsals are every Monday night at Footscray Primary School.
For more information contact Alison Farr on 0425 707 545 or email iwsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com.



Autumn's glory has been on full show in Royal Park. This photograph along Gatehouse Street highlights the contrasting colour palettes between the greens and yellows of the European species and the blue-greys of Australia's native bushland.



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20-year-old Phoenix brought laughter and love to family and friends

Ruby Liakoureas

Phoenix the Cat was a much-loved identity in the neighbourhood around North Melbourne's Purcell Street until she died recently at the grand old age of 20.

Owners Shendon and Naomi Ewans adopted Phoenix in early 2007 after the then three-year-old female tabby had been surrendered to the Lost Dogs' Home in Gracie Street.

The cat was in a poor condition, ridden with highly infectious cat flu, which is endemic in animal facilities, and was due to be put down.

"We were told she had a runny nose, was snotty and looked so sad. Naomi asked me, 'Do you really want this cat?' I replied that I really did. I said she was the one for us," Shendon says.



The early days were challenging given the special care Phoenix required. "For weeks we were hydrating her from a syringe, feeding her and giving her antibiotics. We nursed her back to health," Shendon says. Phoenix thrived, gained

weight and became a part of the family. Seven years later, when the Ewans had a child, the cat took on an amazing mothering role with the new baby. "They connected at once after Phoenix first sniffed him," Shendon says. He disputes what he calls

the myth that families with a new baby shouldn't have a cat around.

"When our baby wasn't well, Phoenix would stay near him. She would go in at night to check on him and would even come in for story time," Shendon says.

"I think it was Phoenix's mothering instinct that alerted her when our son was crying and led her to snuggle up with him. In later years, I couldn't even touch her tummy, but our son could."

Shendon and Naomi provided Phoenix with care and love. "We took her for regular vet visits for flu shots and deworming and bought only the best quality dry food," he says.

As Shendon speaks, stories about the cat's exploits come tumbling out. "She would back herself into

a paper bag and it looked as if the bag was alive. Then at Christmas she would steal her gifts of snacks from the tree. She knew they were for her."

Phoenix's local fame spread during lockdown. She claimed a favourite spot by the front window as she serenely watched the world pass by.

"During COVID, children would come to the window bringing flowers and gifts, just to see her playing with her teddy bear," Shendon says.

As she neared 20, Phoenix's health began to fail, but the Ewans' devotion never wavered.

"She gave us love in a funny cat way so we cared for her. We had to syringe feed her twice a day for the last three months and clean up after her. It was like caring for an elderly person," Shendon says. He urges everyone to

consider animal adopting or fostering, preferably from a local shelter. "Go and chat to Lort Smith, explain your circumstances and work out what animal suits you."

Neither Shendon nor Naomi regrets their decision to welcome Phoenix into the family. "We had her for 17 years and she brought us immense joy," Shendon says.

"She also had a real local following. People didn't know our names. We were just Phoenix's owners."

Ruby Liakoureas writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

If you are interested giving an animal a forever home, contact Lort Smith Animal Hospital (24 Villiers St; ph 9328 3021) or the Lost Dogs' Home (2 Grace St; 9329 2755).

Welcoming Legion embraces all those who served

Felicity Jack

The North and West Melbourne branch of the Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women has, since 1987, held an annual ceremony at the war memorial at the corner of King and Hawke streets on the Sunday before Anzac Day.

The ceremony includes wreath laying, flag raising and the haunting notes of the Last Post. As members have aged, the ceremony has been made shorter and the traditional march from Queensberry Street no longer features.

Most people are familiar with the Returned Services League (RSL), but the Legion is less well known. The Victorian Branch was formed in 1944 to embrace all members of the armed forces. RSL membership excluded women and was limited to men who had served overseas.

Want to know more?

Hotham History Project researches and records the history of our surroundings and runs regular events – walks, talks and workshops. The Project is keen to attract new members and encourage people to participate in whatever way they can. Check the website, www.hothamhistory.org.au.

Two committee members of the Hotham History Project (HHP) had close relatives who were involved with the organisation in its early days. One member is Lorraine Siska, whose father, Lawrence Hamill, enlisted in 1942 to serve in New Guinea but contracted TB en route and returned to Melbourne for treatment.



The memorial on the corner of King and Hawke streets.

Hamill's family lived in King Street and, when his parents came to live with them, his mother purchased a fibro-cement sleepout that the Legion members then used as their clubhouse while their official headquarters were being built. Lorraine recalls that, as a

young child, she had little to do with the club's activities, which often involved much drinking. However, she remembers the fun at Christmas parties to which members' children were invited. Lawrence Hamill spent several years as a Legion

committee member, serving as president in 1954 and vice-president in 1966. He died in 1978.

The architect for the new clubhouse, tucked in the lane behind the North Melbourne Library, was Kevin Borland, son of William Borland who was the Legion's secretary in 1946. Kevin enlisted in the navy near the end of the war and served in Japan, later becoming a well-known architect.

Whether he was a member of the League is unknown, but both Kevin and his father, as Communist Party members, would have been liable for expulsion. Kevin is the cousin of HHP committee member Rae Nicholls, who briefly worked for him when he was an architect helping design Melbourne's 1956 Olympic Swimming Stadium.

E. T. Lynes published *For*

All Who Serve, a history of the Victorian branch of the Australian Legion. He lists 131 branches across Victoria, but many were short lived. The North and West Melbourne branch is the only one that has survived, with a membership of about 50 men and women.

Minutes of the branch have been lost, but Lynes records some interesting facts. He concludes the section on our local branch:

It has the right formula. It uses regular social activities, Remembrance Ceremonies, welfare assistance and advice, and convivial comradeship, together with dedicated leadership at all levels to ensure that its members are well cared for. It is a happy, active club with a bright future.

Felicity Jack is a member of the Hotham History Project.

ADAM BANDT

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy
(03) 9417 0772
adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by J. McColl, 142 Johnston St, Fitzroy VIC 3065.

Friendship fades at the end of a long, hot summer

I had a girlfriend at the time. But Kate [not her real name] was different.

I remember sitting outside on the upstairs balcony of our sharehouse at Leveson Street. It was spring or summer, warm anyway, with the breeze in the leaves at eye-level just near the powerlines.

Those leaves would shimmer and quiver in the breeze. We had a bench and a few chairs on that balcony, and I was sitting with Kate, smoking a joint and looking too long into her sea-blue eyes.

"I really like you, Kate," I said, knowing it was the wrong thing to be saying. And she didn't stand for it. Not really.

"You've got a girlfriend," she said.

"I know," I said. "But I still really like you."

"What are you saying?" she said, looking back at me. A car went past. We could hear the traffic up

A PLACE TO CALL HOME Matthew Hooper

off Queensberry. No one else was at home.

Then she said, "Well, what you going to do about it, then? I don't want you to be sleazy, please. We're friends. We've been friends for two years. I don't want to spoil that!"

"I don't either, Kate," I said, rolling another joint.

I don't know what it was, the light, the fact that we were stoned, her eyes themselves, but I couldn't look away. I leant toward her.

"No," she said. "You have a girlfriend."

"Sorry," I said. And I was sorry. She gave me a look and I knew I had broken something between us. She didn't look at me the same way after

that. I even wondered if she told my girlfriend later.

I looked down then, at the pale, weatherworn boards of the balcony. There were leaves in the gutter, golden and brittle leaves. It had been a hot summer and I'd noticed a lot of trees had lost some leaves.

I didn't know how her eyes got like that in summer. I lit the joint and had a drag or two. I passed it to Kate.

Not long after that, Kate moved out. That gave me heartache. We still kept in touch. We went out sometimes. I even got her a job at the gallery I was working at. Then there was a hiatus.

I didn't see her for ages. I tried to call her father. (I knew his number

because he was the only lawyer called Landy [not his real name] in Albury). He told me Kate was suffering from psychosis from smoking too much pot and from taking a bad E.

"One weekend she went to a rave and the next thing we knew she was in hospital," Mr Landy said.

I caught the tram down to the hospital, with a bunch of flowers in my hand.

"Kate Landy," I said to the receptionist, a young guy who was dressed in casual pants and a polo shirt. Not that I cared about what he was wearing.

"Have a seat," he said, "I'll see if I can find her."

"OK," I said. "Can we go out for a coffee?"

"As long as you have her back by 4.00 pm," the guy said.

"I think I can do that," I said and I sat waiting and picked out my book from my bag. *The Master and Margarita*.

I'd read about five pages when the receptionist came back.

"She doesn't want to see you," he said.

"Are you sure?" I said.

"I'm sure. ...that's what she said."

I gotta say I was gutted, really hurt, really worried about her, too.

"Maybe come back tomorrow," he said, hopeful.

"Maybe," I said. "I'll do my best." I turned the page down, dog-eared it down, and put my book into my bag and zipped the bag closed.

"Thanks for trying," I said. "Can you give her these?" I offered up the flowers.

"Not a problem," he said, and I stood and opened the glass doors and caught the tram home.

Matthew Hooper writes regularly for the News about his experience in local share houses. His novel, *A Cold Season*, will be published by Transit Lounge in November.



Bowled over with winter action

Madeleine Scully

Winter's cold hand is already upon us! But fear not, there is lots of fun to be had down at your local 'bowlo', nestled in the pretty Flagstaff Gardens.

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club recently welcomed Amanda Cullen as our new manager. As autumn's shadows lengthened, members and guests noticed other changes around the club.

Plants and lamps appeared, the beverages and food offerings were transformed (mulled cider and Portuguese Conservas anyone?) and new events were planned.

A new attraction is our Chatty Café, open each Monday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. It is a chance to connect with other locals over a cup of coffee and congenial company. Everyone is welcome to drop in for some good vibes and a chat over tea, coffee and biscuits.

Chatty Café is a global movement designed to bring people together in a friendly,

informal setting. Club member Robyn Featherstone was inspired by the concept and has the café up and running.

The club, keen to see like-minded locals mingling, made the venue available while the City of Melbourne provided a connected neighbourhood grant to fund the refreshments.

The café is casual, bookings aren't required and you needn't be a member to join – though you might choose to become one afterwards!

On Monday evenings, it's time to Roll, Bowl and Warm Your Soul. From 4.00 to 8.00 pm, pop down for an hour of bowls under the stars, a welcoming glass of mulled Deeds Cider, blankets and heaters, all for just \$20.

On Tuesday evenings, Choc and Roll Tuesday is locals' night. From 4.00 pm onwards, you can enjoy delicious bottomless hot chocolate from our neighbourhood friends at Mork, creators of the best hot chocolate ever! There's a special welcome to local

families and teenagers.

In early August we will, in partnership with the Hotham History Project, be publishing the club's official history, spanning the 158 years since 1866.

New members are always welcome. You will have access to our fantastic facilities, greens, club events throughout the year and discounts across the bar.

You can also bring friends down to socialise and to enjoy a friendly game of bowls. Remember, you don't have to bowl in order to enjoy your local bowls club. If you are strolling through the gardens, just come through the gate or ring the bell.

Madeleine Scully is secretary of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club.

Want to know more?
Check out the bowls club facebook, Instagram or website www.citybowls.org/Bowlsbookings: <https://www.citybowls.org/barefoot-bowls/barefoot-bowls-bookings/>

Playful Pluto finds her new family

Mary McPherson

Pluto was just two-months-old when she arrived at Lort Smith's emergency department after a heavy weight had been accidentally dropped on her leg.

The kitten was in pain and couldn't bear any weight on her tiny leg. She was admitted to the hospital for critical veterinary care to treat a suspected fracture.

After Pluto was surrendered to Lort Smith, we were able to provide the young kitten with the vet treatment and care she needed.

As she waited for a new home, Pluto charmed everyone with her playful nature and loving heart. Plus, of course, her cute little face.

Lort Smith's customer service manager, Danielle, took Pluto into foster care while the



kitten recovered from her treatment. She also needed to be desexed and microchipped before being rehomed.

Over time, Pluto healed and flourished, growing to love her foster family, including Danielle's partner and their two cats.

Danielle and Pluto developed a special bond. A few weeks later, Danielle decided to make the arrangement permanent. She adopted little Pluto, giving her a fresh start in life.

"Pluto has been the perfect addition to our family," Danielle says. "She drives her two older sisters mad with her playful energy and excitement

and she keeps everyone on their toes! Pluto's favourite things are her ping pong ball, dinnertime and her before-bed cuddles!"

Thanks to support from the community, Lort Smith was able to provide Pluto with the love and care she needed to find her forever home. Donor funds were used to feed the kitten as she recuperated and also to pay for her vet care, vaccinations and microchipping.

Today, Pluto is living her best life with her forever family.

Mary McPherson is Lort Smith's communications manager..



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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 criminal cases heard in the North Melbourne Court. Here are some that ran in early June in the 1880s.

Pardon gets no pardon for causing serious damage (1882)
Catherine Pardon was charged with damaging her dwelling house by deliberately breaking several panes of glass and battering the front door with an axe. She pleaded guilty but claimed she had smashed the windows as revenge for her husband's harsh treatment. The bench fined her just one shilling with costs.

Good skips bill after having his fill as he dines at Vine's (1882)
James Good was taken to court after he and a friend entered the Errol Street food store of Richard Vine, ordered some hot pies and two cups of coffee, and then refused to pay and walked away. The bench ordered he repay Mr Vine the full cost of the food and drink they had consumed.

Bad seed Reed held to account for drinking and assault (1882)
Patrick Reed, a well-known larrikin with 30 previous convictions, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and was sentenced to seven days in prison. On a second charge of damaging Constable Murphy's uniform during the arrest, Reed was fined 70 shillings or, in default, an extra six weeks behind bars.

Neighbours Noel and Nell go at it hammer and tongs (1883)
Noel O'Shea and Nellie O'Neil were accused of throwing missiles at each other. The long-time warring Howard Street neighbours then issued cross summons against each other. After evidence showed that a quarrel had led to an exchange of blows, the bench decided both were equally to blame and fined each 10 shillings.

Roff flees marriage but made to cough up for wife's costs (1884)
Keith Roff was charged with deserting his wife after he left for South Australia. He then wrote to her begging forgiveness, but she sued him for maintenance for herself and a child. Roff denied having been married and that the child was his. A marriage certificate was tabled and Roff was ordered to support his wife.

Bandy excused for serving thirsty gardeners a brandy (1885)
Hotel owner David Bandy was charged with serving alcohol during prohibited hours. Police had found gardeners drinking coffee laced with brandy at Bandy's Arden Street hotel. Bandy denied the charge and Dr Lloyd, presiding, said the gardeners deserved some refreshments after a long journey. He dismissed the case.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.

Lost cat

Brendan Gleeson



Whilst grieving
Your loss
We nonetheless think
That your cat
Isn't lost
But runaway
We've news
Just today
Of a simpering feline
Reclined on a Vline
Heading for pastures
Unknown
We regret
To inform you
We've been advised
By the Zoo
That escapees never
Come home

Local resident Brendan Gleeson contributes regularly to the News.

Focus on history teachers

Patrick Ferry

Members of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) gathered recently at the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne for their annual general meeting.

One of the highlights was presentation of awards to history teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to their profession and the history community.

The 2024 National History Challenge was also launched in Victoria. The challenge is a free competition open to all school students, one that encourages them to explore a particular historical theme.

This year's theme is 'Crisis and Response'. The National Archives of Australia, which hosted the event, is a proud sponsor.

After the meeting, HTAV members were given a special 'behind-the-scenes' tour of the repository and were shown some of the treasures in the national archival collection.

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



The teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to the history community.

last days (Bill Hannan)

in the visitors room on the sofa
sits an old woman
a Siciliana by the look of her
Italian anyway
neatly dressed primly sitting ready
to see out the days and nights
beside the old man in the bed who waits
to be taken by la Madonna to il Signore

waiting for him beside the vines and olive tree
just like the one where he told Francesca
he would be her Paolo and take her
to a land far far away of gold and silver
where everyone has terreno casa e vigna

and in the ward beside his body in the bed
she will remind him
of the olive tree
the sunsets of hope on the ship
the early morning journeys to the market
for fruit and vegies for the shop they later
turned into a milk bar and alimentari
stocked also from his garden
where in summer the tall tomato vines
were picked to make passato
and he will hear her
so the nurses assure her
he will hear Francesca his lover

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



Illustration: Ed Zhao

KRYPTIC KWIZ

Maurice Gaul

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

Here are 30 countries that we will see competing at the Paris Olympics

Argentina	Austria	China	Colombia	Cuba	Denmark	Egypt	Georgia
Guinea	India	Ireland	Jamaica	Jordan	Kazakhstan	Kenya	Lebanon
Libya	Malta	Mongolia	Morocco	Nauru	Panama	Samoa	St Lucia
Singapore	South Korea	Thailand	Tonga	Turkey	Zimbabwe		

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

1 I'm known for harsh-tasting cigars and the rebel hero Che

2 I'm where readers ended up after following Forster's passage

3 I'm Borat's home, the one land he said "not run by little girls"

4 I'm an old-style Aussie rhyming slang for a really good mate

5 I'm where the Rift produces many legends in the very long run

6 I'm where the clans were united by ultra-right Ghengis Khan

7 I'm a land full of smiles, always been so – it's just who (S)I am

8 I'm where Belafonte paused after his long trip on a sailing ship

9 I'm full of shit – more politely phosphate (bird droppings to you)

10 I'm pining to once again see the Biblical cedars of my home

11 I'm where Marcellus told Horatio something is really rotten

12 I'm pardoned each Thanksgiving by every American president

13 I'm the location of the cult Bogart and Bergman 1940s' movie

14 I'm the Anglicised name of the song of the Venetian gondoliers

15 I'm a place that so many singers seem to have on their mind

16 I'm where Jonah returned after his expulsion from high school

17 I'm still technically at war because hostilities never ended

18 I'm the subject of Eva's *Evita* lament that people not grieve

19 I'm where our WW1 Diggers torched the Wazza's brothels

20 I'm full of pride that I'm a lion city due to my old Malay name

21 I'm landlocked, where a once Marxist rebel had one-party rule

22 I'm the great MJ, floating on Air in 13 seasons with the Bulls

23 I'm where our WW2 desert Diggers fought like cornered Rats

24 I'm where RLS finally found rest on his own treasured island

25 I'm a home of strudels and noodles and cutety-pie poodles

26 I'm a place where you can dance on Eire in a lively jig and reel

27 I'm where Cocaine Cassie did her six for carrying less than six

28 I'm Gable's timeless and stylish black-banded ivory-cream hat

29 I'm a piggish place costing a pre-decimal Aussie quid and bob

30 I'm indebted to Faith, Hope and Charity for my WW2 GC

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY
Ellen Sandell



Listening to local voices

Greens federal leader, Adam Bandt, and I were delighted to spend a sunny morning recently in Errol Street on Saturday, chatting to locals about what was on their minds.

One thing that came up frequently was the cost-of-living crisis. We had several conversations with locals who have had their rents put up, with several worried about how they'll pay the rent or mortgage.

It's just awful to hear people say they'll be forced to move away from the area because of sky-rocketing housing costs.

Local schools are also suffering because of rising rents and cost of housing. For example, the state government has been refusing to pay to rent more local space for Uni High, despite the desperate need for more space for their growing student population.

Several former West Melbourne and Docklands residents have also told us they've been forced to move to the outer suburbs, and to leave the wonderful Docklands Primary School,

because their rents have gone up. The impacts of this housing crisis are wide-ranging.

The housing crisis is something that Adam and I continue to focus on. If you're worried about never being able to buy your own home (or worried your children will never be able to afford a home), please know you're not alone, and we're fighting for you.

Both state and federal governments have many levers at their disposal that could help fix the housing crisis – from reining in big developer profits and building more public housing to getting rid of unfair tax breaks for wealthy investors. Instead, Victorian Labor is choosing to demolish all high-rise public housing towers and to privatise the majority of the land. The wrong approach!

I was also chuffed on our late-April Saturday walk to receive congratulations from many locals about my election as the new leader of the Victorian Greens. I'm committed as ever to ensuring I represent your voice in the Victorian Parliament, even though the new role means I'll be even busier than usual!

Please know that we are always here to answer any questions you have, or to help with local issues.

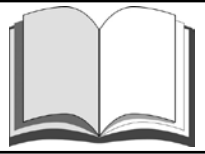
In taking on the leadership of the Victorian Greens, I will continue to hold the government to account on issues like housing affordability, taxing the big corporations, and action on climate change.

Adam and I are always keen to hear how they're affecting you, so don't ever hesitate to get in touch at: office@ellensandell.com.



Ellen Sandell with Greens' federal leader Adam Bandt.

BETWEEN THE COVERS
Chris Saliba



Until August

Gabriel Garcia Marquez
(Viking, RRP: \$35.00)

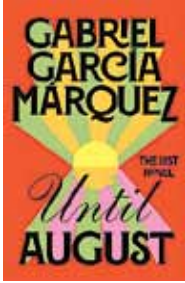
Anna Magdalena Bach, a middle-aged woman, is married with children. Every August she visits the Caribbean island where her mother is buried and leaves flowers. One year on this trip she meets a man in a bar and boldly asks him up to her room.

For several years she repeats this act of infidelity, but with a different man each time. Eventually, Anna Magdalena discovers a secret her mother has long held, a secret that adds particular meaning to her own double life.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez was working on *Until August* in the years before his death, during which he was suffering from dementia. It's a surprisingly enjoyable read, an absorbing if minor story about a woman's meditation on her mother's death and her quest for self-discovery.

While the story sounds sordid (Anna Magdalena's betrayals are never interrogated; in fact, they seem almost an open secret), Marquez manages a breezy, morally uncluttered atmosphere.

The book perhaps most resembles the work of Anais Nin, an explorer of female sexuality and heightened consciousness. The clever, surreal ending will surprise readers with its indelible, Daliesque image of death and desire.



Limitarianism

Ingrid Robeyns
(Allen & Unwin, RRP: \$55)

Ingrid Robeyns is a Dutch and Belgian (she holds dual citizenship) philosopher and economist. In *Limitarianism: The Case Against Extreme Wealth*, she suggests a wealth limit that no citizen should cross.

There are many reasons why wealth should be limited, beyond the very obvious one that greed is not good. Extreme wealth has multiple negative effects, ones we often don't think of. It has a corrosive effect on public policy (the rich have an undue influence on law making), it is bad for the environment (promoting rampant consumption) and it weakens democracy.

Interestingly, even the wealthy don't enjoy their good fortune. They suffer feelings of guilt, associate only with other rich people, are socially isolated and are stressed trying to maintain their fortunes. The irony of extreme wealth is that beyond a certain point, money becomes useless. You can't spend billions of dollars and you can only show your bank balance to other billionaires.

Written in a plain, easy-to-understand style, *Limitarianism* mixes ethics and economics into a convincing argument on why limiting wealth is critical for the health of society and the world.



Ferris

Kate DiCamillo
(Walker Books, RRP: \$19.99)

The Wilkey family is a bustling clan with plenty to keep them busy. Ferris (so-named because she was born beneath a ferris wheel), whose main fault is that she tries too hard to please others, is dealing with life at a transitional phase, just before entering fifth grade.

Her grandmother, Charisse, who lives with the family, keeps seeing a ghost. She has some health issues and the ghostly visions could mean something darker, perhaps a summons from the world beyond.

In other family developments, Uncle Ted has left his wife and taken to the Wilkey family's basement, to pursue his work as an artist. The youngest member of the Wilkey brood, six-year-old Pinky, runs around terrorising people in a black cape, announcing she has become an outlaw.

Award-winning children's author Kate DeCamillo's latest novel is a sheer delight. She perfectly captures the dynamics of chaotic yet joyful family life, with extended family members living under the one roof.

The comic scenarios involving Pinky are laugh-out-loud good and the close friendship between Ferris and young pianist Billy Jackson is especially sweet. A feelgood book that also deals with serious issues of grief and mortality.



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

Dean gives voice to past silence

Georgie Preston

North Melbourne resident Dean Ashenden has long been a towering figure in academia and Australian educational research. He has also served as an influential federal ministerial adviser.

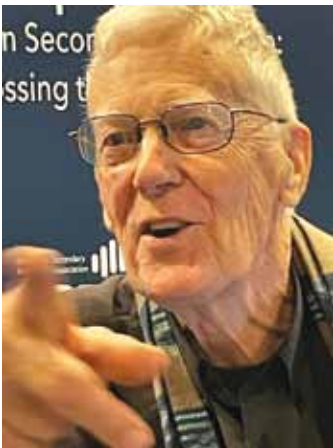
For two years as a child, Dean lived in Tennant Creek, roughly midway between Darwin and Alice Springs, where his father was a teacher.

He has never forgotten the town. "It was like a burst of technicolour in a sepia-toned childhood," he recalls.

He admits he was only half aware of the local Aboriginal population. "We'd see them on Saturdays at the cinema. They'd come in on the mission truck and file across in front of the screen heading to their own reserved section," he says.

Fifty years later, he returned to Tennant Creek to find the Aboriginal invisibility and silence still intact. It led him to write his penetrating account of how and why Australia hasn't moved beyond its past.

Telling Tennant's Story: The strange career of the great Australian silence, published in 2022, tells the truth of our nation's story. It soon won the



Dean Ashenden

Australian Political Book of the Year award.

Dean says it was a profoundly difficult book to write. "I wrote the manuscript then stuck it in a drawer. I gave it another go and it worked, but it took 20 years."

The book was about more than his return to Tennant Creek. It told a more ambitious story: the history of the relationship between Indigenous and white Australians, as seen in Tennant Creek in the context of white colonisation.

"I realised the story of the

relationship between the two groups had not really been told, but had been suppressed. So, I added the subtitle: *The strange career of the great Australian silence*," he says.

The 'great Australian silence' is a phrase coined by one of Dean's heroes, legendary Australian anthropologist W.E.H. Stanner, who worked extensively with Indigenous Australians.

Telling Tennant's Story was inspired by Stanner's 1968 Boyer lecture. Dean describes the book as an investigation of the history of race relations in Australia by looking at the whole story of the struggle to find, tell and understand the truth of the "unacknowledged relations between two racial groups".

He sees two separate eras. The first is the period of the violent frontier wars between Indigenous Australians and primarily British settlers during the colonial period. The second is 'the Silence', which followed and which remained until the 1960s.

Dean feels that the frontier conflict's naked violence ushered in a period in which discussion and debate among the white Australian population ceased.

"Over the next few decades, the silence got deeper until the story became that Australia had no history of violence," he notes.

Dean uncovers how the truth of the frontier wars was gradually brought to light, with estimated casualties of as many as 100,000 dead.

Following the failure of the Voice referendum, Dean is concerned that there remains a profound lack of understanding.

"Go into any library and you'll find shelves of the truth. But what we haven't got is any real understanding, acceptance and action," he says.

While he had hoped the Voice would succeed, he says that any real understanding has been slipping since the Howard era.

"Keating's 1992 Redfern speech is the most truthful thing any PM has ever said. Rudd's 2008 apology was

the greatest of cop outs," he says.

Dean suggests two potential improvements to truth-telling in Australia. The first is to crack down on our national War Memorial, which ignores the significance of the frontier wars. The second is to urge local communities to look at their own history and to understand and tell the truth.

He describes as "a fundamental misjudgement on how to tell the truth" the many historical monuments and plaques across the country. He says only 40 of the total of 35,000 mention the frontier wars. "Most celebrate white success," he says.

"It's very hard to teach how stomach-churningly awful our history is. One hundred thousand people were killed in terrible, brutal, violent, racist killings."

Georgie Preston writes regularly for the News.

Dean Ashenden's latest book is *Unbeaching the Whale: Can Australia's Schooling Be Reformed?*

It offers a generous and jargon-free way of thinking about schools and student behaviour, discipline, school refusal, bullying, engagement, mental health and wellbeing.

"The most penetrating analysis of the failure of Australian schooling so far. If the stranded whale is ever to be unbeached, this book will hold the key." – Ken Boston AO, Gonski panel member and former director-general of education in NSW and South Australia

"Dean Ashenden compels us to reconsider the very basis of education policy in Australia and to contemplate how we might and should do better." – Carmen Lawrence AO, Gonski panel member and former premier of Western Australia



Courses & Activities (July '24– Sept '24)



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (NWMNC) hosts programs and activities for locals.
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: nwmnc.org.au, 9328 1126, in person at NWMNC, 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. 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

Timetable: Pilates classes operate on a 10-week term timetable. Term 2 concludes 28 Jun. Term 3, 2024, commences 15 July.
Costs: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per class when booking for full term or remainder of term. Casual enrolments (\$28 per session).

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

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.
First Tuesday each month 10 am – 11.30 am
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Cost: \$5

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 from 4 July),
3.30 pm – 5 pm.
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Monthly Community Dinner

Delicious food (home-cooked entree, mains and desserts) and good company.
First Sunday of each month, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre,
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne
\$10 (under 12s free) RSVP 0403 175 200

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, during school term
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne and online
Presented by Hotham Mission
Bookings and enquiries: programs@hothammission.org.au or call (03) 9326 8245

Bicycle Repair Session

Is there something wrong with your bike that is stopping you from cycling? Bring it along and bike mechanic and local dad Anthony Marcus will try and fix it (and teach you how to do it next time). Minor repairs only. No bookings required. **FREE**
Mondays (fortnightly from 15 July), 4 pm – 7 pm
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

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 from 15 July
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne

Wednesdays 10.30 am – 11.30 am from 17 July
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)
Cost: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per session 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.
25 June (Yarra Valley)
23 July, 27 August, 24 September
9.30 am – 5 pm. Departing from NWMNC,
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Cost: \$60 (\$45 Concession), including lunch and morning tea.

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, starting 18 July for 10 weeks
Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$18 (\$11.50 Concession) per session when booking for the term. Casual enrolment online \$25 per session, if available

Beginners' French

If you would like to begin, extend or re-kindle your Francophile tendencies, join native French speaker Léa Carré in a relaxed and supportive environment. Over eight weeks you will build your vocabulary, practice conversations and grasp grammatical structures while exploring French culture and tradition.

Friday 5 pm – 6 pm – Basic Steps I (no experience necessary)
Friday 6 pm – 7 pm – Basic Steps II (a little knowledge)
Starting 19 July for 10 weeks
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$175 (\$125 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 Anna Trigos.

Mondays 5 pm – 6 pm
(Starting 15 July for 10 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$175 (\$125 concession)

Podcasting

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

Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm (starts 3 September for 4 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne & online
\$80 (\$40 concession)

Digital Skills

Computers: Digital Essentials

Make your computer work for you. Become more comfortable engaging in the digital world. This friendly course will help you maximise your productivity and minimise frustration. With tech-wizard James Klonis

Wednesdays 10 am-12.30 pm (starting 17 July for 10 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, 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 'smartphones' are mobile computers, and used for all matter of activities. This course covers setting up your phone, choosing apps, using the cloud and phone security. With tutor James Klonis.

Wednesdays 1 pm – 3 pm (starting 17 July for 6 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
\$35 (\$25 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Coding Essentials; Digital Marketing. Express your interest.

Small Business Skills

Basics of Bookkeeping

Whether you're a small business owner, aspiring accountant, or simply eager to enhance your financial literacy, This course provides the perfect foundation for mastering the basics of bookkeeping.

Saturdays 11 am -1 pm (starting 20 July for 8 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne.
Cost: \$120 (\$70 concession)



Financial Literacy

From budgeting and saving to understanding credit and investments, this course equips you with practical tools to navigate the financial landscape confidently. Whether you're planning for the future, managing debt, or aiming to make informed financial decisions, this course is your roadmap to financial awareness.

Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm (starting 6 August for 4 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne, and online
\$120 (\$70 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Digital marketing, Podcasting; Journalism; Event Management; Sports Development. Express your interest.

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 North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre.

For Kids and Young People

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 pm – 5 pm (during the school term)
\$12 (\$10 concession) when booking for the term (\$15 casual if available)

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 3 to Year 9. **FREE**

Wednesdays 3.30 pm – 5 pm (during school term)
– NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Wednesdays 4 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

Sing NoW! Kids Choir

This new choir engages children with the joyful learning of pitch, rhythm, harmony and musical expression, with regular performance opportunities. The choir will explore a wide range of music to help foster a life-long love of music appreciation and involvement. With local singer and educator Jenna Stamp. For children aged 6 to 12.

Thursdays 4 pm-5 pm (during the school term)
\$12 (\$10 concession) when booking for the term
Trial your first session for free

Art-based Workshop

Dive into a world of creativity at our school holiday art-based workshop. Join us for fun-filled sessions where kids can unleash their imaginations, learn new techniques, and express themselves through the magic of art.

Thursday 4 July and Friday 5 July, 10 am – 12 pm,
\$30 per day (\$20 per day Concession)

School Holiday Program

Coding for Girls

A one-day program that gives girls a hands-on experience coding a game. Work together to design a game that you would enjoy playing, including setting the controls, choosing the reward, drawing the characters and adding music. All without any annoying boys!

Tuesday 2 July, 10 am – 3 pm (30 minute lunch break)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
For girls aged 9-13.
No experience necessary.
\$80 (\$60 concession)

Make-A-Game Workshop

Are you interested in games? Art? Coding? Music? Then this workshop is for you! Come along to this three-day holiday workshop where instructor James Klonis teaches the magic of 2D game creation! By the end of the workshop, you will come away not just with a game prototype, but with basic skills that you can take into many other areas.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8, 9, 10 July
10 am – 3 pm (30-minute lunch break)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Suits all genders aged 9-13.
\$180 (\$140 concession)
Suitable for any level of experience. Return participants encouraged.

Have your say in our city’s future – enrol to vote

This is the year of elections, both globally and locally. The Trump versus Biden contest in the USA will undoubtedly excite social and traditional media to fever pitch. Other elections in the European Union, India, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Russia, Ukraine and Taiwan will have ramifications well beyond their national boundaries. Incredibly, half the globe’s population will get to vote in more than 64 elections. In Australia, we’ve already seen a snap election in Tasmania, while Queensland and the Northern Territory will be going to the polls later in the year. Why is this of interest to our local community here in North and West Melbourne? City of Melbourne elections will be held in October with lord mayor, deputy lord mayor and nine councillors to be elected. Local government is the tier of government that is closest to the people and council decisions affect much of our daily lives. Local councils still do roads, rates

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



and rubbish, but they do much more, including setting planning controls, building and maintaining parks and green spaces, running and funding events and cultural development, libraries, animal management and much more. They even fund and partner with neighbourhood houses. If you care about recycling, scooters on footpaths, trees, ArtsHouse, swimming pools or business precincts, then you should care about who gets elected to represent the community to make decisions on these issues. Having worked at City of Melbourne for more than a decade, I was able to see up close how decisions at the ballot box translate to changes (for better or worse) through the Council bureaucracy and into the daily lives of the community.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp has announced she will not contest the next election, stepping down at the end of June. I congratulate her on her achievements as lord mayor and wish her well in her life beyond the Council chamber. Current deputy Nicholas Reece will become lord mayor in the interim. Time will tell if he will put his hat in the ring for the next four years. Other unknowns include who his deputy would be and who the other lord mayoral candidates will be, potentially giving him the inside run at the election. In the next issue of the News, we intend to publish a special feature that allows candidates to tell readers directly what their vision is for North and West Melbourne. But before then, I’m urging everyone in our neighbourhood to register to vote. If you have previously voted in state or federal elections, you are already on the electoral roll. Just make sure your address is up to date at aec.gov.au

If you’re not on the electoral roll, you are still eligible to vote at the City of Melbourne election in October provided you are 18 years or older and a property owner or resident. Note that you don’t have to be a citizen or a permanent resident – you just have to live here! Many of our residents are overseas-born, here as international students, professionals, refugees or asylum seekers. All are eligible to have a say, and I encourage you to do so. Enrol at <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/governance-transparency/elections/Pages/elections.aspx>. And, of course, if you are passionate about local government, you can stand as a candidate. As for me, I am heading to Europe for a long-anticipated trip with my family. While I’m away, Greg Ferrington will be acting NWMNC director. I’m sure you will make him welcome. I will return to Errol Street at the beginning of August.

Media interns lend their talents to the Centre’s online strategy

Cindy Huang

The North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (NWMNC) has recently established a media team of three international student interns currently completing their studies at the University of Melbourne. Zaki Shen, Emma Lee Chen and Joanne Lee are hard at work researching and developing strategies to promote the NWMNC on social media. Zaki is completing a master’s of marketing. She hopes to work full-time after graduating but is finding it hard as employers often see international students as an unreliable workforce. “I’m an extrovert and I really enjoy connecting with people face-to-face and marketing allows me to be creative. This internship is enabling me to get to know people whom I don’t have the opportunity to meet in my studies at university,” Zaki said. Emma and Joanne are both pursuing their master’s in global media communication. Emma feels it is difficult for international students to find employment in Australia and she appreciates the internship opportunity. “All employers are looking for relevant experience, but gaining experience is hard. Our internship gives us that. I’ve researched how non-profit organisations can use social media to promote interactivity for greater community engagement,” she said. While Emma enjoys her studies, she feels the content is largely theoretical. She is excited to be able to apply her

knowledge and to promote NWMNC digitally. “Social media promotion is so important these days. We get almost all of our information on social media, and we need to thoroughly harness the power of social media to promote NWMNC,” she says. Joanne, with a first degree in cultural studies under her belt, feels that with an increasing number of international students in Australia, it is important they step out of their comfort zone and participate in practical opportunities such as this internship. Like Emma, Joanne feels her studies are rather theoretical, so she has embraced the opportunities offered by her NWMNC internship. Joanne is delighted that her role as intern connects so neatly with her studies. “I’ve used my time as an intern to develop a media calendar so we

can plan social media posts ahead to avoid last-minute posts,” she said. “I’ve also been part of the creation of flyers for NWMNC events such as the digital essentials course.” Khalid Farah, NWMNC’s community development coordinator, is supervising the interns. He believes the internship gives the international students real-world experience that will benefit their later job-search while also giving the NWMNC valuable new multicultural perspectives. “The internship opportunity for these talented young international students aligns with our commitment to empower diverse communities and to foster inclusivity within the local community,” he said.

Cindy Huang is an international student and a community outreach worker at the Neighbourhood Centre.



Interns Zaki Shen, Emma Lee Chen and Joanne Lee working on a media/video project.



North Melbourne’s iconic billycart race and street festival is back for 2024.

Yes, it’s months away, but now’s the time to plan to make it the best event yet.

We need sponsors, community groups, committee members and volunteers.

Get Involved!



VICTORIA’S NEW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME



Return for 10c refund

You can now exchange eligible drink containers for 10 cents. Together we can make a positive difference to our community and our environment. If you wish to return containers at NWMNC, please give us a call on 03 9328 1126 to arrange a time to drop off your containers.



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre

New Website!!

nwmnc.org.au



NOTICEBOARD



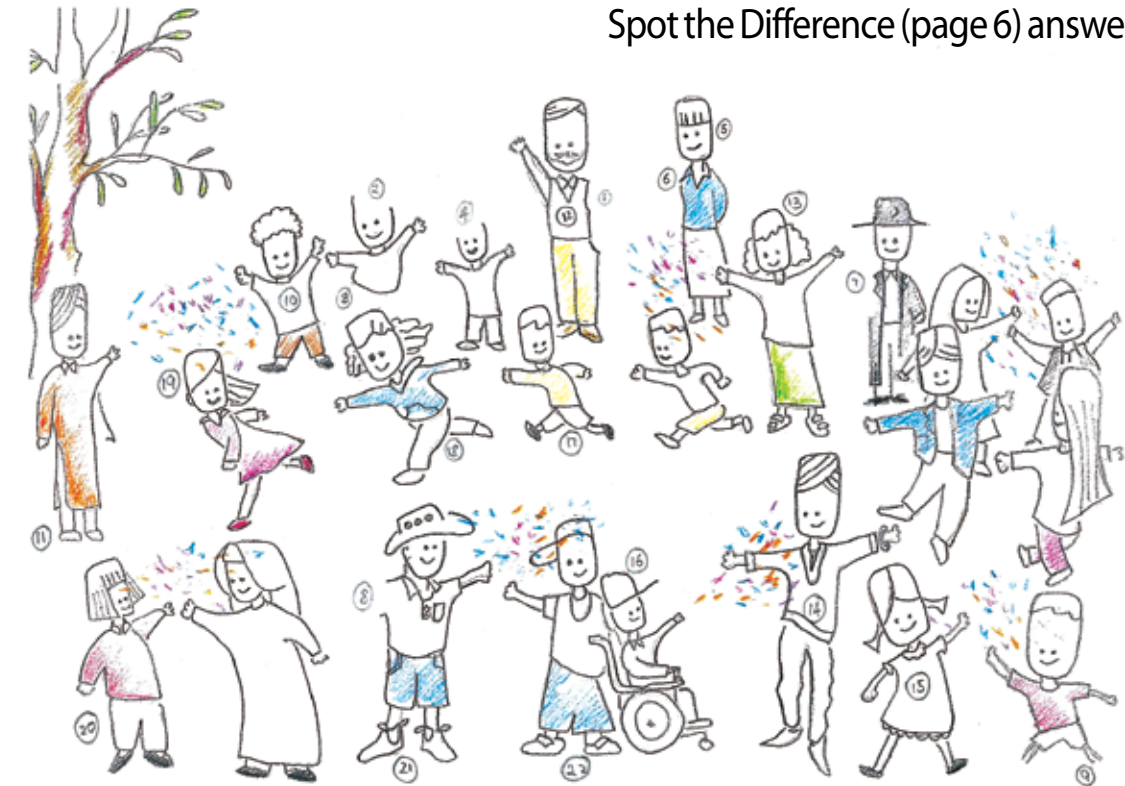
The North & West Melbourne News is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers. Readers' contributions and letters are welcomed. Where relevant the News may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own and the News takes no responsibility for them. We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

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

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Spot the Difference (page 6) answers

Kryptic Kwiz (page 18) answers

- 1 Cuba 2 India (E. M. Forster *Passage to India*) 3 Kazakhstan 4 China ("my old China plate") 5 Kenya (Rift Valley) 6 Mongolia 7 Thailand (formerly Siam) 8 Jamaica (Harry Belafonte, *Jamaica Farewell*) 9 Nauru 10 Lebanon (pine and cedar) 11 Denmark (*Hamlet*) 12 Turkey 13 Morocco (*Casablanca*) 14 St Lucia (*Santa Lucia*) 15 Georgia (*Georgia on My Mind*) 16 Tonga (Jonah Takalua, *Summer Heights High*) 17 South Korea 18 Argentina (*Don't Cry for Me, Argentina*) 19 Egypt (Wazza brothels, Cairo) 20 Singapore (Lion City) 21 Zimbabwe (Robert Mugabe) 22 Jordan (Michael Jordan) 23 Libya (Rats of Tobruk) 24 Samoa (Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*) 25 Austria 26 Ireland 27 Colombia (Cassie Sainsbury) 28 Panama (Clark Gable) 29 Guinea (A guinea was 21 shillings pre-1966) 30 Malta (legendary biplanes in siege of Malta).



JOIN THE AWARD

WINNING TEAM



If you:

- Like walking
- Want to explore your community
- Like this paper and want to share it with others...

BECOME A DISTRIBUTOR



Our community is growing! We need people to do a local newspaper round four times a year.

CONTACT US :
rashij@centre.org.au
(03) 9328 1126

Used stamps support charity

Please save your used postage stamps and drop them into The Centre at 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne. When picked up they are sorted and sold to collectors. The money raised goes to charity.

Take care not to tear through the perforation as that damage makes the stamps unsaleable. Leave a few centimetres around the edges when cutting the stamps off the envelopes.

– Marian Mooney

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

Did you know North Melbourne Library now offers a recycle bin for you to drop off your old mobile phones, batteries, cables, chargers, game controllers, tablets, laptops, flash drives and hard drives?

WHAT A GREAT SERVICE!

North Melbourne Library
66 Errol Street

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

Send contributions, letters and feedback to:

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

Spring 2024
Copy deadline: Friday 23 August
Publication date: Friday 20 September

Summer 2024–2025
Copy deadline: Friday 8 November
Publication date: Friday 6 December

NWMN advertisement sizes and rates		
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 a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount, total amount payable at time of booking.		
• Prices are for supplied artwork (high-resolution PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.		
• The News reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.		
• For information and bookings, email: advertising@centre.org.au		



Signs of our times on the streets

Nancy Lane

If you look carefully, you'll see them throughout North and West Melbourne – pasted to light poles, signposts, utility boxes. They are often quite inconspicuous until you start looking.

Some carry political messages – 'Join your union,' 'End fossil fuels'; others offer a QR code or web address for information. A few appear solely decorative. Most, however, are a total mystery to me: I have no idea what they mean. They are obviously meant only for those people already in the know.

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.

