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Published by North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre Inc

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A sweet bonus for The Lost Dogs' Home on Valentine's Day

Maisie and Margot

We wanted to have a lemonade stand. We asked our mums and they said yes, so we started to plan.

Maisie's mum suggested raising money for The Lost Dogs' Home. The day we chose was Valentine's Day, so we made that the theme.

Our mums helped us. Margot made banana bread and Valentine's decorations for the table. Maisie and her sister Marnie made heart-shaped shortbreads and juiced A LOT of lemons. Our friend Lily helped us make posters.

Lots of people stopped so we sold all the lemonade, 10 litres – about 50 cups – and sweet treats!

We raised more than \$1,000 for the Lost Dogs' Home in North Melbourne.



ANZAC DAY

LEST WE FORGET

Join our local service
Sunday 19 April, 2pm
Corner Hawke and
Victoria streets

Guest Speaker
Jennifer Kanis
Flag Ceremony
Wreath Laying
The Last Post

One Minute's Sacred Silence
Refreshments



Nancy Lane OAM finds art at her feet

Wilson Cheng

North Melbourne local Nancy D Lane recently won two major art awards. Then, the day before our interview I learned Nancy had also been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2026 Australia Day honours.

It was a lot of ground to cover with this amazing woman, who should be formally addressed as Dr Nancy Diane Lane OAM.

Professionally, she trades as NancyDee Sculptures.

Nancy picks up everyday objects that have been discarded on the streets of the various cities she has lived in and brings them together in an art form known as 'found object assemblage'.

Picture frames, nitrous oxide cylinders, wheels, squiggly metal coils, wooden boards, blankets and paper sheets threaten to topple off their shelves in her workspace at River Studios in West Melbourne. All found on the street.

Nancy has always been creative, taking watercolour courses in Hawaii, making shell necklaces with women in Vanuatu and learning to weave in Laos. But when she discovered found object assemblage, she knew it was the one.



Nancy in the studio, armed with a hot glue gun.

It began with Nancy noticing curious thin metal strips on the street and picking them up. They were bristles that had fallen off street cleaners. Then she started noticing nails and screws and collecting them so they wouldn't puncture any car tyres.

At the end of 2016, she asked in a hardware store for something that could glue "anything to anything", and began to make artworks from the bits she found on the street.

A national honour

In December 2025, she received an email telling her she was being considered for an Order of Australia Honour. She had thought "this is a scam if I've ever heard one". However, on Australia Day 2026, Nancy indeed received the OAM for her service to tertiary education. She still doesn't know who nominated her.

Nancy has worked as an Associate Professor and Head of Department in Library and Information Studies, communications manager, editor and freelance writer, in places including Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Canberra and Hawaii.

She has also volunteered extensively, preparing photo spreads for this newspaper, and running health workshops at the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre and The University of the Third Age.

She has also acted as a communications adviser in Thailand and Vanuatu, and supported librarianship and research at Souphanouvong University in Laos, which she continues to do, travelling to Laos for three months each year.

Even while working or volunteering, she would always find more to do –



Nancy's Plasticus Fantasticus Maximus.

sitting in on journalism courses in Canberra, helping public libraries in Laos with cataloguing and taking Spanish classes. She even had a stint making cosmetics using seaweed.

What keeps her so motivated to pursue all these things? "Because I have such a good time," she said. With all the unhappy things happening in the world, "we each have to do something in our own small way which we think contributes to making the world a better place".

Art awards

Nancy's work recently won two major awards.

Her sculpture in a drawer – Meditation – won First Prize for Sculpture at the

2025 Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival, judged by Laurie Benson, Curator of International Art at the NGV. The extravagant plastic creation – *Plasticus Fantasticus Maximus* – won the Most Original Prize in the Melbourne and Victorian Artists Art Prize 2025.

To achieve such recognition in such an unorthodox genre of art is a triumph; a sentiment not lost on Nancy as she joked, "I'm somebody now".

Working beside other artists at River Studios and being part of Creativity Cluster – a group of seven Melburnian women each working in different mediums – Nancy has a real appreciation for all the different ways of making art.

"I believe that anybody can be creative, it's just that they don't necessarily know what they're creative at. And to try different things," she said.

As I stood on the pavement bidding Nancy farewell, she asked if I could pass her the screw next to my foot. I looked down and spotted a dark brown screw. "It's amazing what you can find when you look," she said.

Wilson Cheng is a regular writer for the News.

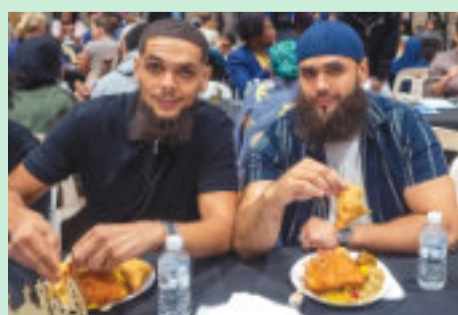
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New minister on welcome, faith and community

Swagata Majumdar

West Melbourne Baptist Church and Community Centre, just off Hawke Street, has stood for over 160 years, upholding a mission centred on welcome, inclusion, and community. Today, new Minister Brett Lyons-Lee is seeing that this mission continues to grow around shared meals and conversations, fostering true belonging.

Brett became the new Minister at the Church in October last year; to him, the church is fundamentally about sharing life: "The people here are open to exploring life's ups and downs together. That connection is why I came," he says.

Brett brings more than 20 years of ministry experience. His journey began as an intern at Collins Street Baptist Church, where he was inspired by Rev Tim Costello's inner-urban work. "I was really drawn to that model of faith being lived out in the city," he says. After his ordination in 2010, he spent a decade working within the Baptist denomination. In the past five years, he has served part-time in Clifton Hill.

West Melbourne Baptist Church has always prioritised serving newcomers and building an inclusive community. "Our origin in the 1860s was to help arriving migrants, and today we still welcome asylum seekers, refugees, and overseas students," Brett explains.

"Being a homely, safe place is our commitment to this vibrant community."

Engaging with West Melbourne's cultural diversity is not an add-on for the church; it is a core practice. As he notes, "Many of our programs are adapted to include the diversity of our community." The Wednesday morning Aunties and Uncles program, for example, brings together people of all backgrounds and helps break down social barriers. Brett explains, "Lew Hess is a local legend. Drawing on his extensive social work background, he now facilitates some of the best intercultural work I've seen in ministry. People leave these sessions with new friendships and a stronger sense of belonging."

The centre's spaces are shared by many groups. "We host a Brazilian church service on Saturdays and an African church service before we meet on Sunday afternoons. There is a Chinese Bible study group on Friday nights and a multicultural writing group on Saturday mornings," he says. These gatherings help foster cross-

"We invite everyone to step through our doors and experience a community built on welcome."

cultural understanding and ensure people from many backgrounds can participate and feel at home.

"Sharing meals is our simplest form of welcome," he says, crediting Mary-Anne Hess and Robyn Battin for making the Community Centre's kitchen inviting. The first Sunday community dinner brings over 80 people together to share food and life, demonstrating their mission in action.

Covid presented challenges but also clarity. "With great challenges comes opportunity," Brett reflects. "We saw it as a time to reset and focus on the important things." Even now, social habits are still settling. "There can be awkwardness about how you greet someone," he laughs. "You might get a big hug here, but we can absolutely keep a respectful distance too."

The Centre values partnerships. "We work closely with Hotham Mission and many locals. Our vision is to grow programs that foster meaningful relationships," Brett says. The new Thursday's Chai, Chat, Chant gathering embodies this, offering a space for important community conversations.

"Faith brings joy, peace, and hope," Brett says, referencing how Martin Luther King Jr's "moral arc bends toward justice." His message is clear: "We invite everyone to step through our doors and experience a community built on welcome."

Swagata Majumdar is Deputy Editor of the News.



Minister Brett Lyons-Lee and his black Labrador Salty.

Changes en route for the 57 tram line

Alex Hall

New bigger trams will be replacing the familiar trams on the 57 route.

The new G class trams are being tested and are set to be slowly phased into the tram network this year. The new carriages have a low floor design to ensure easy boarding and

disembarking and to have more room for wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

Because the new trams are about 50% longer, at 25 metres, some tram stops will be merged and relocated.

Victoria Street

On Victoria Street, stop 9 at Howard Street and Stop 10 at Chetwynd Street

will be merged into one new stop between the two existing ones.

The Department of Transport and Planning will remove 17 parking places on the side of Victoria St to make room for the new stop, which will be longer and have new zebra crossings and more barriers to protect passengers from cars.

Hook turns will be introduced on

Victoria St at the intersections of William St, Howard St and Chetwynd St. There will also be a ban on turning right from Victoria St to head south on Chetwynd Street.

Queensberry Street

On Queensberry Street, stop 13 at Curzon Street and Stop 14 at Abbotsford Street are also merging.

Twenty-seven car parks will be removed from Queensberry St to make the required room.

Hook turns will be introduced at the intersection of Queensberry St and Curzon St and new protected bike lanes will be built.

There will also be changes to Stop 11 at Errol Street and Victoria Street and Stop 12 at North Melbourne Town Hall, but the result of consultation on that has not yet been announced.

New trams not the only answer

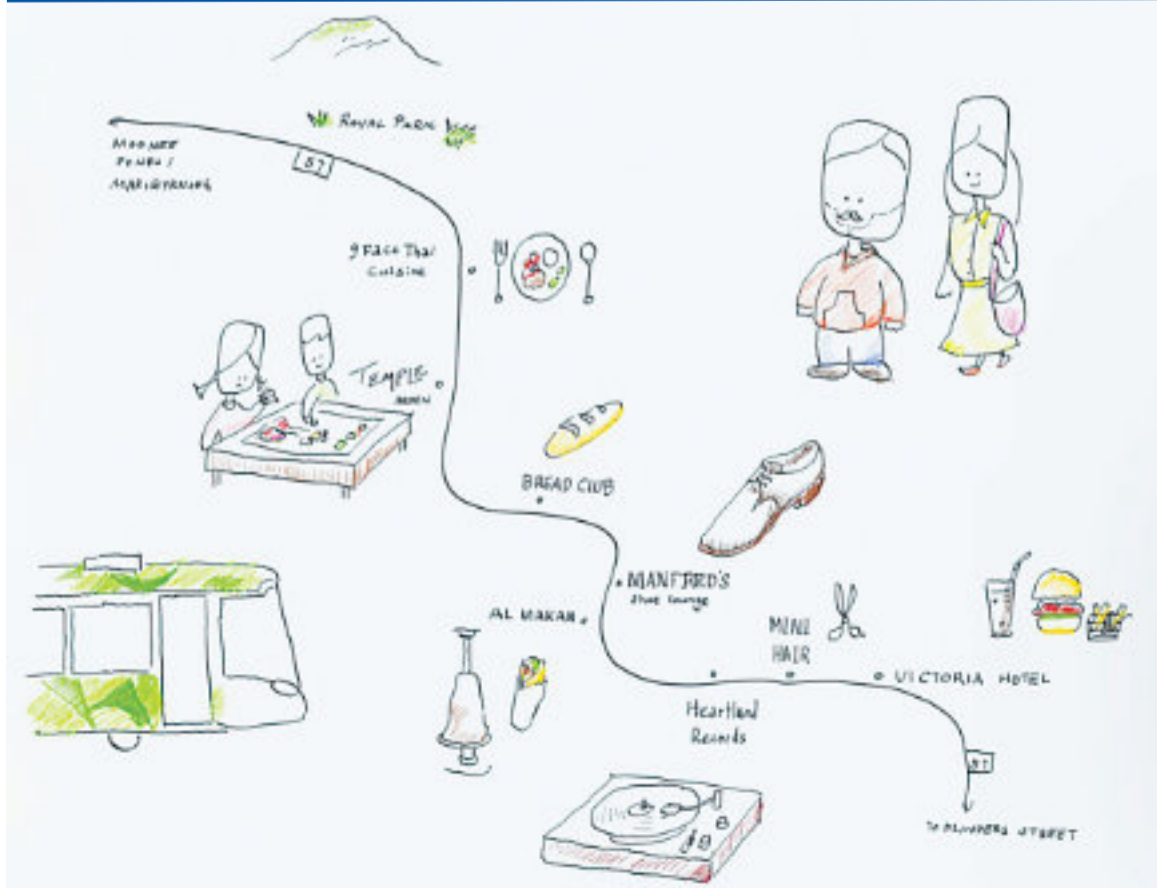
While the new trams have a low floor to make it easy for passengers to board without going up steps, the new tram stops being planned will not be raised to allow people in wheelchairs or with prams to wheel straight in.

A report from the Victorian Auditor-General found: "While level-access tram stops offer some individual benefits, a tram user with a mobility impairment requires both a low-floor tram and a level-access stop to get on or off a tram. This means matching delivery of level-access stops and low-floor trams is necessary to maximise the benefits of upgrades."

The State Government has spent \$1.85 billion on the new G class trams and Maidstone depot to house them.

Alex Hall is a new writer for the News.

The News illustrator Ed Zhao drew a map of some highlights along the 57 route



From the Editor's desk

Louise Yaxley

Our Autumn paper celebrates some of the many artistic and inventive people in this community.

We are proud to see our colleague Nancy Lane recognised for her art as well as her many broader contributions.

Our writers also take you inside some local businesses based on creativity and flair. And it seems that when people in this area are fascinated by something, they take the next step and write a book about it. This issue features two recently launched books with North and West Melbourne themes.

A new column introduces us to a tertiary student's perspective on this vibrant area and the cycling column makes a welcome return.

This is my first issue as Editor. Thank you to all who have written and made suggestions. I am proud to be at the helm of a paper bringing you this celebration of the North and West Melbourne community.

Louise Yaxley is Editor of the News.

Jemima Hughes

Tucked away in a laneway in North Melbourne is the JASONGRECH studio, origin of some of the most dramatic couture dresses to grace red carpets across Australia and home to Jason Grech himself – a charismatic and passionate designer.

The Minogue sisters, Ashley Graham and Sonia Kruger are among the celebrities who Jason has dressed. Alongside celebs, the label caters to Melbourne's brides, party animals and offers a ready-to-wear collection for anyone with a penchant for luxury.

As we talk, Jason bounces between points and ideas with palpable energy and enthusiasm. His dynamism has undoubtedly contributed to the label's continued success and accolades since its launch in 2003.

The rebound from Covid was the most challenging period of his career, but Jason's optimism did not waver: "Breakdowns turn into breakthroughs." For example, the pet accessory collection, a product of Covid, is now part of the permanent collection.

Jason has just wrapped up a very busy six months and has become the sole owner of the business.

His drive is evident, but his love and respect for the craft have sustained his place among Australia's most highly recognised couture designers. He is emotional when describing his favourite part of the design process, sewing, "I get to see a 2D sketch turn into a 3D form ... it's becoming real ... it's giving me goose bumps."

Jason is not content with anything less than perfection, scrapping a red carpet look for Brooke Cotchin days before the event. Starting from scratch and pulling all-nighters, he crafted a look that was not just glamorous but show stopping.

In an industry dominated by fast fashion, rapidly changing trends and the notion that one style suits all, it is refreshing to speak with someone who values craftsmanship and quality materials, and who understands women's bodies as evolving and individual.

"Fashion is not just about fashion, it's about engineering, understanding



Brooke Cotchin, in the last minute show stopper. (Photograph: Megan Harding Photography)

the person's body ... making them look the best they can."

While couture is not accessible to everyone, quality over quantity warrants a revival. It would benefit the

Keeping up with couture

planet, designers and consumers to be dressed by someone who knows how to make them look their best.

The JASONGRECH label is rooted in family and tradition, with Jason's



Jason and his mother in the front row (Photograph: Megan Harding Photography)

siblings working alongside him in the studio; his work often celebrates his Maltese heritage. Jason's mother, Gemma, was a proud and religious Maltese woman. A regular sight at the front row, he fondly recounts her amazement at the attention his work would garner. Before her passing last year, she told Jason that a shepherd would come for him when she was gone. That year, his commissions for Christening dresses increased tenfold. A tribute to his mother and her devotion, Little Grech, a children's couture line, was launched. Little Grech dresses moments that hold the most spiritual and emotional weight for families, beautifully

commemorating their legacy.

North Melbourne is fortunate to house one of the leading names in Australian couture. Jason enjoys the suburb's village-like, community feel. This, along with affordable rents, makes North Melbourne a hotspot for creative people and businesses. One thing he would like to see is more collaboration within the community. With so many fashion/textile-oriented businesses in the area, North Melbourne is at a unique vantage point to make waves in the fashion industry.

Jemima Hughes is a new writer for the News.

Summer of super swimming

The Being a Melburnian SuperSwim team has smashed its targets!

A small team of dedicated swimmers has swum more than 50 km and raised more than \$3,500 for the Starlight Foundation.

Team leader Margaret Peril said some people find it difficult to ask for donations.

"It's a bit like asking your boss for a salary increase. But if you believe in yourself and believe in the cause it's not difficult," she said. "I was delighted to see that the three students on the team have raised more than \$500 between them. Perhaps one day they will mention this in a job interview."

Fernanda Cury, who has raised more than \$2,000, said the generosity of people had really touched her.

Ana Paula Soares, who is undertaking her PhD at the University of Melbourne said: "I have always liked swimming and being able to swim with my friends for a good cause feels very special. It's a pleasure to be on the team."

The team would like to thank all those people who have shown support and already donated.

Want to know more?

Donations will be accepted until 31 March. superswim.org.au/being-a-melburnian



Super swimmers Fernanda Cury and Margaret Peril.

Community Comment

Volunteer Joel Becker asked four locals how they've been keeping up with their New Year resolutions ...



Giacomina, on sabbatical, West Melbourne

I've resolved to cook a soup a month. January – miso; February – egg and parmigiano cheese.



Jeremy, pharmacist, North Melbourne

My resolution is to spend more time with my ailing parents – and to be there for them when they need me!



Yeliz, counter hand at Bread Club, North Melbourne

My New Year's resolution is to join my boyfriend for a daily dog walk. It's still a work in progress.



Peter, IT, West Melbourne

My resolution is to 'cook the book' – cook all recipes in Ottolenghi's *Simple*. I'm 9 down; a 100+ to go. I didn't say I was going to finish in a year!

Spot the Difference

The school year is in full swing and *News* illustrator Ed Zhao has set readers a challenge. These illustrations may look the same, but there are 14 differences. Track them down and colour in the drawing. (Answers: page 19)



Rotary nourishes futures

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary Club is committed to building meaningful partnerships with schools in our community and beyond. Last year, we backed a breakfast club at Simonds College after Principal Robert Anastasio and Marina Bartolameazzi, Assistant Director of Students, Years 7 to 9, proposed it. They informed us that some students experienced financial

hardship and attended school without breakfast or lunch. The initiative aimed to provide free meals to these students. After a board meeting, we agreed to fully fund the program for the year. It was open to all students, ensuring no one could identify those receiving free meals. Senior students volunteered, and the program ran successfully all year. At the Simonds Awards night exceptional

volunteers who have completed at least 20 hours of voluntary service are recognised with the John Hanley North Melbourne Rotary Community Award. The award is named after our late president, John Hanley. His family donated funds for this \$500 award; the most recent award was split into two \$250 awards. It was a privilege to have President Thanu attend the awards night and assist with the presentation. North Melbourne Rotary's support for schools extends beyond the local area. Our club has also been involved in the recent completion of a water filtration system for a toilet block at a High School in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Several Rotary Clubs donated \$2,500 each, and

another party matched the total to fund the project. The students there are very happy and proud of their new toilet block, with the senior students taking full responsibility for keeping it clean.

Neville Page is the former President of the North Melbourne Rotary Club.

Want to know more?
If you are interested in discovering more about North Melbourne Rotary Club or wish to attend a meeting as a guest, please contact Neville Page at 0414 673611 or nevillepage7@gmail.com.



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CLUB
Voltaire

Club Voltaire is known for offering a variety of shows, events and live acoustic music. A hidden gem in North Melbourne, where curious jests and forbidden tales unfold.

By the end of March, a bold new bar is opening downstairs at Club Voltaire. A vibrant late-night hideaway between shows, where burlesque, cabaret and comedy collide. Expect glittering ambience over high-end cocktails in a playful atmosphere that celebrates the strange, the sultry and the seriously funny. Whether you're there for the spectacle upstairs or the spirits downstairs, this intimate new space promises unforgettable nights of mischief, glamour and pure theatrical delight.

14 Raglan Street, North Melbourne
www.clubvoltaire.com.au
0438 001 391



Thanu Kothalawala, Rotary Club President, congratulates and thanks Jack Petrie for his significant contribution to the Simonds College breakfast club program.

Come for study, stay for fun

Laurence Angwin

The three Homework Clubs that operate as part of the North Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre are about more than schoolwork. Cultural celebrations and checking out the fire truck are also on the agenda. The clubs are multicultural, safe, friendly, creative and caring places. They nourish the mind and body. The three homework clubs run on Wednesdays during term. They have kicked off the year with a new intake of primary and secondary students and new tutors have been recruited and trained from Melbourne University. The clubs provide bespoke learning. After the schoolwork is completed, the students enjoy a nutritious afternoon tea. We are always mindful of allergies and religious sensibilities. The later part of the session is spent relaxing with interpersonal activities. These are varied weekly and include; art, origami, music and assorted games. It is a time of learning through games and making friends. In term 1 students are learning about the Lunar New Year from Chinese and Vietnamese tutors. Lucky red packets have been made and decorated. At the end of class students received gold chocolate coins in their packets. The end of Ramadan fast, Eid al Fitr, will be celebrated with an afternoon get-together on Sunday 29 March at North Melbourne Community Centre, 49-53 Buncle Street. Muslim tutors will explain the celebrations to students.

In April, Easter will be celebrated with activities and an Easter egg hunt. Later in the year, fire safety talks will be a highlight as students explore the fire truck from the West Melbourne crew in Batman Street. As well, police officers hold an important session on personal safety in the environment and online. In 2026, we recognise the financial support of Colliers, Melbourne Airport, Australian Communities Foundation and the Federal Government. We welcome enquiries from potential students and tutors and look forward to welcoming them. The three clubs are:

- NWMNC at 58 Errol Street for students from Years 3 to 6, from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm
- The Hotham Room at the North Melbourne Library for secondary students (Years 7 to 10) from 3.30 pm to 5.15 pm
- AMSSA at 91-101 Boundary Road for both primary and secondary students (Years 4 to 9) from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm.

Laurence Angwin is coordinator of the Home Away From Homework Clubs.

What to know more?
Contact the Neighbourhood Centre, online at, admin@centre.org.au or by phone at 93281126.



Chaltu Ahmed was a finalist for the Young Apprentice/Vocational Award at the 2025 Multicultural Youth Awards.

Determination pays off for Chaltu at Youth Awards

Apeshka Zhao

Chaltu Ahmed, an Ethiopian woman now living in inner Melbourne, was a finalist for the Young Apprentice/Vocational Award at the 2025 Multicultural Youth Awards. The awards recognise outstanding dedication and skill in vocational pathways. Chaltu has studied English as an additional language in the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) at North Melbourne Language and Learning since 2022 and achieved Certificate II at the end of 2025.

Reflecting on the awards night at Parliament House, she said she felt "grateful and proud". "It was a special experience to be surrounded by inspiring people and feel so supported. Being recognised means a lot to me and has given me more confidence to keep working towards my goals," she said. Her message is simple: believe in yourself, keep your faith, learn English, and never forget those who help you – always pay kindness forward. Apeshka Zhao is a teacher at the River Nile School.

Nelson Alexander

Moments that matter

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Cool off with Juniper Care



Joshua So AKA Juniper Care brought his dreamy blend of indie rock, shoegaze sounds to the North Melbourne pool as part of its summer music series. We spoke with him about his poolside performance and life as a local musician.

How did you get involved with the summer music series at the pool?

My friend sent me the ad on Instagram and I really wanted to do it because it was in my local area!

Did the atmosphere of the pool change the way you approached the performance?

I just wanted to disappear and be comfortable to listen to. Didn't want to draw too much attention to me knowing that many may have not known that there was going to be music. Un-annoying was the goal.

What does your working life look like at the moment? Is music your main focus, or part of a mix of creative work?

I would consider Juniper Care my career. This

means the music, the live shows, pop-ups, etc. I also do freelance design work, teach here and there, and am in the process of finding another day job to help support the art life.

What do you enjoy most about living and working around North and West Melbourne?

North Melbourne is so beautiful. As somebody who doesn't drive, it's so easy for me to take public transport and reach other spots. There is a ton of green, open and community-forward spaces here (such as the pool) that really work for me. Creativity does flourish everywhere, so I wouldn't say that it particularly is any better than, say, living in the CBD. With that said, I do find that the quiet and space helps consolidate my thoughts and feelings at the end of the day. Usually I write at night.

Are there particular projects or collaborations you're excited about right now?

I can't reveal what's to come just yet, but both in terms of releases and shows, it's looking like a pretty dope year.

Want to know more?

You can find Juniper Care on Instagram at [@joshua_arvy_so](#) and listen to him on Spotify.

Harmony to hit the block

Annie Nguyen

The River Nile School is planning a celebration of its students with lively music and mouth-watering food and beverages.

The school has been internationally recognised for bringing cultures together and helping young women from diverse migrant and refugee backgrounds overcome adversity.

To showcase the strengths and talents of its students, River Nile School is holding a Harmony block party on Friday 27 March between 4 pm and 8 pm.

The event aims to celebrate cultural diversity, foster unity, and provide a platform for students to share their identities and traditions. It is a community-driven gathering in the urban setting of the school's parking lot, transformed into the ultimate street-vibe destination.

Engagement coordinator Francine Sculli says that in a world that sometimes feels divided, the Harmony block party is

full of joy, connection and learning from one another.

For senior Student Yusra it is a day for everyone to share their backgrounds and identities. "We have different cultures, but at the block party, we are one," she says.

Senior student Anaita says she wants to learn about other cultures. Mozghan, a vocational major student, adds, "I want to share traditional clothes and how we style them."

Senior student Rita describes being excited about "connecting and getting knowledge about other cultures through dance, music, and activities such as henna." Henna is a dye made from powdered leaves that creates gorgeous patterns on the skin. Henna's cultural significance is that it brings joy and good fortune.

Senior student Hiba says, "Last year we had a food truck by Aheda, the Palestinian Chef, and she'll be back this year!"

Annie Nguyen is a new writer for the News.



Full bellies, ready minds

Shaun Andrews

The North Melbourne Primary Breakfast Club is a free program available to all our students and families.

While every student is welcome to attend, the program is designed to provide additional support to families who may benefit from help in ensuring their children start the school day with a nutritious breakfast.

Launched in 2025 at the Errol Street campus, the Breakfast Club has been enjoyed by many Years 3 to 6 students. It has also created valuable opportunities for staff and volunteers to build connections and strengthen relationships with students across year levels.

The program is delivered through the Victorian Government's School Breakfast Clubs Program in partnership with Foodbank Victoria. The school receives a weekly delivery of healthy food items, ensuring all students have reliable access to breakfast and are well supported to engage fully in their learning.

Shaun Andrews is the Wellbeing Leader at North Melbourne Primary School.

Something to share?

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

Premier Health Partners



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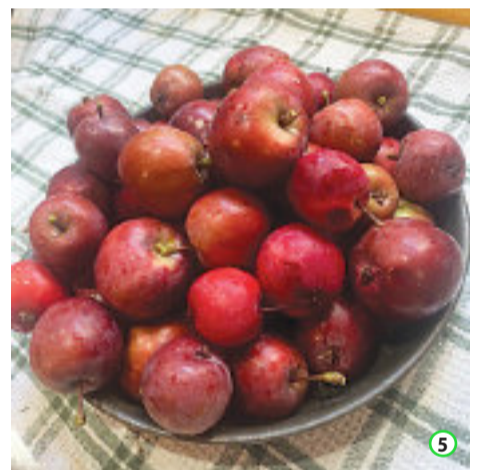
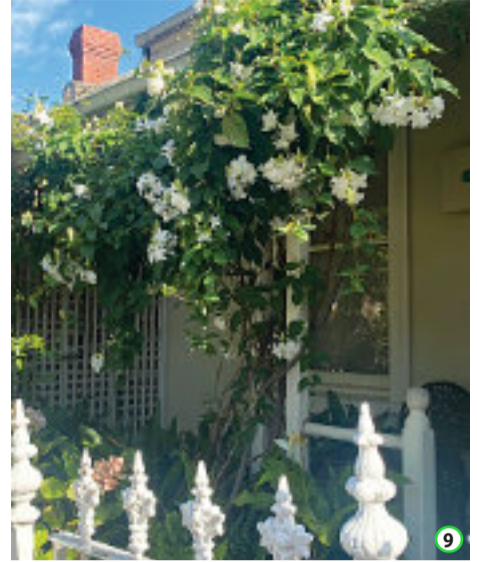
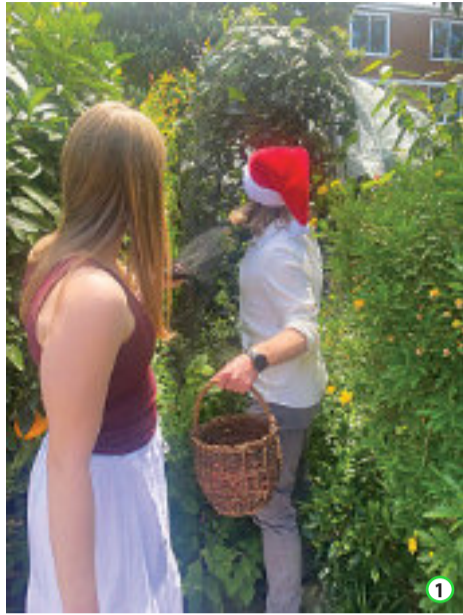
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GARDEN GLORIES
Marion Poynter



Preserving the season

Gardening, cooking and preserving have always been among my most consuming passions. So, when setting up our garden many years ago, growing my own ingredients was a priority. I started by planting a variety of fruit trees, especially some whose fruit was hard to buy and/or expensive.

This year, as summer emerged, I had much satisfaction harvesting and making use of various fruits as they have ripened.

Our red currants matured in time for Christmas and I was able to make red currant jelly. Delicious served with turkey; it is an easy recipe, requiring just sugar, water and berries. After the Christmas Day lunch I asked two of my grandchildren to pick the Morello cherries, which had ripened high up on their tree where I couldn't reach them (1). I hadn't had time before Christmas to gather them and make a delicious sauce to go with the ham. The next day I froze them and soon, when time allowed, I preserved them to use for making tarts and crumbles and even perhaps jam.

The late spring rains, followed by very hot summer days, resulted in our by now large and mature Seville Orange tree producing over months the biggest crop ever of fruits the size of small beach balls. I set out by making lots and lots of delicious Seville Orange marmalade. By mid-summer I came out into the garden daily to find the ground beneath the tree spread with fallen fruit (2). More fruit than I could ever use. I shared some with friends, but still there were more. Hating waste, I filled a big box with oranges and placed them in the street outside my front gate with a notice inviting passers-by to help themselves – which they did (3).

In the front garden, the eight-year-old crabapple tree produced a good crop of golf-ball-sized fruit (5); I transformed them into a batch of wonderful ruby-coloured jelly (4). (Crabapple jelly is easy to make at home, and it's great served with meat and game, or used in cake fillings.

As summer progressed the passionfruit vine, in a perfect position facing north, was covered with dozens of fruit (6). They began ripening in mid-January, and continued on well into February. I often mix them with sliced bananas and sugar for a delicious dessert. Best of all they star as a topping for summer pavlovas for special occasions. Always costly to buy they are a fruit well worth growing at home, even in a small garden.

Other fruit trees in my garden were not so successful. It is always a battle competing with birds and possums, and this year we had to put protective nets over several of the trees, including the apple, the peach, the fig and the cherry. It's quite an awkward job.

We also enjoyed a splendid show of summer flowers in our backyard, including lilliums, Shasta daisies, roses, alstroemerias, Queen Anne's Lace, and a cheery group of sunflowers (7), and, in the front garden, a row of spectacular pale pink hydrangeas, the biggest I've ever seen: some the size of dinner plates (8). A shawl of scented white Mandevillas draped dramatically over the front verandah (9). This is one of the best summer creepers.

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

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
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RNorris Williams survived the sinking of the *RMS Titanic* but spent so much time submerged in the icy Atlantic that doctors wanted to amputate his legs on rescue ship *Carpathia*. He refused the amputation, recovered and went on to win the US Tennis Championship that very same year.

Of the hundreds of children aboard, only two survived. Not one of the dogs aboard survived.



Australia Day and its award ceremony has come and gone.

As usual there was far too much hatred, hardship and anger happening in the global community right now.

But remember back before that bloody Covid thing happened, when the Magnificent Dame Grace Tame won Australian of the Year (how wonderful is Grace).

Then the next year came around and the government was doing their thing of pretending they didn't know who they'd award it to.

I said they should just give it to Dame Grace again. Go ahead and set a world precedent for combatting violence against women.



On 22 September 1907, the *SS Principessa Jolanda* faced disaster during its launch in Italy. As the ship entered the water, it immediately tilted to port and failed to stabilise. Efforts to correct the imbalance were unsuccessful, and the

VERY'S WORLD Very Impressive



vessel sank at the launch site. The primary cause was believed to be a miscalculation of the centre of gravity, leading to improper weight distribution. This incident remains one of the most infamous ship-launching failures in maritime history.



The ornate winged arkys spider is a silent hunter in disguise. This stunning creature's scientific name is *Arkys alatus*.

With its jagged, armour-like body and mossy colouration, it's practically invisible when perched on a leaf – the perfect camouflage for an ambush predator.

Unlike traditional web-spinners, this spider prefers patience over weaving. It sits motionless, using its powerful front legs to snatch unsuspecting insects that venture too close. A master of stealth and surprise.

Nature's artistry meets raw predatory instinct.



A colossal structure has been discovered that is so big it threatens to break our understanding of the cosmos. It's a perfect ring of galaxies spanning an inconceivable 1.3 billion light-years in diameter.

This 'Big Ring' is not just a random group of stars: it's a structure that, according to our current cosmological models, simply shouldn't exist.

The Cosmological Principle, a bedrock of modern astronomy, assumes that on a large scale, the universe is uniform. This ring, along with a previously discovered 'Giant Arc' suggests that the universe is far from uniform. Instead, it might be filled with colossal, unexplained structures that span billions of light-years, hinting at a new, unknown physics that governs the largest scales of reality.

Very Impressive has been sharing his views on life with the News for 17 years.

We all have the same amount of time – we just have different priorities.

This makes me reflect on the day-to-day decisions we make. For me, running is something I do almost every day. It's a decision I make for many reasons, but the main one is simple: I really enjoy it.

I've chosen to prioritise time spent running.

Work is busy, life is busy, and it can often feel like there isn't enough time for the important things. But I've found that reframing our responsibilities as a mix of priorities and choices has been helpful.

Choosing one thing over another takes consideration.

Sometimes we need to sacrifice. Sometimes we

MOSTLY UPRIGHT Phil Gijbers

need to squeeze things in. And sometimes, we can do two things at once.

I try to fit in running whenever I can — running with friends, thinking through the day ahead, exercising the dog, listening to an audio book, or even taking a phone call. Other time is spent on calf raises while brushing my teeth, or eating dinner on the floor while stretching.

I love to run, but I still have to make time for it.

And that's a choice I make every day.

We all prioritise our time differently. For me, running helps me think more clearly, sleep more deeply, and stay fit. It's not for everyone – and I'll be the first to admit that – but for me, it's worth prioritising.

Phil Gijbers is a marathon and ultramarathon runner, podcaster and a co-owner of Bobbie Peels.

Want to know more?

You can follow Phil's running adventures at [@bobbiepeels](#) on Instagram, [Phil Gijbers](#) on Strava and [philgijbers.substack.com](#) on Substack. Listen to the *Gariwerd Trail Running* podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

A News reader contacted me recently to ask what they could do to secure their home network more effectively.

It's a great question because the process of getting connected to the internet these days is optimised for convenience rather than security, so it's a good idea to spend a bit of time tinkering with a few settings (if you feel comfortable doing so) to improve your home network security.

Modems are often shipped with a default admin username and password (or at least they were until fairly recently) so that's probably a good place to start, especially if you received your modem a while ago.

An attacker only needs to identify the modem's manufacturer to find default login details that are readily available online and they'll be able to take over control of your home network, which is not ideal.

You can change the modem's admin login details by typing 192.168.0.1 or 192.168.1.1 into your web browser and following the prompts. Most ISPs also provide instructions on their website for how to do this.

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

Next, consider changing your wi-fi network name.

Default names often reveal the ISP or modem model which gives away information unnecessarily.

Choose a neutral name that doesn't identify you, your location or the device itself.

While you're there, set a strong wi-fi password using a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols, and make it at least 20 characters long. Check out my column in the Spring 2023 issue for tips on how to create strong passwords.

Then, enable the strongest available encryption to protect data transmitted over your home network.

WPA3 is ideal, but WPA2-AES is still acceptable if WPA3 isn't available. Older standards such as WEP and WPA should be avoided.

It's also a good idea to disable WPS, which is meant to simplify how you connect to your home network but has a long history of security weaknesses.

If your modem supports a guest network, it's a good idea to enable it and use it for visitors and smart devices so they're kept separate from your main devices.

This helps to isolate what matters to you most in the event of a breach.

Finally, get to know other security features available by utilising free online AI tools to learn what they are and what they do. Remember that less complexity means fewer things that can be exploited.

Tinkering with these settings won't make your home network an impenetrable fortress, but will make your network far less attractive to attackers.

One thing is for sure though, you will definitely become the least liked member of your household. Unfortunately, security comes with trade offs!

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

Rides
Culture

MULTICULTURAL EID FESTIVAL





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FROM THE ARCHIVES Michelle Brett

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

A hat too far (1884)

A lad named John Holland was charged with the larceny of a hat that was taken from a shop overnight. The Bench expressed that shop keepers were encouraging people to steal by leaving their goods exposed outside their premises at night, while the lad's sister stated that her brother had never been in trouble before and usually kept good hours. The Bench remanded the prisoner for seven days and directed that he should be fed on bread and water.

Cheque mate (1886)

George Anderson, who was charged with five counts of forgery and described as one of the most accomplished swindlers, has been further remanded. Anderson had presented himself as a commercial traveller and purchased the South Australian Hotel in Spring Street, using a cheque for £250 as part payment. The cheque, however, when presented at the bank was found to be valueless. Mr Young, a jeweller of Collins Street, was also swindled of diamond jewellery worth £63. Young had been hesitant to accept the cheque but upon hearing on good authority that Anderson had just purchased the hotel, consented to cash it. Anderson is said to have been previously convicted.

Cross Street clash (1887)

James Graham and Gerald Donohue were charged by Constable Dunlop for insulting behaviour. The two were fighting on Cross Street, with Graham cut so badly on the head that he had to be taken to hospital. Both parties were drunk and had hardly recovered when they were before court. They were each fined 5s or 24 hours imprisonment.

A matter of proof (1887)

Mrs Donellan, licensee of the Boundary Road Hotel, was in court for selling adulterated liquor. Inspector Reedy purchased rum from the hotel and sent some to be tested where it was found to be under proofed. The defence stated that the liquor was 'waste' not for sale and had accidentally been put in the bar. It was also alleged that Mrs Donellan told Reedy this when he took the drink. The Bench said that they did not believe the licensee meant to sell the spirit and the case was withdrawn on her paying £1 in costs.

Nothing to loaf about (1888)

Mary Caprin and Mary Warr were charged with vagrancy after they were found lying on the pavement at the intersection of Victoria and O'Connell Streets. There have been many recent complaints about the "number of tippy old woman loafin' about the market" and both were sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour.

Seven days for sass (1888)

John Comeford was charged by Constable Dunlop for insulting behaviour. According to the Constable, Comeford had been creating a disturbance in Leveson Street and was using bad language. When told to go home or be arrested, Comeford replied that "it would take a better man than you to lock me up." He was promptly taken to the watch house and fined 10s or 7 days in the gaol.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Lulu Chen is an international postgraduate student and international student community outreach worker at NWMNC.



What are you studying?
I'm studying my Master of Public Health at the University of Melbourne.

What are you doing apart from studying?
I recently joined NWMNC as the International Student Community Outreach Worker. I'm also deeply involved in the student community, currently serving as the Treasurer of the Melbourne Population & Global Health Student Society and Co-ordinating the Student Volunteering Program at Health in Focus, a not-for-

I'm back! You may remember this column from 2019. My aim is to show you some fun and interesting rides that are easily accessed from North and West Melbourne. I bought my first real adult bike in 2015, about the time of my retirement from paid work. It's been great for my fitness, and it has taken me to all kinds of places I never noticed when I was driving a car. The pace is slower, and the sounds and smells make for a much richer experience. For me, riding these days really resonates with my younger years, when my world expanded simply because I had a bike that could take me to new horizons. These days, the network of bike paths is fantastic, and you can ride for ages without having to deal with cars and trucks, which makes the whole experience even better. For this issue, I recommend the new

profit organisation. Outside of work and study, I love dancing and playing badminton.

What has surprised you most about being in North Melbourne?
Honestly, almost all of my favourite cafés and bakeries are here! It's been such a pleasant discovery. Shoutout to Auction Rooms, Mörk and Bread Club!

What are your goals?
Long term, I aim to help foster a vibrant, diverse community of international students, supporting

them as they navigate their unique journeys in Melbourne. We already have many exciting events planned, and I look forward to contributing to this growing community.

What has been the biggest challenge?
A frequent challenge is limited awareness of the support and resources NWMNC provides. Students often feel overwhelmed by the abundance of options and unsure where to begin.

Do you have any advice for others studying here?
Your studies matter, but don't let them consume all your time. Discover what Melbourne has to offer, try unfamiliar activities, and give yourself space to enjoy the city.

What has been the best thing or the most fun?
Definitely meeting new people! It's such a wonderfully diverse community, and I really value the exchange of unique perspectives and experiences.

WHEELS ON FIRE Tim Cremean

state-of-the-art Dixon Veloway to Footscray and beyond. Iris Dixon (1931–2022) grew up in nearby Carlton and was one of our first female cycling heroes. She started practising at the Brunswick Cycle Club, following her father's lead. Girls and women were not permitted to race, but they were allowed to use the track once the men were finished. As an adult, she won countless national and other titles and was still competing in her 80s. I think you might fairly call Iris a legend. You can access the Dixon Veloway from the Moonee Ponds Creek section of the Capital City Trail. You can

connect to the trail at Macaulay Road or Arden Street. A smaller green bridge can now take you over New Footscray Road to access Docklands, but before you get there, turn towards Footscray for the full Veloway experience. It's only 2.4 kilometres to the Maribyrnong River, ascending into this green, caterpillar-like structure slung between the two sides of the new above-ground freeway. The path is broad, and the surface feels a bit like a rubberised green tennis court. The ride out often has a slight incline, which is good for your cardiovascular fitness, but coming back the other way feels more downhill. On the day I rode, there was a good mix of riders, but my favourite group was a little family of five. Sporty mum was leading the way with her primary school-aged son. Then followed a

younger daughter, and bringing up the rear was dad, his bike pulling one of those child rickshaw things. The kids, however, have outgrown the carriage, and instead the family kelpie was enjoying the ride, giving off a wide, toothy, tonguey smile. When you reach the Maribyrnong, you have plenty of choices. You can simply turn around and head back. Or you can drop over to funky Footscray for the market or something to eat. Maybe even buy some fish at the famous Conways before returning. From here, it's about 40 minutes to Williamstown, mostly along the safe Strand pathway. I'll write about that, and other beaut rides, in future editions. Keep on pedalling.

Tim Cremean is the Distribution Coordinator for the News.

Andrew strikes the right note for lovers of music and learning

Amber Ammouche

If you want to learn an instrument, jam in a band or sing in tune, the School of Loving Music in Little Baillie Street offers opportunities to grow musically. It provides tailored guidance to help children and adults at any stage of their musical journey. The school was founded in 1999 by Andrew McSweeney, a musician all his life. He started classical piano when he was nine, but circumstances led him to quit. A few years later, his brother Paul invited him to join a band. At 14, Andrew rediscovered his excitement for exploring sounds and playing instruments. Over the years, he has played guitar, bass, keyboard, written songs and sung in various bands. Andrew toured Victoria to spread

rock education to high school students and teachers. During this time, he credits his mentor Sue Gillard for showing him that rock education could be a sustainable career, rather than relying on unpredictable gigs. This realisation led to the idea of developing musical workshops. Starting his school allowed Andrew to build on his passion for music. Initially named the 'School of Living Music' the school recently became the 'School of Loving Music.' Andrew explains this shift is about fostering a love for learning, playing, and creating music – individually, collectively and as a community. In addition to his work with the school, Andrew has spent the past 30 years mentoring in the Victorian Youth Justice system. He describes hip hop as a powerful tool for youth

expression: "We get to hear what's happening in their lives and we get to challenge what they're doing." This approach strengthens community ties and connects people to music. Andrew recently co-founded the School of Music & Imagination with Darren Eden. This program gives participants a chance to build confidence, enjoy creative exploration, and approach music with renewed curiosity by letting go of limiting beliefs about themselves as musicians. The introductory workshop helps participants expand their creativity and openness, encouraging personal growth in learning, playing, and creating music.

Amber Ammouche is a regular writer for the News.



Andrew McSweeney helps beginners and pros to find their confidence and rhythm.

Sarah Witty > Member for Melbourne

Labor

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Too many cooks? Not at the Queensberry Street Co-op

Alex Hall

Ever wondered how difficult it is to start your own business as a young person trying to navigate your way through the hospitality industry? Well, the guys down at Queensberry Street Cooperative are all too aware of this. But, with a unique business plan they're making waves in the community with their shared space and café.

The Celto-Britannic café and multiple food classes create the foundations for the business. Cooperatives are structures that value shared

decision making, along with collective ownership. This one started in 2020 with current café runner, Denny, who has a passion for the hospitality industry but also an awareness of how difficult it is for younger people to create a space without financial stability. Through relationships developed over time and scouting out the right people to join arms with, the Co-op was formed. Denny and Jai started the café, while Yolanda, a vegan caterer, and Patrick, a fermenter and fermentation teacher, run classes. They are four people doing their own thing but coming together to contribute to some exciting

stuff at the Queensberry Street Co-op.

It's not just the café though. They have been running classes since the project started and later in the year keep your eyes peeled for classes by Patrick on all things fermentation. Additionally, Yolanda will be running some classes on learning to cook without a plan and taking those fridge door meals to the next level. Denny has also expressed interest in getting a liquor license so there's a chance we could see some evening activities coming from Queensberry Street later this year. Denny highlights the benefits of sharing this

space equally. One of the Co-op's main goals is that others might be inspired to set up something comparable. "We know we've done something right when we see another group of hospitality professionals sharing a space together in a similar way," Denny says.

Alex Hall is a new writer for the News.

Want to know more?

Visit the Queensberry Street Co-op at 688 Queensberry St, North Melbourne and follow them on Instagram at @queensberrystcoop.

FLAVOURS OF THE SEASON

Local cooks share their secrets

Patrick's fermented radishes (2% saltwater brine)

Ingredients

Radishes (or any other fruit/vegetable)
A jar with a lid
Salt (natural salt without additives)
Lovage
Tarragon
Garlic
Peppercorns
Bay leaves
Saltbush

Method

Grab a jar with a lid. Make sure it's clean – no need to sterilise, that's the beauty of fermentation. It's a bacterial bonanza, but the nice ones win out.

Cut radishes (or whatever you've decided upon) into chunks, quarters or slices – you're the alchemist.

Layer them in the jar with herbs and spices – you can follow the recommendations above, or freestyle with what you've got.

Fill jar most of the way with produce. Place the jar on scales and tare.

Fill jar to the neck with water, making sure everything is covered (minimal headroom prevents nasties).

Using scales, multiply the weight of the water you added (after taring) by 0.02 to work out how much salt to add.

Tip water into another jug or jar, add salt and stir to dissolve.

Pour saltwater brine back into jar of radishes.

Place a radish or other leafy vegetable on top to act as a lid, and make sure it holds everything down. Close lid, and place on a bowl or plate at room temperature for 5 days to 2 weeks

It will fizz and hiss, and bubble over.



Once they've soured to your liking, place in the fridge to slow fermentation.

Consume as you desire – they last forever, so no need to rush.

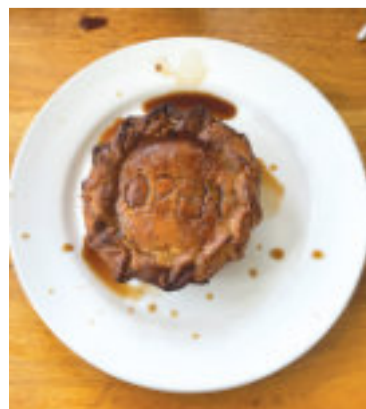
If any white yeast forms on the surface (Kahm yeast) don't be alarmed it's totally safe, scrape it off. Or don't.

Denny's head, hock and trotter pie with lovage and turnip salad

This will be more than enough for one pie, but you can't really get less than half of all the extremities of a pig – the filling will freeze well for later use. The pastry dough will make one nice big pie for 4 to 6 people.

Pie filling ingredients

½ a pig head
1 hock
2 trotters
1 bunch lovage (or half bunch celery, plus the leaves of 2 bunches)
2 carrots
6 brown onions
1 bulb garlic
Bouquet garni (whatever you have; I like parsley stems, bay leaves, and whole springs of thyme and summer savoury)
1 can porter (e.g. Guinness)
1 tsp black pepper
1 tsp white pepper
4 cloves
4 star anise
1 tsp pimentón/allspice
1 tsp mustard seeds
1 litre chicken or pork stock (or water!)



Pie crust ingredients

200 g water
150 g lard
450 g flour
1 large egg
Teaspoon salt

Turnip salad ingredients

½ kg turnip
1 teaspoon seeded mustard
1 tablespoon malt vinegar (or homemade stout vinegar)
A few sprigs parsley
2 tablespoons olive oil

Pie filling method

Start a week in advance by pickling the head, hock and trotters in a 6% salt brine. This treatment is most important for the head, but the hock and trotters will also benefit.

Pig heads are easily sourced from Queen Victoria Market for only a few dollars, along with the hock and trotters. If only smoked hocks are available, they will also do (and add a lovely smokey depth!).

If making your own stout vinegar, mix a bottle or can of stout with a couple of tablespoons of apple cider vinegar 'with mother' in an open jar, covered with a breathable cloth, and leave to ferment for a week in a warm place, stirring daily. The higher the percentage of alcohol in the stout, the stronger the vinegar, so maybe skip the Guinness!

The morning of the day before, place the pickled head, hock and trotters in a tray with the roughly chopped lovage, carrots, half the onions, garlic, and bouquet garni. Add the whole spices, stout, and stock. Cover with tin foil and bake for 6 to 8 hours on low (~100°C).

When falling apart, pick the meat (including the skin and fat) and strain the stock. Leave both in the fridge to cool. Discard the spent vegetables and spices.

The next day, remove the lard from the top of the stock and reserve for the pastry and other cooking.

Slice the remaining onions and cook until soft with a tablespoon of lard. Add the stock and reduce by half.

Add the picked pork and check for seasoning, adjusting with salt, black and white pepper, and malt vinegar.

Transfer to a tray to cool completely and set in the fridge.

Pie crust method

For the pie crust, heat the water and lard in a pot until just boiling.

Mix the flour, salt, and egg in a bowl, then stream in the hot water and fat, combining with a wooden spoon.

Turn the dough out and knead until smooth.

Roll out the dough and cut 2 circles, one 10 percent and one 30 percent larger in diameter than your dish (or cast iron pan).

Take the larger circle of dough and press it into your pan and up the sides.

Fill with the cooled pork mix and cover with the smaller circle of dough, crimping the edges with your thumb and index.

Brush with egg wash and fork the top, then allow to cool and set in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Bake for 25 minutes at 200, or until nice and golden on the outside – the inside is already cooked!

Turnip salad method

Shave turnips with a peeler, or thinly slice on a mandoline, and tear the parsley.

So as to preserve the crispness of the turnip to contrast the rich pie, season and dress the turnips with salt, mustard, vinegar and oil just before plating.

Yolanda's fennel and butterbean gremolata

Ingredients

1 fennel
1 tin butter beans
½ bunch parsley
Zest and juice of one lemon
2 garlic cloves
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

Cook the fennel: Trim the tops off the fennel and save to use as a garnish. Cut the fennel into wedges.

Heat a pan with olive oil and cook each piece until golden on each side. Set aside.

Make the gremolata: Chop the parsley and garlic finely.

Add to a bowl and grate in the lemon zest.

Add the juice of the lemon.



Add the olive oil and stir. You're looking for a very wet/saucy consistency so don't be shy to add more olive oil if needed.

Season with salt and pepper.

Assemble

Drain the butterbeans and mix together with the fennel and gremolata.

Adjust seasoning and add some fresh fennel tops to garnish.

Lilli's stout and strawberry flummery

Strawberry syrup ingredients

250 g strawberries (destemmed, cut and washed)
75 g sugar
Juice of half a lemon

Flummery ingredients

150 g of strawberry syrup
100 ml stout
7 g gelatin
230 g thickened cream

Method

A day ahead, prepare the syrup by combining strawberries, sugar and lemon juice. Mix well and refrigerate to allow to macerate overnight.

The next day, strain the strawberries from the syrup and reserve the fruit for topping the flummery.

Combine strawberry syrup and stout in a small saucepan and heat until just boiled. Add gelatin and whisk until mixture is smooth.

Transfer mixture to a bowl or container and let set in the fridge for half an hour to an hour. You don't want the jelly to fully set, it should be thick and curd-like before beginning the next step.

Once the jelly has set to the desired texture, transfer to the bowl of a stand mixer, add cream to the bowl and use the whisk attachment to whip the cream and jelly til just past stiff peaks – around two to three minutes.

Transfer to serving dishes and allow to set for one to two hours.

Serve with reserved macerated strawberries and enjoy.





An evening of faith and food

Around 200 people shared a feast of Somali food at an Iftar dinner in late February hosted by North Melbourne Football Club's community arm, The Huddle.

Many members of the Muslim community broke their fast together alongside others who attended to share the communal meal and join the Ramadan celebrations.

It was the fourth time that The Huddle has hosted an Iftar dinner.





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When duty calls, Dorothy rolls up her sleeves

Keely Naylor

Dorothy Bache insists she's not that interesting, before telling you she saw one of The Beatles' very early concerts in England, and remembers when CPR was first introduced while she volunteered for St John's Ambulance, and that she met Queen Elizabeth II.

However, those stories are not what she's interested in talking about.

Dorothy volunteered with St John's for 60 years and St Albans Anglican Church in North Melbourne for 40 years, where she ran an op shop and played the church organ.

Even in her 90s Dorothy has no intentions of slowing down any time soon. "I'm fit as a fiddle. Well, half a fiddle," she said.

Dorothy oversees operations at the food bank that runs bi-weekly from 55 Melrose Street, previously St Albans.

It began roughly 40 years ago as a food buying group, operating just outside the North Melbourne council flats. Each person would put in their \$5, hire a bus, and travel to the food bank in Tullamarine or sometimes head down to the Queen Vic Market.

The food bank still operates from the same place, though it now runs a little more traditionally, with trolleys, pantry shelves and wrapped food.

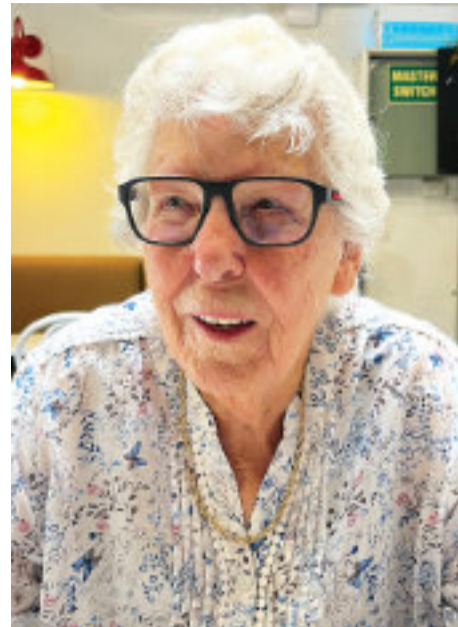
"It started because they realised people were having trouble paying their power bills and we have the same problem now. Nothing changes, does it?" Dorothy said.

"We try to always have enough so that everybody can get the same," Dorothy explains. "If we run short of something then we put them away until we can get more so that we keep it equal."

Dorothy's first contact with volunteering was through St John's Ambulance. She started partly because of a friend she met working at the State Electricity Commission (SEC), and partly because of a tragic accident she witnessed when she was 17.

In June 1952, Dorothy was on a train that collided with a bus at Boronia Railway Crossing, resulting in 13 deaths, several of them children. As an Essendon local, Dorothy knew some of the deceased, and remembers the event vividly.

"There was chaos," Dorothy said. "Luckily there were two nursing sisters from the Alfred



Lifelong volunteer Dorothy reflects on her years of service.

[Hospital] on the train, and they got out and controlled the whole thing.

"I just sat there; I didn't know what to do. It really hit hard, that accident."

Soon after, she took a first aid course offered by the SEC. There was another, less charitable, incentive. "They convinced me that if we joined St John's Ambulance, we would see the Queen," Dorothy said.

And, when Queen Elizabeth II landed for her first visit to Australia in 1954, Dorothy and her friend were there.

"Our first day on duty out at Melbourne Airport wearing our uniforms," Dorothy said. She met the Queen.

Her volunteering has faced challenges. The op shop she ran for St Albans had to shut when the church closed. Dorothy now plays the organ at St George's Anglican Church in Travancore.

The food bank struggles, despite the 30 to 40 regulars, but Dorothy won't give up on it. She's helped create a community of people who volunteer regularly, and knows the locals well.

"Their concern now is what happens when I can't do it anymore," Dorothy said. "I'd give myself another three to four years."

Keely Naylor is a new writer for the News.

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell



Government to demolish homes of vulnerable older residents

You may have heard that Labor has announced plans to demolish seven more public housing towers – including 159 Melrose Street in North Melbourne, 94 Ormond Street in Kensington, and 29 Crown Street in Flemington.

We've known for some time that Labor is pushing ahead with their plan to demolish and privatise all of Victoria's 44 public housing towers, despite strong opposition from residents and the local community, and mounting evidence that homes could be refurbished for a fraction of the price.

The towers that have just been added to the chopping block are all home to mainly older residents, who are among the most vulnerable in our community, and among those most at risk of homelessness.

One of those residents is Bassam. Bassam is 60 years old. He's an engineer and father of four. He came to Australia three years ago as a refugee from Iraq. Having experienced homelessness in the past, Bassam feels so lucky to have a safe place to live. He has built strong connections in the local community and loves being close to his four children and the Peter Mac Hospital, which treated him for cancer.

Now, like so many of his neighbours, Bassam is facing uncertainty about where he'll end up. He says many of his friends in the building are elderly and have chronic diseases. They need secure public housing.

As with previous demolitions, Labor has no plan to rebuild any public

housing on these sites. Instead, the land will be handed over to private developers to build mostly high-end private apartments, a small amount of subsidised 'social housing', but no public housing at all.

A report by non-profit organisation OFFICE has shown that refurbishing one of the Flemington towers rather than demolishing it would save the government nearly \$364 million! But private developers are keen to get their hands on this inner-city land, and disappointingly, Labor is giving it to them.

Demolishing the public housing towers will make Melbourne's housing crisis worse – pushing more people into an already impossible rental market and displacing older residents from their communities.

I know that our community wants everyone to have a safe place to live.

My Greens colleagues and I are working hard to pressure Labor to stop the privatisation of Melbourne's public housing and build more public housing that's needed. If you'd like to help spread the word and support local public housing residents, please contact my office.

If you are a tower resident affected by this plan, please reach out. We're here to support you.

What to know more?

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch:

ellen.sandell@parliament.vic.gov.au



Marketing, venue and bookings manager Mikki Michelle and Club Voltaire Owner Lindsay Saddington. Photograph: Josephine Daly

Life is a cabaret on Raglan St

Josephine Daly

Lindsay Saddington has owned Club Voltaire in Raglan Street North Melbourne for more than 23 years. He celebrated his 73rd birthday this year with no plans to hang up his hat anytime soon. "When I turn 90 I plan to be dancing in Rio."

A gentle giant and stalwart of the independent arts scene, Lindsay grew up in Mitcham in a family with no interest in theatre.

When asked what drew him to theatre, Lindsay shares a cheeky boyish smile. "I wanted to meet girls."

At university Lindsay studied a double major in psychology and sociology, a minor in philosophy and electives in theatre arts. He was part of the avant garde movement and drawn to surrealism, absurdism and experimental forms of theatre.

Lindsay then studied education at the Victorian Teachers College in Toorak and set up his own arts practice – the Australian Centre of

Performing Arts and ran theatre workshops.

"I loved seeing the freedom and confidence theatre could give young people. But it was a different time – we didn't have these (Lindsay points to my mobile phone). Our workshops were not about heading for Broadway; it was about having a space to play, imagine and experiment."

To fund Club Voltaire, Lindsay did everything. "I drove cabs, I did labouring – anything to pay the rent. We had a gallery downstairs, and live music on Friday nights."

The club's popularity has continued to grow, and is even frequented by famous faces.

"When Harry Styles was in Melbourne he came to see his friend's surrealist art exhibition in the gallery. Chris Martin from Coldplay came to see a show, along with his partner, actress Dakota Johnson. I didn't know who they were at the time."

I asked Lindsay if he had any advice for new artists starting out in the indie

scene. "Sell lots of tickets and get all your friends to promote the show. Don't expect a profit – if you break even, you are doing well. You may face setbacks, but keep going, as you never know what may be around the corner."

What's next for Club Voltaire?

"We've got comedy, cabaret, burlesque, theatre and the opening of a new intimate Club Voltaire bar on the ground floor in late February. Come and talk to us if you want to put on a show," Lindsay says.

Club Voltaire has live performances Wednesday to Sunday nights. Come taste the wine and stay for the comedy and cabaret. You can also hire the venue for rehearsals, photoshoots or whatever lies in your imagination.

Josephine Daly is a new writer for the News.

What to know more?

Visit www.clubvoltaire.com.au or phone 0438 001 391 for bookings.

Winning and learning, together

Lucy Collins

Boomers, Millennials, Gen Z, Gen Alpha. Where would you find them all on a regular weeknight, taking down their teammates? At Alexandre Santos Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (ASBJJ) in North Melbourne, of course.

At ASBJJ, people from all walks of life gather to share their love for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ). Not only do they unite on the mats, but they also support one another beyond them. These lasting connections make everyone feel included and help form a diverse, welcoming community.

BJJ first exploded onto the scene in the early 2000s, thanks to the popularity of UFC. What used to be a predominantly male sport has become so popular that the mats are now more packed in the kids' classes than in the adults. Eight years ago, when I started at BJJ, there were only a handful of kids, and you could barely call it a class. I remember competing for the first time at 7 years old and losing every fight, but that didn't stop me from loving the sport.

As the number of kids in the gym grew, the

SPORTS REPORT

Playing the field

timetable filled with more kids' classes. I trained in every class available. Five years after starting BJJ, I decided to compete again and told my coach I would only compete in one. I lost both my fights. Still, a spark lit up inside me. I chose to try again. At my next competition, I won my first fight ever and lost the second. That experience taught me I could change my results if I kept trying. Encouraged, I kept going, and as I fought more, I became better at competing.

There were times when I was on a winning streak and times when I lost my confidence, but over the years, I came to realise that the only trick to BJJ is to keep turning up. Last year, my teammate Isabella and I decided to take on the best in Australia, and we both became the number one-ranked competitors in our respective categories: I in the female orange belt and Isabella in the female yellow belt categories. We couldn't have done this without the support of everyone in the academy and the lessons we had learnt throughout our journey.



Teammates Isabella and Lucy show off their well-earned medals after ranking number one in their respective categories.



In BJJ, there is a saying: "There is no losing, you either win or you learn." This wisdom influences every aspect of my life, including my experiences in high school.

More than self-defence or competition, BJJ offers friendship, community, and personal growth. While many join BJJ for fitness, self-defence, or inspiration from UFC, they often stay for the unmatched sense of belonging. Training

alongside my whole family, I consider ASBJJ our second home and the team our second family.

Lucy Collins is a 14-year-old green belt in BJJ.

Want to know more?

You can find Alexandre Santos Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu studio at Level 1, 504 Victoria Street, North Melbourne, call them at 0455 115 230 and email them at info@asbjj.com.au.

WHISPERED TALES

Stories from our streets

Objects create echoes

Anne Burgi

How many vases does one person need? How many towels? Pillow cases? How about glasses, casseroles and saucepans? And don't get me started on the jumble of miscellaneous implements that accumulate in kitchen drawers.

The problem with living in a very roomy North Melbourne home for 30 years is that there were lots of shelves and cupboards, so there had been no need to curb the accumulation of 'stuff'.

When the time came to move into a more compact space, in West Melbourne, the challenge was to decide what to keep and what to pass on to a new owner (or the rubbish bin).

The first pass was easy. Old magazines, ancient power bills, novels you know you'll never reread, threadbare towels, multiple tablecloths, out-of-date pantry items. Out the door they went without a second thought.

There were any number of bits and pieces that had not been used for many, many years. In some cases, I don't remember ever having seen them before. I swear that 'lettuce spinner' took up residence in the back of a kitchen cupboard without my knowledge.

The second pass was harder. You pick up an elegant pottery jug, then put it back on the window sill. You wonder if maybe one day you'll use that huge wok someone gave you 10 years ago. That coffee table book on English museum treasures really is beautiful. Sigh.

I remember moving between share houses in my 20s with a couple of trips in a borrowed ute. At 70, the task seemed overwhelming. How did I accumulate so many things when I actively avoid shopping centres? Then a friend of a similar age who is moving out of a long-term home said he had realised that he is not a hoarder of things, "I'm a hoarder of memories".

It was a breathtaking insight. My keep / rehome

/ donate / throw out decision-making became so much clearer. I realised that the moves in my 20s were easier because I simply had fewer memories to take with me.

Friends with now adult children tell me that they are having frank discussions with them about the need for them to stop using the family home as free storage for their early memorabilia.

Aside from the day-to-day necessities, many of the objects that moved in with me over the decades brought with them treasured memories.

The Murano glass bowl isn't at all practical, but the Contiki bus trip in 1980 that included a visit to the glass factory comes vividly to life every time I look at it. The painting that hung in my childhood home. The artificial hydrangeas from my grandmother's house. The wall hanging given to me by a dear friend no longer with us. The ugly plate painted with Shakespearean characters that my mother loved. The wooden roll-top box that held my father's cuff-links and 'dress' watch. 'The Simple Subs Book' that guided my early professional development.

An unexpected joy has been seeing some of the 'rehomed' objects find new life and purpose ... a young student working at a long-unused desk, a potter re-united with a glorious (but very large) vase he had created decades ago, a line of books now gracing a friend's bookshelves.

The biggest treasure, unearthed only a few days before the move, was four unlabelled cassette tapes. I slipped the first tape into a long unused cassette player and pressed 'play'. The air filled with my father's voice. I had totally forgotten that after my mother died in 1983, I tried to distract my father by asking him questions about his life – and recording his stories. It is 15 years since I heard his voice for the last time before he died.

So many memories to be kept safe and savoured.

Anne Burgi is a member of the News editorial team.

Carols ring out in harmony

Pamela Every

North Melbourne has a strong bond with the Ukrainian community – it is home to the striking cathedral in Canning Street and the Ukrainian Museum collection of rare books, art and textiles. The bond was reinforced when Sing NoW! choir recently included a Ukrainian song in their repertoire.

As a long-time chorister, I always enjoy participating in our annual carolling along Errol St. Included in last year's repertoire was Carol of the Bells, which was adapted from Shchedryk, a traditional Ukrainian New Year's song with lyrics, composed by Mykola Leontovych that tell of hope for bounty and good fortune in the new year.

In the 1930s, American composer Peter Wilhousky wrote new English lyrics for the tune, changing the theme to bells – you might remember it from the Home Alone movie.

It turned out that this beautiful carol was performed in 1919 by the Ukrainian Nation Chorus during their visit to Paris in support for the brand-new independent nation of Ukraine,

which the Bolshevik government refused to recognise. Does this sound familiar?

Just recently a 100 strong flash mob performed Carol of the Bells in Paris as Ukraine again rests its hopes on the goodwill of European neighbours. If you can, take a look at Tony Wright's article, A moment of pure, unexpected joy that silenced the 'age of grievance' (*The Age* 29/11/2025 pp. 34-35)

Sing NoW! is proud to join this long tradition of using music to bring people together in peace and hope during troubled times.

Pamela Every is a long-term member of Sing NoW!.

What to know more?

The choir meets every Thursday during school term time from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at Sokol, the Czech Hall, at 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne. All newcomers welcome – no auditions. Enrol at the North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre. Phone: 03 9328 1126 Email: admin@centre.org.au



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Above and right: Sarah shares her passion for politics with St Aloysius College students at Parliament House in Canberra.

PARLIAMENT TO POSTCODE Sarah Witty



Open doors, open minds and open hearts

One of the great privileges of serving as the Federal Member for Melbourne is seeing firsthand the curiosity, compassion and quiet leadership that exists across our community.

Recently, I had the pleasure of welcoming Year 9 students from St Aloysius College to Parliament House in Canberra. Watching young people walk through the halls where national decisions are made is always a powerful reminder of why this work matters. Their thoughtful questions about democracy, representation and how laws are made showed a deep engagement with our civic life. I hope their visit sparked an even greater interest in shaping the future of our country. Our democracy is strongest when young Australians feel informed, confident and ready to participate.

Back home in Melbourne, I was honoured to attend Victorian Open Mosque Day at the West Melbourne Mosque. Open Mosque Day is a fantastic opportunity to meet our Muslim neighbours, ask questions, and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes Melbourne such a strong and vibrant community. Initiatives like this play an important role in building understanding and social cohesion, and highlight the values we share.

Thank you to the Islamic Council of Victoria for the warm welcome at the West Melbourne Mosque. The conversations I had throughout the day reflected a simple but powerful truth: when we open doors, we open minds and hearts as well. In a world where division can too easily take hold, events like this strengthen the bonds that hold our community together.

I would also like to extend heartfelt congratulations to North Melbourne local Dr Nancy Lane, who was recently made an Officer of



the Order of Australia for her service to tertiary education. Dr Lane's contribution to higher education has shaped countless lives and strengthened institutions that are vital to our nation's future. Her recognition is richly deserved, and our community is proud to call her one of our own.

From students exploring Parliament to communities opening their doors, and local leaders being recognised for a lifetime of service, these moments reflect the very best of Melbourne. They remind us that progress is built not only through policy, but through participation, respect and shared purpose.

Open doors. Open minds. Open hearts. That is how we continue building a stronger, more connected community together.

Want to know more?

If your community organisation, business or school would like to meet with me, please reach out to my office by email: Sarah.Witty.MP@aph.gov.au



Sarah with Dr Adil Adamjee, Secretary for Dawoodi Bohra Community Melbourne, and Bishop Philip Huggins, President of the National Council of Churches.

Taking paws: Prepare your pet for daylight saving

Suzana Talevski.

Just like their human counterparts, our pets can often struggle with a change in routine. And with daylight saving time ending in Victoria soon, it is important to help your pet adjust. "While dogs may not understand time the same as us, they do understand the concept, anticipating events based on routine," says Chief Veterinarian Officer at Lort Smith

Hospital, Dr Jessica Wilde. "For example, if you regularly walk your dog at the same time each day, they're able to recognise that that time is approaching.

Daylight saving time changes can disrupt a dog's internal clock, causing temporary anxiety, hunger, or sleepiness as their routine shifts by an hour.

Dr Wilde says most dogs adjust perfectly fine, but it is a good idea to

watch for all potential signs of stress. "They might whine at the door to go out early, have accidents, or seem anxious," she says.

To help your pets during this time of the year, provide them with some extra comfort, including extra attention, more play, and lots of reassurance to help alleviate their anxiety.

Suzana Talevski is a copywriter for Lort Smith Animal Hospital.



Key tips for daylight savings transitions

- **Gradual routine adjustment:** Rather than a sudden one-hour change, adjust meals and walks by 10 to 15 minutes each day leading up to or following the switch.
- **Safety in the dark:** As evenings grow darker earlier, use lighted collars, harnesses or vests when walking your dog to ensure they are visible to traffic.
- **Maintain routine:** Even as the time on the clock changes, keeping the overall structure of their day consistent helps reduce stress.
- **Maintain a calm environment:** A calm, consistent and well-lit home environment helps dogs manage stress during environmental changes.

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- Dr. Alistair Don
- Dr. Radya Kumar



The book was launched on 22 February at the pool with writers, swimmers and the local community.

New book swims down memory lane

Josh Rule

A single flyer at the North Melbourne swimming pool four years ago was the beginning of *Love Letters to North Melbourne Swimming Pool*, a new book from pool regular Kerry Mullan.

Launched last month, it is a collection of stories from members of the community who pass through the pool's gates. Its 26 chapters cover the pool's opening in 1909 through to today's swimmers.

While Kerry swims early, in what swimmers dub the 'morning shift', she wanted to make sure the book had stories from everyone.

"I did vox pops with kids and parents, we've got stories from a lifeguard, an octogenarian who swam there as a child and the swim squad.

"It's got stories about the power of water for healing, a section about the sense of community and one part with more ephemeral associations with the pool, like a swimmer who associates it with clouds because they swim a lot on their back."

Kerry was struck that swimmers share time together at the pool and then go their separate ways.

"We swim together, we change together, we chat standing around in various stages of undress. It's quite an intimate experience. And then we all go away and we don't know what happens the rest of the day. That was what kind of started me thinking about the book."

One story stood out to Kerry: a swimmer whose regular laps led to the discovery of a serious medical condition, saving her life. She was out of breath when swimming – which wasn't normal for her. Tests then found multiple blood clots in her lungs. This story reinforces a central idea of the book – the pool as a shared space supports community health and wellbeing.

While gathering the stories, Kerry uncovered a history she hadn't known about.

"In the 1990s the community campaigned for four years to save it,



photocopying flyers, hand dropping them and standing on corners, getting signatures on petitions. At one point they went into the city to protest with a little paddling pool. The level of commitment and activism that went on, makes it a standout chapter because it was something I knew nothing about."

When the community won the right to keep the pool open, they commissioned artwork from Kate McCaughey, the local artist who had designed a large wood cut out for the protest, she says.

"The resin artwork in the pool building remains to this day – it's amazing!"

Like the stories in the book, Kerry's love for the pool is unmistakable.

"Community swimming pools are crucial to communities. I want people to know how important the pool is and how so many people fought for such a long time to keep it open. When you read the stories, you can see how vital it is to so many people. It is a place where everyone can go."

For Kerry, the project brought her closer to other swimmers and changed her own perspective.

"We all have our own unique relationship with the pool."

She now sees the book as collective gratitude: "I think it's a thank you to the pool from the community and, in particular, everyone that's written in there. We're very grateful."

Josh Rule is a regular writer for the News.

Want to know more?

North Melbourne Books, and most online booksellers, available as an e-book or as softback (print on demand basis) via Shield Street Press.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chris Saliba



The Mysterious Affair of Judith Potts

Robert Thorogood (HQ Fiction. RRP: \$32.99)

Murder is afoot in the idyllic English town of Marlow.

Football star Gary Wise is shot dead at the rear of his property, and soon local thriller writer Mike Saxon succumbs to the same fate. It seems the town's celebrity class is being targeted, causing flighty TV presenter Angela Guthrie to worry she'll be next. This is obviously a job for amateur sleuths – professional dog walker Suzie Harris, the vicar's wife Becks Starling and crossword setter Judith Potts, their unofficial leader.

A spanner in the works is the appearance of Judith's step-daughter, Eleni. Eleni is the daughter of Judith's Greek husband Philippos, who died in 1976 on a boat trip off the coast of Corfu in suspicious circumstances. Eleni claims to have proof that Judith was responsible, even though Greek authorities cleared her name. Eleni dogs the three women, leaving Judith seriously rattled and unable to perform at her best.

The Mysterious Affair of Judith Potts is the fifth book in the successful Marlow series. As with the previous books, it's a tightly plotted story with three irrepressible characters that readers will love. The Marlow novels balance entertainment and humour with the feel good themes of enduring friendship and personal resilience.



Breakneck

Dan Wang (Allen Lane. RRP: \$55)

Dan Wang was born in Yunnan, China. Aged seven, his family moved to Canada, hoping to build a better life. As an adult, Wang has lived in both China and the United States, which informs his work as a technology writer.

This book benefits from an easy-to-understand premise. China is an engineering culture, capable of producing enormous infrastructure projects on budget and on time, but often of dubious quality and utility. America, on the other hand, is a lawyerly society. Once a great engineering nation, the US now is mired in a thicket of laws, rules and regulations, stopping much needed building.

Wang argues that China needs to be more lawyerly and adopt some breaks on their engineering zeal, while the US, with its crumbling infrastructure, could learn from China's can-do approach.

One wouldn't expect a book on comparative economics and engineering to be such a fun read. *Breakneck* is just that. Wang brings first-hand experience and a gift for organising complex ideas into a rollicking narrative that humanises China – authoritarian on the surface, but messy and complex underneath.

A brilliant explainer from a generous guide.



Ivy and Bearlock Holmes: The Case of the Missing Flower

Kristyna Litten (Magic Cat Publishing. RRP: \$21.99)

Young Ivy and her grandfather Bearlock Holmes are crime sleuths. When they go on an outing to the botanic gardens to see the famed agave flower, which is blooming for the first time in 100 years, they are shocked to find themselves plunged into a mystery.

The great flower has been stolen. Detective Hopkins, a rabbit that has a habit of falling asleep on the job, is the first at the scene. But you guessed it, he promptly succumbs to a nap. It's left to Ivy and Bearlock to use all their skills to solve the mystery. The plot thickens as a honey trail, involving beekeeper Wilfred Buzzbee, queen bee Beatrice and badger honey sellers Bruce and Barry, leads to an unlikely culprit.

Writer and illustrator Kristyna Litten has created a real treat for young mystery fans. The story has a delightful cast of characters, witty dialogue and innovative twists and turns. Readers are taken for an exciting journey that includes beekeeping, archeology and underground tunnels. There are also puzzles, interesting botanical facts and other fun educational aspects. Written in the style of a graphic novel, with intricate and charming illustrations, newly independent readers will love Ivy and Bearlock.

For children aged 5 to 9 years.



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

Listening to a small street

Ian Woodruff

In his latest book *Nineteen Doors: A Century on Eades Place*, historian Stephen Hatcher explores Eades Place – a street of just 19 houses next to Victoria and King streets. Short and unassuming, the street holds the memories of over a century of settlement, struggle, migration, resilience and hope that echo much of North and West Melbourne's evolution.

Stephen's idea for the book began with a Sunday stroll in the neighbourhood, where he was drawn to the quiet character of Eades Place. He wondered about the untold stories of life in those houses. That curiosity led to detailed research and conversations with past and present locals.

Drawing on rare books, photographs, oral histories of past residents, newspaper archives and a deep dive into the Sands and MacDougall street directories (1860 to 1974), Stephen reconstructs the lives of labourers, shopkeepers, dressmakers and families who called Eades Place home.

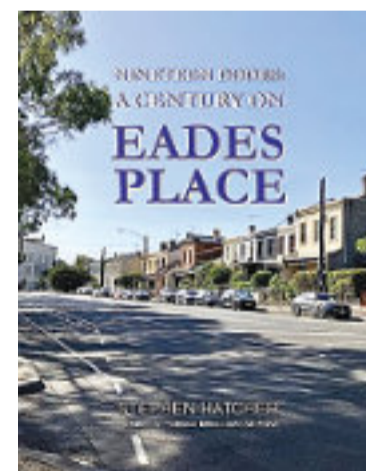
He paints a picture of life in the suburb over the years – ordinary people navigating migration, cultural adjustment, work, family and societal change.

The book also features voices of contemporary residents and former students of the King Street State School. Their stories, alongside those of families such as the Cullens – who owned and rented out many of the houses – offer a unique window into the rhythms of arrival, adjustment and belonging in West Melbourne.

"I didn't grow up on Eades Place," Stephen noted. "I don't own its memories. Sometimes it takes an outsider – and a pause – for a place to introduce itself."

Beyond a local history, *Nineteen Doors* is also an invitation to notice the overlooked places around us. It asks us to slow down, observe, and recognise the stories and connections woven through even the smallest corners of our city.

The book is hot off the press, having launched in February this year. At the launch Stephen thanked the City of Melbourne and the North and West



Melbourne Association for their support in bringing the book to fruition.

Ian Woodruff is the Strategy Coordinator of the News.

Want to know more?

The paperback version of the book is \$49 (RRP). It also comes in hardcover and eBook versions – along with watercolour prints of houses in the street. All can be purchased at the Melbourne Streets website www.melbournestreets.com.au/shop/ and is available at the North Melbourne Library.

Courses & Activities (March to June 2026)

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.

Scan the QR code for Term 2 bookings.

Bookings: nwmnc.org.au, 9328 1126, in person at NWMNC,
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Minimum enrolments are required for courses to run.



Creative Pursuits

Sing NoW! Community Choir

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

Thursdays 7 pm – 8.30 pm (no session 9 & 16 April)
Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$18 (\$11.50 Concession) per session when booking for the term. Casual enrolment \$25 (\$15 concession) per session, if available.
New singers can trial first session for free.

Painting on Canvas

Shyamasree Bose will guide you through the art-making process with acrylic paints on canvas. At the end you'll have your very own masterpiece to take home. Bring something you want to emulate or get inspired by our examples.

Tuesdays 2 pm – 3.30 pm, fortnightly on 24 May, 21 April, 5 & 19 May, 2 & 16 June
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$45 (\$35 concession) per session
\$200 (\$150 concession) for term

Craft Circle

Bring along your knitting, patchwork, card making or whatever creative project inspires you. Learn from others including super-crafter and group facilitator Jane Saleeba. An intergenerational social experience for anyone who loves to craft.

Thursdays 10.30 am – 12 noon, fortnightly on 26 March, 23 April, 7 & 21 May, 4 & 18 June
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
FREE (bookings essential)
Morning tea included.

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 5.15 pm – 6.15 pm starting 20 April for 9 weeks
(No class King's Birthday 8 June)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$17.50 (\$12.50 concession) per class when booking for the term.
Casual enrolments \$25 per session (\$18 concession), if available.

Beginners' French

Join native French teacher in a relaxed and supportive environment. Over the term, build your vocabulary, practice conversations and grasp grammatical structures while exploring French culture and tradition.

Friday 4.15 pm – 5.15 pm – Basic Steps 1 (no experience necessary)
Friday 5.15 pm – 6.15 pm – Basic Steps 2 (a little knowledge)
Starting 1 May for 9 weeks
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$17.50 (\$12.50 concession) per class when booking for the term.
Casual enrolments \$25 per session (\$18 concession), if available.

Health & Wellbeing

Walk the Talk!

Explore parks, streets and lanes around North Melbourne in this new all-inclusive walking group. Stick around for complimentary morning tea. With passionate walker and North Melbourne local Sharnee Trehan. Basic fitness needed.

Tuesdays 10 am – 11 am, fortnightly on 17 & 31 March, 14 & 28 April, 12 & 26 May, 9 & 23 June
Depart from NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
FREE (bookings essential)

Pilates

Pilates improves body awareness and strengthens postural muscles to support your spine. Classes are graded for all abilities and ages, taught by Brazilian-trained physiotherapist Fernanda Cury. A relaxed way to meet locals.

General/Intro to Pilates

A class that caters for all levels of experience.

Wednesdays 9.15 am – 10.15 am
(No class 8 & 15 April)
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)

Beginners Pilates

The basics are still covered but some knowledge is assumed. Over the term exercises will progress to more challenging options as you build strength and flexibility.

Thursdays 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
(No class 9 & 16 April)
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Intermediate Pilates

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
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Intermediate Plus Pilates

Suitable for people with a good level of body awareness and strength. Designed to improve trunk strength and provide a stable base for other sports or daily activities.

Thursdays 6.45 pm – 7.45 pm
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Stretching and Relaxation

This class focuses on flexibility while calming down body and mind in a very relaxing session. Work on building the connection between mind and body. About 45 minutes of slow movements and muscle release techniques and 15 minutes of mindful relaxation

Tuesdays 6.45 pm – 7.45 pm
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Timetable: Term 2 Pilates and Stretching & Relaxation classes operate on a 12-week term timetable. Term 2 starts Tuesday 7 April and concludes Thursday 25 June.

Costs: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per class when booking for full term or remainder of term. Casual enrolments \$28 per session (\$22 concession), if available.

For Seniors

Centre Adventures

Visit places of historical, cultural or horticultural interest and significance. Normally a full-day bus trip, Centre Adventures are a great way to get out beyond the everyday. International students are welcome to join this intergenerational activity.

Tuesday 28 April – Phillip Island
Tuesday 26 May – Wonthaggi
Tuesday 23 June – Ararat
9.30 am – 5 pm. Departing from NWMNC
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Cost: \$65 (\$45 Concession), including lunch and morning tea

Also see Seniors Morning Tea in Community Gatherings

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
(No class 6 & 13 April, 8 June)
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne
Wednesdays 10.30 am – 11.30 am
(No class 8 and 15 April)
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)

Cost: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per session when booking for the whole term. Casual enrolments \$28 per session (\$22 concession), if available.



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre Inc
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne, Vic 3051
Tel: (03) 9328 1126 Email: admin@centre.org.au Website: www.nwmnc.org.au
Office hours: Monday 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 3 pm
Container Deposit Scheme opening hours: Monday 10 am to 6 pm; Tuesday 10 am to 4 pm,
Wednesday to Friday 10 am to 3 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

Career & Life Skills

Resume and Application Success

How can you stand out in a swamp of AI job applications? How do you distil all your experiences into a couple of pages, without under-selling your achievements (or over-selling)? Career coach and human resources executive Helena Steel will help you fix your resume and break through to the interview stage.

Saturday 9 May, 1 pm – 4 pm

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

\$70 (\$50 concession), including light refreshments

Money Skills for Life

Master money basics and build smarter financial habits for life. The course gives simple, practical guidance on topics like budgeting, saving and spending choices.

Tuesdays 4 pm – 6 pm, starting 28 April for 6 weeks

Hotham Room, North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Podcasting

Make your own podcast pilot! Learn about storytelling, researching and synthesising information, presentation and interviewing, audio editing and podcast distribution. Presented by Chat Man Friday podcaster, TV host and media trainer Sayed Jawed Maqsoodi. Course graduates will have complimentary access to NWMNC's podcast studio for three months.

Saturdays 10 am – 12 noon from 14 March for 6 weeks

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

\$60 (\$45 concession)

Introduction to Journalism

Do you read the news and wonder how it gets done? Experienced ABC journalist Louise Yaxley will share her expertise. The course covers how to identify a potential story, interview techniques, research skills, writing styles, fact checking and digital platforms. Graduates will have the opportunity to see their work published in *North & West Melbourne News*.

Tuesdays 6.15 pm – 9 pm (21 & 28 April, 5 & 12 May)

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street North Melbourne

\$60 (\$45 concession)

School Holiday Program

There's a Bite in My Book

This unique workshop will allow creative kids to write and illustrate their own book. Internationally published children's book illustrator Juliette Kent will guide children in a fun and fast-paced step-by-step process. Kids and parents alike will be amazed what can be produced in just 90 minutes. For children aged 7-12.

Wednesday 15 April, 10.30 am – 12 noon

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

\$20 (\$15 concession)

Rebellious Box: Coding and Robotics

Engineer a machine with a mind of its own! Students will design, build, and code a robotic box that actively fights back every time you flip its switch. It's the perfect blend of coding, circuit building, and mechanical assembly, designed to make learning complex engineering concepts incredibly fun. Suits ages 9 to 15. Presented by EBK Academy.

Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 April,

9 am – 1 pm each day

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

\$180 (\$155 concession)

The Beading Lab

Join Miriam to learn the art of beading and create your own necklaces and bracelets. Express yourself through wearable art and even create gifts for those special to you. Includes morning tea. Suits ages 10-15.

Tuesday 14 April, 10 am to 12 noon

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

FREE (Bookings essential)

Gold coin donations welcome

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-wiz Anastasia Beasley.

Wednesdays 10 am – 12.30 pm (from 22 April for 10 weeks)

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Cost: \$65 (\$50 Concession)

This cost is for ACFE eligible students.



Making Your Phone Work for You

Who said phones were made for calling people every now and then? Modern 'smartphones' are mobile computers, used for all matter of activities. This course covers setting up your phone, choosing apps, using the cloud and phone security. With tech-wiz Anastasia Beasley.

Wednesdays 1 pm – 3 pm (starting 22 April for 10 weeks)

NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\$65 (\$50 concession)

This cost is for ACFE eligible students.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been touted as a game-changer in both professional and personal domains. AI-enhanced search, translation, text and image generation are already a reality. This course aims to uncover what it all means for regular users of email, social media, smartphone photos and Google search. Understand how AI is used to process information about you; discuss strategies for spotting AI-generated content; explore perspectives on AI from science fiction and philosophy. Anastasia Beasley will guide group discussions on emerging technology news and its impact in our communities and workplaces.

Thursdays 6.15 pm to 9 pm (19 & 26 May, 2 & 9 June)

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street North Melbourne

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; 5 pm – 6 pm

(No sessions 7 & 14 April)

\$12 (\$10 concession) when booking for 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 Years 4 to Year 10.

Wednesdays 3.30 pm – 5 pm

(No sessions 8 & 15 April)

NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne (grades 3 to 6)

Hotham Room, North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street,

North Melbourne (Years 7 to 10)

Wednesdays 4 pm – 5.30 pm

AMSSA, 91-101 Boundary Road, North Melbourne (Years 4 to 8)

FREE (Bookings essential)

Gaming and Technology with the Lab

Currently taking expressions of interest for autistic and neurodiverse young people (aged 8 – 16) to attend a weekly tech club.

Saturdays 2 pm – 4 pm during school term

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

\$25 per class when booking for term

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 of the month 10 am – 11.30 am
(5 May, 2 June)

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Cost: \$5

Men's Afternoon Tea

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

Fortnightly Thursdays (19 March, 2, 16 & 30 April, 14 & 28 May, 11 & 25 June)

2 pm – 3.30 pm

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

FREE

Aboriginal Cultural Connection Workshop

Explore Aboriginal history, symbolism, storytelling and connection to Country followed by a hands-on Ochre-inspired art activity. With Taungurung artist and educator Annette Sax from Yarn Strong Sista.

Wednesday 22 April, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Wednesday 13 May, 5 pm – 7 pm

Saturday 20 June, 10 am – 12 noon

Yarn Strong Sista, Shop 3 / 516 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

FREE (Bookings essential)

Sea Shanty Sing-a-long

Ahoy Captain! Dust off ye vocal chords and belt out tunes that once echoed across the high seas. Sing to your heart's content in this easy-to-learn call-and-response sea shanty sing-a-long. No experience required. With blokes from Homebrew Veranda Singers.

Thursday 7 May, 18 June 2 pm - 3.30 pm

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

FREE (Bookings essential)

Dungeons & Dragons

Learn the ropes of Dungeons & Dragons – a tabletop game that combines teamwork, problem solving and imagination. The session will be led by a local with years of D&D experience. All materials and characters will be provided, just come prepared for adventure. This session is designed for absolute beginners.

Thursdays 6.15 pm – 9 pm fortnightly (26 March, 9 & 23 April, 7 & 21 May, 4 & 18 June)

NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Cost: \$5 per session

Bookings essential.

Afternoon Tea (Mandarin speakers)

Join this group of Mandarin speakers for an informal chat over afternoon tea – a place where friendships can flourish. Tea and light refreshments will be provided. Facilitated by a Mandarin speaker.

Fortnightly Fridays (27 March, 10 & 24 April, 8 & 22 May, 5 & 19 June)

2 pm – 3 pm

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

FREE

欢迎加入我们的普通话交流小组，在轻松的下午茶时间一起聊天交流，在这里结识朋友、建立友谊。现场将提供茶点和简单茶歇。

时间：每两周一次，周五

日期：3月27日，4月10日，24日，5月8日，22日，6月5日，19日

地点：58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

费用：免费参加

请提前预约报名。

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.

International students are an important part of our community

It's March, which means the university year is beginning. I well remember O-Week (Orientation Week) when I was a student at Melbourne University in the 1990s. Bands, free BBQs and scores of student clubs enticing you to join up. There were myriad social clubs and field-of-study oriented associations.

While virtually everyone joined the Chocolate Appreciation Society, I excitedly signed up to the African Drumming Club. One of the privileges of being in this club was that we got to perform at the annual ball of the International Students Society, something I was not eligible to join.

There were hundreds of international students at the ball, but as a percentage of the overall student population, international students were a small minority.

In the decades since, the education of tertiary students from outside Australia has grown phenomenally. There are now 330,000 international student enrolments in Victoria and at Melbourne University, 45% of enrolments are international students.

It is big business. International education in Victoria generated \$15.9 billion in 2024 and is the state's largest export industry.

Melbourne does a lot to promote the city and its institutions to visiting students. The Lord Mayor hosts a

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



massive Student Welcome at Queen Victoria Market, Salvation Army runs The Couch, a CBD drop-in centre open four evenings each week, and Study Melbourne has a hub with student services, a calendar of social and professional development events, as well as a slew of online resources.

And it seems to be working. Melbourne is ranked fifth in the world as a student city according to the QS World University Rankings.

North & West Melbourne is a popular location for international students to live. Proximity to University of Melbourne, RMIT and various colleges, several purpose-built student accommodation buildings and a plethora of Asian eateries means many of us have neighbours who are international students.

Despite the rankings, many

international students face severe challenges. Arriving alone in a foreign culture as a young adult fresh out of home can be hard. Many students carry weighty family expectations. There are too many stories of young international students feeling lonely, anxious and suffering mental health breakdowns. Unfortunately, modern living makes it too easy to isolate oneself in an apartment room, taking classes online, ordering in food and supplies, with the only human connections being to family thousands of kilometres away.

Financial pressures can also take their toll. The flipside of the billion dollar industry is that the students and their families are forking out tens of thousands of dollars each year for their tuition. I have heard of students paying \$80,000 a year!

Most international students support themselves by working in Melbourne. Yes, your food delivery rider most likely is an international student! Unfortunately, there are some employers who seek to take advantage of young adults who can struggle with language and who don't know the local system.

In 2025, NWMNC surveyed 150 international students with 90% reporting they experienced food insecurity.

Together with Wholefoods Unwrapped Collective, we have established a weekly food relief program that can support 50 international students to choose a crate of zero-waste produce.

More broadly, NWMNC is engaging with international students, welcoming them as a key cohort in our neighbourhood. We have recently employed a new International Student Community Outreach Worker (see page 9) and currently offer programs for international students to do free yoga (and tea tasting), learn about Aboriginal culture and offer subsidised outings to regional attractions.

We are also awaiting news on funding to re-ignite the Being a Melburnian program we piloted so successfully in late 2025. This program brought together international students with local seniors to create a

support circle that has extended well beyond the six-week program. It is so heartening to see students and seniors sharing Christmas meals, organising outings to the Botanical Gardens and combining on fundraising efforts (see page 3).

If you are (or know) an international student who would like to become more involved in our community, please get in touch with NWMNC.

New team members

In the past three months, NWMNC has welcomed three new people to our Community Development team.

Community Development Co-ordinator Miriam Bilander has a background in youth work, disability and local government. She brings great experience and energy to this key role.

Luping (Lulu) Chen commences as International Student Community Outreach Worker. Originally from China, Lulu is studying a Master of Public Health at University of Melbourne.

In 2025 Marwa Zakzouk supervised one of our Homework Clubs. Now she is adding Community Outreach Worker to her responsibilities. Egyptian-born and now living in North Melbourne, Marwa is highly respected among African communities in the neighbourhood.

Delivering for 40 years: Nancy Nankervis

Tim Cremean

Nancy Nankervis has always believed in keeping people informed and connected.

Soon after the *North & West Melbourne News* (then called the *North Melbourne News*) began, she volunteered to deliver the quarterly copy to her neighbourhood. She has kept locals in touch with news and opportunities in North Melbourne ever since.

It's now time for Nancy to hand on the baton to someone else while she concentrates on family and other responsibilities. Everyone at the Centre wishes her the best, and we can't thank her enough for her terrific contribution to connecting the community over the past 40 years.

Many who know Nancy recognise her contribution in other ways too. Over the years, Nancy has restored a poorly maintained old home into a shining example of fine Victorian architecture, revitalising the excellent brickwork and lacework. Her home helps lead the way for others to maintain similar historic homes.

Next time you see Nancy walking her dog, take a moment to thank her personally for her years of community service, or consider volunteering yourself to continue her important work in keeping North and West Melbourne connected.

Tim Cremean is the Distribution Coordinator for the News.

Tracing ANZAC legend John Monash's local links

Patrick Ferry

This Anzac Day, remember General Sir John Monash (1865-1931). His distinguished military and civilian service is widely recognised, including in the naming of Monash University and Monash Freeway. Sir John is also on the \$100 note. Less well-known is the fact that Monash was from the North and West Melbourne community.

John Monash was born on 27 June 1865 in a terrace house in Dudley Street, West Melbourne, overlooking the Flagstaff gardens. His parents, Louis and Bertha Monasch (the original spelling of the family's surname) were Jewish migrants from Prussia in north-east Germany.

When John was young, the family moved to Jerilderie in New South Wales but later returned to Melbourne. Monash studied at Scotch College. A brilliant student, John was just 16 when he entered Melbourne University, wanting to become an engineer. Due to family financial difficulties, he had to suspend his studies to obtain work. Monash gained practical engineering experience on public works projects including the construction of the Princes Bridge.

When he was more financially secure, John returned to university, not only completing his engineering studies, but also arts and law degrees. Meanwhile, Monash also built his

reputation as a civil engineer. This included pioneering the use of reinforced concrete in construction.

In 1884, Monash began his military career, joining the Victorian Rifles, a volunteer militia unit. In 1887, he transferred to the North Melbourne Garrison Artillery. This unit, whose drill hall was located on the corner of Ireland and Dryburgh streets, was trained to operate the artillery fortifications which defended Port Phillip Bay. Its commanding officer was Major Jacob Goldstein, father of pioneering feminist and suffragette Vida Goldstein.

Reflecting his leadership abilities, Monash rose through the ranks at North Melbourne from lieutenant to captain, then major. John also demonstrated his inventiveness. One of his hobbies was carpentry and to improve the unit's training, Monash and a fellow officer constructed a full-sized replica artillery gun and carriage out of oregon timber. Monash was commanding officer at North Melbourne from 1897 until 1908, when he transferred to the Intelligence Corps.

After the outbreak of the First World War, Monash joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and was given command of the 4th Infantry Brigade. Monash and his troops landed at Gallipoli on 26 April 1915. There they defended vital supply lines against fierce Turkish attacks. Later, they attempted to seize important enemy

positions. Gallipoli was a hellish experience – by August 1915; nearly 2,000 of Monash's soldiers were dead or wounded. This was a far cry from the suburban North Melbourne drill hall and its wooden gun! As Monash later recalled "every day was filled with loathing, horror and distress. I deplored all the time the loss of precious life".

Monash later commanded all Australian forces on the Western Front in France and Belgium – more than 200,000 soldiers. Monash's talents for strategy and command came to the fore. Harking back to his days at North Melbourne, he emphasised thoroughly training his soldiers in the tactics and skills. In March 1918, Monash's forces played an instrumental role in halting a major German offensive which threatened to overwhelm Allied forces in France. In July and August 1918, Monash led major offensives at Hamel and Amiens which helped break Germany's resolve to continue fighting.

Once the war was over, the Australian government entrusted Monash with the important task of bringing the soldiers home. Monash played an important role in establishing the Repatriation Department, which provided medical and financial assistance to returned soldiers, war widows and their families. He also helped establish the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and made a significant contribution to the development of Victoria through his leadership of the State Electricity Commission (SEC).

Sir John Monash died on 8 October 1931 and was given a state funeral by a grateful nation.

Patrick Ferry works with the National Archives of Australia's Victoria Office.

Your community needs you!

The Centre has a group 40 volunteer distributors who deliver this paper each quarter.

A typical delivery round is 200 and takes about 2 hours. We will provide instructions and a map and even deliver your bundle to your door if appropriate. Please email Tim Cremean distribution coordinator timc@centre.org.au with your details or call NWMNC on 93281126

Help connect our community by becoming part of our team of volunteer distributors.



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.

Finance

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

News distribution

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

Volunteers

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

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Publisher: Ariel Valent

Circulation: 8,000

Printed by Express Print
5 Jones Road, Morwell 3844



Easter Services, North and West Melbourne

St James Old Cathedral, Anglican

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

Palm Sunday 29 March 10.00 am Holy Communion
Good Friday 3 April 10.00 am Passion Reading with Choral Meditations sung by The Old Cathedral Voices
Easter Sunday 5 April 10.00 am Holy Communion

St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic

Corner Victoria and Howard streets, West Melbourne

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent until 27 March 5.30 pm
Passion (Palm) Sunday 29 March 10.00 am Sunday Morning Mass; 5.00 pm Sunday Evening Mass – palms to be distributed at each Mass
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week, 30 & 31 March & 1 April, 7.00 am & 12.30 pm Weekday Mass
Tuesday 31 March 10.00 am Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral
Holy Thursday 2 April 7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 3 April 10.30 am Stations of the Cross; 11.15 am Seven Words of Our Lord on the Cross Sermon; 12.00 noon Holy Rosary; 3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 4 April 8.00 pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 5 April 10.00 am Easter Mass; 12.00 noon Easter Mass in Lithuanian; 5.00 pm Easter Mass

St Mary's, Anglican

Corner Queensberry and Howard streets, North Melbourne

Palm Sunday 29 March 8.00 am Eucharist; 10.00 am Sung Eucharist
Maundy Thursday 2 April 7.00 pm Sung Eucharist with Washing of Feet
Good Friday 3 April 10.00 am Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday 4 April 8.30 pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 5 April 8.00 am Eucharist; 10.00 am Sung Eucharist

St Michael's, Catholic

456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne

Sunday 29 March 10.00 am Palm Sunday Mass
Thursday 2 April 7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 3 April 9.00 am Stations of the Cross; 3.00 pm The Passion of Our Lord
Saturday 4 April 7.00 pm Easter Vigil
Sunday 5 April 10.00 am Easter Sunday Mass

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic

35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Dryburgh Street)

Great Friday 3 April 10.00 am Matins of the Passion; 4.00 pm Vespers with the exposition of the Holy Shroud
Great Saturday 4 April 9.00 am Jerusalem Matins; Blessing of Easter baskets (outside, around the church); 3.00 pm Vespers with the Liturgy of St Basil the Great; Blessing of Easter baskets (outside, around the church); Pascha (Easter) Resurrection of Christ: Saturday 4 April 10.00 pm Prayer at the graveside; Resurrection Matins; Hierarchical Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Easter baskets (outside, around the church)
Sunday 5 April 10.00 am Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Easter baskets

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist

29 College Crescent, Parkville (Centre for Theology and Ministry chapel)

Sunday 29 March 10.00 am The Passion according to St Matthew
Maundy Thursday 2 April 7.30 pm
Good Friday 3 April: combined service at Carlton Uniting Church, time TBC
Saturday 4 April 8.00 pm Easter Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 5 April 10.00 am
Unless otherwise indicated, all services are at 29 College Crescent, Parkville. Details at www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

West Melbourne Baptist Church

4 Miller Street, West Melbourne

Good Friday 3 April 12.30 pm Service
Easter Sunday 5 April 3.00 pm Service, followed by our monthly community meal at 5.30 pm (bookings essential for the meal)

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 Phone: 9328 1126

Winter

Copy deadline: Thursday 14 May

Publication date: Friday 12 June

Spring

Copy deadline: Thursday 13 August

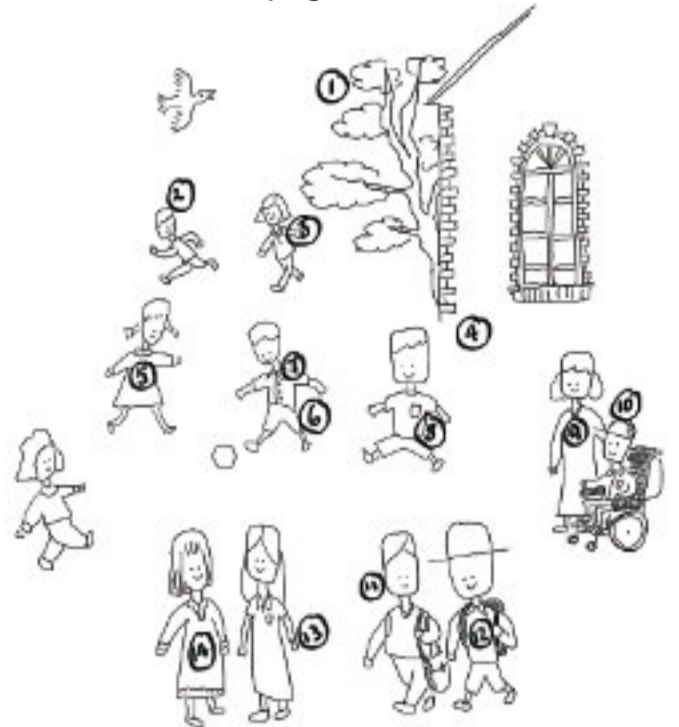
Publication date: Friday 11 September

Summer

Copy deadline: Thursday 12 November

Publication date: Friday 11 December

Spot the Difference (page 4) answers



Queensberry Cup planning session

The iconic North Melbourne event is back in 2026. Put **Saturday 17 October** in the calendar.

This event belongs to our community. What would you like to see in the event this year? Would you like to contribute something?

We would love to see more community involvement in the lead up to the event. Please come along to an open **planning session on Wednesday 25 March, 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm at 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne.**

Bring your curiosity, your ideas and your friends and neighbours. Light refreshments provided. RSVP not essential but will assist with our planning.

Register via the link or QR code below: www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=46961



Community needs analysis



NWMNC is conducting a Community Needs Analysis to help us plan our future programs and make sure they meet the needs of the local community over the next four years. We would love for readers of *North & West Melbourne News* to contribute to a 3 to 5 minute survey.

Rather complete a hard copy? Please visit us at **58 Errol Street, North Melbourne.**

Form filling help

We are pleased to announce that North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre will be offering drop-in sessions for help with completing forms, including for housing, benefits, and health. The service is provided free of cost to our local community.

This service will be available fortnightly, starting on **Wednesday, 1 April, from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne.**

If you need help completing forms or require guidance with paperwork, our volunteers are here to support you. No appointment is necessary.

NWMN Advertisement Sizes & Rates

Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1,885.00	\$1,640.00
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$945.00	\$825.00
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$685.00	\$600.00
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$510.00	\$435.00
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$260.00	\$220.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$135.00	\$120.00
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$120.00	\$100.00

- 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



Faces of our streets

Sometimes a simple walk through the streets reveals the quiet theatre of everyday life. On these autumn days, photographer Patrick Derecho captured familiar faces, shopkeepers at their doors and the gentle rhythms of the neighbourhood.

You can explore more of his photography on his Instagram: [@patderch](#)

