

Club turns waste into compost

Madeleine Scully

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club is nestled in West Melbourne's pretty Flagstaff Gardens, our home since 1879.

After being closed for most of last year, we are back in full swing with members, guests and barefoot bowlers out on our manicured greens. We were delighted that summer saw many organisations using the greens, the barbecues, the outdoor area and our function room.

Our pennant teams are back in action. The new Saturday morning Division 8 competition has been very successful, with almost a dozen new bowlers taking advantage of this pathway for beginners to play with experienced bowlers and to learn the skills of the sport.

The Wednesday night intra-club competition is also proving popular and will continue through March. Anyone interested in learning to play bowls or keen to join us as a

new member will be made very welcome.

The club produced a lot of food waste during summer. We are now reducing that waste by using our new closed loop composter that has been operating since January. It uses microbes and heat to transform food waste into nutrient-rich soil in only 24 hours. Food waste can be added during the day and the resulting compost unloaded weekly.

For the first few weeks we fed in 10kg of food waste each day, but now we are able to turn up to twice that amount of waste into compost daily. In those early weeks, we composted 47.5kg of waste and reduced our general waste pick-up by one bin per week.

Our composter was bought through a \$12,000 grant from the federal government's Communities Environment Program. The club is also grateful to the office of local MP Adam Bandt for their assistance in nominating us for the grant and in applying for it.

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

Want to know more?
If you wish to join the club, check our website at www.citybowls.org/
If you would like some compost, email Manager@citybowls.net



Club manager Zac Potier and Closed Loop Organic's Mark Norman with the new composter.

The Spanish Fiesta returns. ¡Ole!



Liftout guide to all the fun, food and festivities: see pages 11–14.

Sally says farewell to local primary school

Sally Karlovic

After 20 years at North Melbourne Primary, I'm moving on to a new role as executive principal in the north-east region. I'll take with me many wonderful memories and positive recollections of the school community.

Each year, I welcomed hundreds of new families to our school. I always received the support of the many families and locals who contributed to the rich tapestry of our school community. They included composers, artists, academics and speakers at our Anzac Day ceremonies.

I'll take with me so many fond memories of our students. Perhaps the most poignant came from our Grade 5 ski camp at Falls Creek. One boy was found to be filling his dirty-clothes plastic bag with snow. Naturally puzzled, we asked him why he was doing this.

He explained that his mother was



Sally Karlovic in the kitchen garden.

from the Sudan and had never seen snow and that he wanted to take it home as a surprise. His teacher rustled up a foam broccoli box and filled it with snow so he could take it home to mum. When she opened it, it was she who melted with her tears of gratitude.

The local community was unfailingly generous in supporting our school. Support included volunteering, contributing to the school's famous cookbook, Rotary managing the

barbecues, the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and the many businesses who backed our ventures.

The school's links to the Royal Children's Hospital enabled the enrolment of siblings and children who were long-term patients. Our partnership with the University of Melbourne and its pre-service teachers sparked many teaching careers.

Numerous politicians and City of Melbourne councillors offered endless assistance. I thoroughly enjoyed being a stand-by school for many press announcements, including those from the AFL.

I can't name everyone individually. Let me extend a general 'thank you' to all staff, students, and families with whom I worked over the years, with a special thanks to my family for loaning me to the school for two decades.

Sally Karlovic is outgoing principal at North Melbourne Primary School.

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Suzie Luddon

New director looks to boost sense of community



Centre director Ariel Valent is busy planning the 2021 program. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

New Centre director Ariel Valent happily admits how surprised he was when he learnt that so many North and West Melbourne locals have lived in the community for many years.

"I've met some really amazing people who seem to have known North Melbourne from the beginning of time. It's unusual for a suburb to have a local history group like the Hotham History Project, whose members are dedicated to preserving their suburb's history. Their investment in the past blends with the vibrancy of the many new residents who are moving in to the area," he says.

High on Ariel's agenda is the desire to foster a sense of belonging to all pockets of our community

and, in particular, to extend the reach of The Centre's programs to new arrivals.

"I want to attract people to The Centre as we emerge from COVID, and one immediate goal is to reinvigorate Errol's Angels community choir. However, I doubt they'll want to sign me up," he grins.

With an impressive background in the arts, music programs and festival management, Ariel is well placed to oversee some of the iconic local community programs such as the Spring Fling and the Spanish Language Fiesta.

"I've already been out measuring the widths of laneways to calculate how many people we can fit in a COVID-safe way," he says.

"I'm excited about the Spring Fling as a community-driven event that celebrates North and West

Melbourne and that reflects the diverse local communities that live here."

A separate medium-term project is the Docklands pop-up Neighbourhood House, which had to close its doors during lockdown.

"It's now ramping up and we're planning community gardens and various volunteer and community education programs being run out of there. So it's not dissimilar to The Centre, albeit a separate project," he says.

It is no surprise that Ariel has hit the ground running in his new role. "I started triathlons in 2019, did a half marathon last year and I plan to do my first full marathon this

year. I cycle to work and I'm lucky to have a bike path nearly all the way home."

Beyond his gruelling physical regimen, music remains Ariel's abiding love – apart from his family and two young children, of course. "I'm a percussionist, my specialty is vibraphone, and up until I started at The Centre, I was teaching as well. I still play in some ensembles to ensure I keep my skills up," he says.

A keen North Melbourne fan, he remains hopeful the Kangaroos will rise up the ladder in 2021.

"I'm also a rarity in that I still have the newspaper delivered every morning. I probably spend less time staring at my phone than most people."

Suzie Luddon writes regularly for the News.

Everyone's welcome in the ring

Rashi Jain

Did you know there's a boxing club in North Melbourne? If that comes as a shock, pick yourself up off the canvas and come on down to North Melbourne Boxing & Fitness in Sutton Street.

Steve Stenborg has run the club since it began in 2007. While professional boxing has a tawdry image of two people hammering each other, Steve explains that recreational boxing is an excellent way to build a participant's fitness and self-confidence.

His club is inclusive – men, women and children – and that is the way he wants it. "Fitness doesn't separate men and women, it brings people together. Anything a man can do, so can a woman. In fact, well over a third of our members are women," he says.

Catherine Wong, a 32-year-old mother of two, trains daily in the club. "I'll admit that learning boxing techniques was initially intimidating but I soon got into the rhythm of it. I now find the sensation of energy as I punch the heavy bags is so uplifting," she grins.

Boxing's rigorous exercise is

perfect for children as it develops their strength and confidence. Indeed, boxing is as suitable a sport for children as football or basketball. Catherine's 13-year-old daughter is excelling with her self-defence skills. "We even have an eight-year-old here – it's the perfect age to begin training," Catherine says.

Olga Williams, a 55-year-old mother, is no less keen than her daughter. "I've been turning up for my Saturday morning classes for the past 10 years without fail, and it was only last year's lockdown that stopped me punching the bags. I really missed it," she says.

Olga's enjoyment dispels all the stereotypes. She joins the men in all training activities, comfortable that no-one is judged or discriminated against at the club. She urges anyone affected by anxiety to join up and get fit. "The only person you are competing against is yourself so there's no reason to be afraid," she says.

The boxing club is all about acceptance and inclusion. Classes cater for mixed-age groups and for all levels of expertise and confidence.

The program includes Muay Thai

training, a martial art and combat sport often called Thai boxing and one that combines the use of fists, elbows, knees and shins.

The club is a family affair in many ways. Steve's daughter Elloise works at reception and wants to join Victoria Police when she finishes school.

"I love working here, where I can see women and men becoming the best possible version of themselves," she says.

The bold, raw and natural look of the venue is perfectly complemented by the lively camaraderie that members bring as they train together. The club also raises money for the Monash Children's Cancer Centre.

You might not see boxing as your first fitness choice. But walk through the open door in Sutton Street and you'll find a good, old-fashioned boxing club.

Rashi Jain is a new contributor to the News.

Want to know more?

Contact North Melbourne Boxing & Fitness on 9328 8815 or check the club's website.



Boxers develop their skills and enjoy the camaraderie of the club.





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HOTHAM MISSION

Hotham Mission has long served local young people and their families.

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For further information, or if you would like to donate or be involved in our programs, please visit our website:
hothammission.org.au

School’s out, surf’s up for local students

Yolanda Andrews

Last month, 60 Grade 4 students from North Melbourne Primary School headed off to Anglesea for a surf camp.

As soon as the students arrived at our campsite, nestled among beautiful gum trees, the children set up their cabins and jumped into the activities. First up, there was archery, a low-ropes course and a giant see-saw, then it was off-road on bikes in the surrounding bushland.

In the afternoon, the Grade 4s faced a 20-minute trek down a steep path to get to the beach. After a bit of splashing fun, the children were soon learning basic surfing skills as the sun glistened on the waves.

“All of them managed to stand up on the boards. Well, it might only have been for a few seconds, but everyone loved it,” teacher Tom McCormick said.

Back at the camp, the activities continued non-stop. Everyone got right into beach volleyball, the giant tug-of-war and various board games. Somewhere between bike-riding, surfing, climbing, shooting arrows and hanging from ropes, they also spent time talking with each other and making new friendships.

Of course, there’s no school camp without

oodles of food. The fare provided by the camp was certainly to the children’s – and the teachers’ – taste as we feasted on banana pancakes, lasagne, tandoori chicken, wraps, muffins, cupcakes and chocolate brownies. “I ate so many chocolate brownies,” teacher Risa Hammel admitted.

While the camp had lots of fun and activity, there was also valuable learning. Ecological sessions conveyed the magic of sea life and explained the important role that sand dunes play. The children got to touch a real gummy shark (no, not a live one!) and pat a fairy penguin.

Each student took home a special memory. “I used to be scared of seaweed but I learned how to surf,” Abi smiled. For Chingu, riding the boards was also the highlight. “When I was on it, it felt like a smooth car ride,” he said.

For some children, the thrill lay in being away from home for two nights. For others, like Emile, it was the prospect of a treat when he got home.

Back at school, the children are still laughing at the memory of the stern night-time order they heard from each teacher. “Go back to bed. You don’t leave this cabin unless it’s an emergency!”

Yolanda Andrews is a Grade 4 teacher at North Melbourne Primary School.



Timur enjoys the waves at Anglesea at the school’s Anglesea camp.



All smiles for James .



Lots of fun for Aisha as she heads for shore.

Looking for a new activity? Here’s your chance to ‘come and try’

North and West Melbourne is a hive of activity, but much is hidden beneath the surface.

Are you interested in improving your skills, connecting with others in your neighbourhood or simply finding new ways to express yourself?

This ‘Come & Try Day’, presented by The Centre, is an obligation-free way to try something new. Thought about singing in a choir? Or improving your computer skills? Or learning some local history? Or sharing something of interest?

Activities include:

- Pilates
- Newspaper Journalism
- Computer Essentials
- Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Singing in a Choir
- iGadgets
- Human Library
- Brain Games
- Writing for Pleasure
- Photography
- Historical Walks

ENJOY CYCLING?

If you enjoy riding your bike, share this with other cyclists from your neighbourhood. Help form a new North & West Melbourne Bicycle Users Group (BUG), which can share tips and participate in rides. Inaugural meeting: Saturday 24 April @ The Centre’s Come & Try Day

Book your sessions at trybooking.com/BPAOW or by phoning (03) 9328 1126

Saturday 24 April 10 am – 3 pm at The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne and nearby.

Anzac Day Ceremony

Sunday 25 April, 2 pm

North and West Melbourne Cenotaph

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Presented by The Legion of Ex-Servicemen & Women North & West Melbourne and The Centre



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Little pantries filled with food and goodwill

Geoff Pound

Have you noticed the ‘little pantries’ in our local area? Sparked by the COVID epidemic, they are aimed at people in need and operate on a simple idea: ‘Take what you need and give what you can’.

The concept began in 2016 when Jessica McClard, a woman in Fayetteville, Arkansas, set up a little pantry to help those in need in her local community. The idea has been taken up by local communities all around the world. In our own area, individuals have built and stocked waterproof

cabinets. Then they have spread the news via churches, neighbours or social media sites such as the North Melbourne Good Karma Network, and have invited people both to restock the pantries and to give and take. The pantries are not foodbanks. They simply offer non-perishables like rice and pasta, and hygiene essentials like toilet paper and tampons. They are regularly checked and cleaned. ‘James’ supports the little pantry outside the West Melbourne Baptist Church & Community Centre. “Access to the pantry is not monitored so needy people can take food at any time without needing to prove eligibility and so can retain their dignity,” he says. Do people abuse this trust? As I was stocking our church’s pantry, a passer-by said: “I walk past here often and the people I see taking items don’t look legit”. Yes, it is true that open access means the stocks can be raided. Equally, there is no crude cliché

of a person in need. Not all look unkempt and down at heel. Not all are seen eating baked beans straight out of the can. Food insecurity is on the rise, as shown by last year’s City of Melbourne social indicator survey, which found one in three adults was adversely affected. Most in need were asylum seekers (denied government support), students (especially internationals), the unemployed, low-income earners and public housing tenants. Local organisations providing support – churches, Hotham Mission and the Hope Co-Op (working with tertiary asylum seekers) – all have reported increased and sustained demand for food. This need will certainly continue this year. Much fine work has been done during the pandemic by local groups such as Hotham Mission and by businesses such as the Bread Club and Curry Corner that have been wonderfully generous in donating food to people in need.



Our Community House’s little pantry (522 Victoria Street, North Melbourne).

Our two local little pantries show how communities can be supportive and neighbourly. They are beacons of light, reminding us that our neighbours may be in need, often those whom we least expect. The little pantries are symbols that highlight the community values of generosity and kindness. Check out our local pantries. Perhaps there’s a need for a new one in your street?

Geoff Pound is minister of the West Melbourne Baptist Church.



The little pantry at West Melbourne Baptist Church (4 Miller Street, West Melbourne).

Big buddies hold out a hand to lift up the littlies

Rita Totino

Starting school is a big step for every child. Some roll up excited and confident; others are a little nervous and unsure. St Michael’s Primary has designed a buddy program to support all of our Prep children as they start on their long school journey. Prep teacher Claire Mathieson explains how important it is that every Preppie feels comfortable in their early days. “The wellbeing of every student is essential for learning, and we aim to ensure that each one is nurtured and supported when they join our school community,” she says. The buddy program pairs each Prep child with a Year 5/6 student who undertakes to look out for the beginner in the playground, to help them get involved in lunchtime games and to get to know them as an individual. The support that lies at the heart of the program can extend beyond the schoolyard. During the term, the older children can help the Preps in their learning, perhaps by reading a story together, playing a



Preppie Ilaria with Holly, her Grade 5 buddy.

maths game or even by playing a coding game together on their iPads. With COVID still lingering when the school year got under way, the Preps were unable to meet their buddies during the school’s orientation program. However, we

found a creative solution, with the older children mailing a welcome letter and a photo to their young buddies. This thrilled the incoming Preps. “I was so surprised to get a letter from my Year 5/6 buddy. It was the first letter I have ever got,” says a

delighted Marcus. His mum adds that the special touch of the photo meant meeting up at school was easy. Once school got going, Claire and fellow Prep teacher Olivia Turville organised a surprise for the Preppies and their buddies. “We had a teddy bears’ picnic in the first week, and it proved to be a highlight. Some children even brought along their most treasured toy,” she says. The Preps were excited to bring their teddies to school and this soon got everyone talking. Their buddies began building

relationships as they all sat outside eating lunch, surrounded by a sea of teddy bears. It was the children themselves who summed up the day’s success. “Having lunch together gave us time to learn about each other. It’s so nice to have a Prep buddy. It’s like having a younger brother or sister,” Year 5/6 student Holly says. Her Prep buddy, Ilaria, chimes in. “Holly is my big buddy. She’s really nice and helpful and she always says hello to me when she sees me.”

Rita Totino is learning and teaching/ literacy leader at St Michael’s.

Get involved through The Centre

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? The Centre has lots of them, from office administration to event management. Or we can point you towards other organisations that also rely on volunteers.

Take a walk with a purpose

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

If you have an hour or two to spare, just four times a year, email admin@centre.org.au

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Anna’s back in Vietnam and happy with life

Anna Huynh

Hi there from Vietnam! I’ve been so touched by the community’s response to my story in the last issue of the *News*. In it, I told of my problems as an international student living in North Melbourne during lockdown and of my unwilling return home to Vietnam. Let me start by expressing my gratitude to the *News* and to the wonderful community in North and West Melbourne. I’ve heard of your genuine concern for me and I’ve seen many of your emails. All have tremendously warmed my heart. Now for an update on my life in Vietnam. To be honest, it has been an emotional rollercoaster. When I first arrived, I felt unfamiliar with my own country and, perhaps because I’d been living and studying in Australia for a few years, I couldn’t grasp how Vietnam had changed. I admit I felt a bit lost. At the same



Anna (third from right with hand to her face) and fellow interns in Vietnam.

time as I was continuing with my Swinburne media course online, I was trying to find a job or an internship to fill the empty hours. It was a hard journey and I got rejected many times. But I ended up

being accepted in a three-month full-time internship by a creative agency. Life immediately changed for the better. I suddenly found myself working with journalists from all over

Vietnam. The tasks include posting press articles, doing payment contracts and booking celebrities all over the country, as well as conducting all sorts of market research. While it is exhausting, it is fun and exciting because I’m learning so much about the industry. It is thrilling to be working with global clients, something I would never have dreamt of as possible. Unfortunately, my internship will finish in early March – in fact, on the very day this autumn issue of the *News* will be published. So, as you read this, I will again be at a loose end. However, it is also the week that my Swinburne course is resuming. I will resume study online and look to complement my studies with a part-time internship. If COVID is controlled and international travel resumes, I might be able to fly back to Australia. And catch up with my new friends in North Melbourne!

That’s Anna’s story, part two. Last time, as I wrote in part one, it was a story of loneliness and despair. This time, it is more positive. I’m still studying, I’m gaining hands-on media and writing experience, and I’ve got hopes of coming back to Australia. I’d like to get back to graduate, but Swinburne hasn’t sent any updates. Life here is good in other ways. My sister, last year an international student in Canada, is also back with us. The family is together again, supporting each other and weathering Vietnam’s COVID outbreaks. Weekends see us preparing dinner together, making hot chocolate and binge-watching Netflix. Some things never change!

Anna Huynh writes regularly for the *News*.

You can find Anna’s story of leaving Australia at: www.centre.org.au/images/uploads/NWMN_2020-4_-_Summer_-_FOR_WEB.pdf

Claire Yeoh

I was saddened to read Anna Huynh’s moving story in the summer issue of the *News*. She told of her struggles as an international student during last year’s lockdowns and of how she was left without government support or help from Swinburne Uni and had to return to Vietnam. I am from Singapore, also an international student and local resident, but things went much more smoothly for me. With the loving support of my parents, the church and relatives who live here, I got through 2020 with minimal

Claire’s friends, family and faith were a lifeline

disruption. I managed to stay in Melbourne and even complete a six-month apprenticeship with Melbourne University Christian Union. I’ve always seen Melbourne as my second home, ever since I fell in love with Australia when I was 13. Before I came here as a student in 2017, I had already visited regularly for exchange programs, summer camps and family holidays. Life in Singapore might be efficient but Australia has taught me how to savour life.

When I graduated in July, I had to decide whether to return home for good. Fortunately, both options were open to me, and with my closest friends here, I chose to stay. Now, with a degree under my belt and despite many unsuccessful job applications, I’m still here. I have no regrets. I share Anna’s dismay at COVID’s effect on international students. While it drove her home to Vietnam, it also derailed my plans. When the Prime Minister urged us all to go back home, I was very anxious. I

wouldn’t have been able to return to Australia had I done so, so I stayed. I was so lucky that, with family support, I didn’t have the financial burden that Anna had and I count my blessings every day. My faith in God has taught me that worry is futile and that I need to be open to change. I’m still here and my dream is to find a job and settle down in Australia. That would be so good.

Claire Yeoh writes regularly for the *News*.



International student Claire Yeoh.

Shadow comes out of the shadows with his new gal pals

Harriet Lancaster

Bec Wiles and Kate Minifie live in an apartment in West Melbourne and admit they found last year’s lockdowns wearing. “Things were already bad as my business had collapsed in January,” Bec says. During lockdown, the women began searching for a rescue dog but had little luck. “I was applying for jobs and being rejected, and at the same time we were applying for dogs and also being rejected,” Bec grins. Out of the blue, Pet Rescue contacted Bec and Kate with a message: “We’ve had thousands of applications for Shadow, but we think you girls would be the absolute ants’ pants for him”. The women saw his photo, felt he was so ugly no-one would want him and put in an application. When they met Shadow, a six-year-old Affenpinscher rescue dog, they immediately fell head over heels in love with him, even though he was in a shocking state. “His skin and hair were terrible, he was bald and he had been kept in a concrete cage,” Kate says. Nine months later, Shadow is still timid but

is otherwise thriving and most of his hair has regrown. “He doesn’t get too excited and he doesn’t do the exuberant doggy things. And he’s discriminating. He connects with Bec

more than me because she is home more than me,” Kate says. A neighbour with expertise in animal nutrition and immune disorders has involved

Shadow in her academic work. “She put him onto a diet that has boosted his immune system, and we hope it will also help him neurologically,” Bec says. The women say that Shadow’s unusual diet qualifies him as the “hipster dog of North Melbourne”. “He eats kale, broccolini, hemp seeds, chia seeds, tempeh, tofu, chickpea and turkey necks. We’re both vegan, so we call him the vegan dog that eats meat,” Bec laughs. Shadow has marked out his territory with his new family. He walks in the Miller Street park each day – a big achievement for a dog that had never been on grass – and heads to the Queen Vic market each Saturday morning. The dog is now a central part of the women’s lives. He still shows lingering separation anxiety, but that’s not an issue when they dote on him so lavishly. They have told their friends there’s just one non-negotiable rule for all social functions. “You invite us, you invite him,” Kate says. Shadow has become a local celebrity and his cheeky fang smile now melts the hardest of hearts. “We rescued him, but I am not sure who rescued who,” Bec smiles.

Harriet Lancaster writes regularly for the *News*.



Bec and Kate with little Shadow.

Clouds, Big Apple and cookies all to Ollie's taste



Artist Ollie Ma at work at River Studios.

Nancy Lane

Ollie Ma has two distinct strings to her bow as an artist at West Melbourne's River Studios. Her fashion design is inspired by the hustle and bustle of living and studying as an exchange student in New York City, while her ceramics production is inspired by lying on the ground and cloud-gazing. As a child, Ollie always enjoyed making things with her hands. Later she joined Sew Happy, a private sewing school in Kingsville run by Carole Herd. "I went there every Thursday morning for four years. The teacher had a lot of industry experience and encouraged everyone to work on their own projects," she says. Ollie realised that she had discovered something beyond sewing and says the school had "a social feeling, like a big family". When the school closed, she enrolled in RMIT's fashion design course. She thought that her sewing skills would give her an advantage but soon realised there was lots to learn. "I knew very little about fashion illustration, production management and pattern

grading, and I had to learn them from scratch." Ollie won an exchange position in New York and left in January last year to study at Manhattan's Fashion Institute of Technology. "I learnt so much from the inspiring professors and from the other students. The school stayed open until 2am every night so we could work there. It was mindboggling!" But it wasn't all work. Despite being on a student budget, Ollie saw the musical *Hamilton*, sitting in the third row, after winning tickets in a lucky draw. She also became partial to the pricey Levain Bakery cookies, buying just one at a time as a special treat. Three months into her stay, COVID struck. Stressed by the situation, she immediately rang RMIT and was soon on a flight home. "I bought a whole packet of Levain cookies and ate them at the airport and cried," she smiles. The second string to Ollie's bow started when she drove past a Carlton ceramics shop and decided she wanted to learn to make ceramics. "I decided I would have to create my own day, otherwise it would always get pushed to tomorrow," she says.

She soon realised there were many aspects to ceramics. "Initially, I struggled to become friends with the clay," she admits. She did short courses in hand-building, glazing and mould-making, and eventually took on a teaching role. Ollie rented a studio at River Studios three years ago so she could explore different concepts in a space of her own. She bought second-hand equipment, including a potter's wheel and a small kiln, proud that she had paid for it with income from teaching and from selling her ceramics at markets. She has named her brand Clouds and Flora. "I realised I was rushing too much, so I relaxed by lying under a tree and gazing at the clouds," she says. "I wanted to create ceramic works that reflected nature, its distinctive patterns and colours. Hopefully, these works will encourage others to be mindful of how they spend their day and use their energy."

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?
See Ollie Ma's work on Instagram at www.instagram.com/clouds_and_flora.

Capel Street's residents won epic heritage battle

Capel Street begins in West Melbourne where it intersects with William Street before it heads north and ends when it runs into Bedford Street. It is thought the street was named after Thomas Bladen Capel, a Londoner born in 1776, the son of William Capel and Harriet Bladen. He had a distinguished naval career, fighting for his king in the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar against the French and Spanish during the Napoleonic Wars. Capel Street's earliest residents arrived in 1854, six years before the street was documented in the government gazette. The area's first

RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

significant landmark, known then as the cattle yard, had begun even earlier, in 1842, on the corner of Elizabeth and Victoria streets. The street was first mentioned in the *Argus* in August, 1854, in an advertisement placed by local resident George Holt Miller, a master wheelwright and blacksmith. He announced his interest in selling two superior Scottish-built Whitechapel two-wheeled spring-carts, then all the rage in London. Miller has his own intriguing story. After arriving in Port Philip in 1833 as a six-year-old, he married Sarah Lambert in 1851. After she died in childbirth, he married Helen McPherson and opened his wheelwright and blacksmithing business in Capel Street, which then boasted seven other homes. The street's first architect-

designed home was erected in 1868 by Crouch and Wilson, famed as the builders of the Prahran Town Hall. Another architect, George Raymond Johnson, designed bootmaker Patrick Cleary's cottages at No. 81 in 1871. In his spare time, he also designed the North Melbourne Town Hall. Thomas Bladen Capel, the naval hero, fought his battles in the Napoleonic wars. The residents of Capel Street had their own monumental battle back in the 1970s against the anti-heritage push by a former Lord Mayor and council to demolish and redevelop the block directly opposite Queen Victoria Market.

Thankfully, the local residents prevailed and their lovely heritage homes have survived. Read more about this epic struggle at www.hothamhistory.org.au/the-m-c-c-s-own-waterrate. Today, Capel Street hosts 37 double-storey and 15 single-storey Victorian-era terrace homes. There is also a church, a school, some flats and low-rise commercial buildings.

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

Want to know more?
Discover more about the history of streets in North and West Melbourne at melbournestreets.com.au



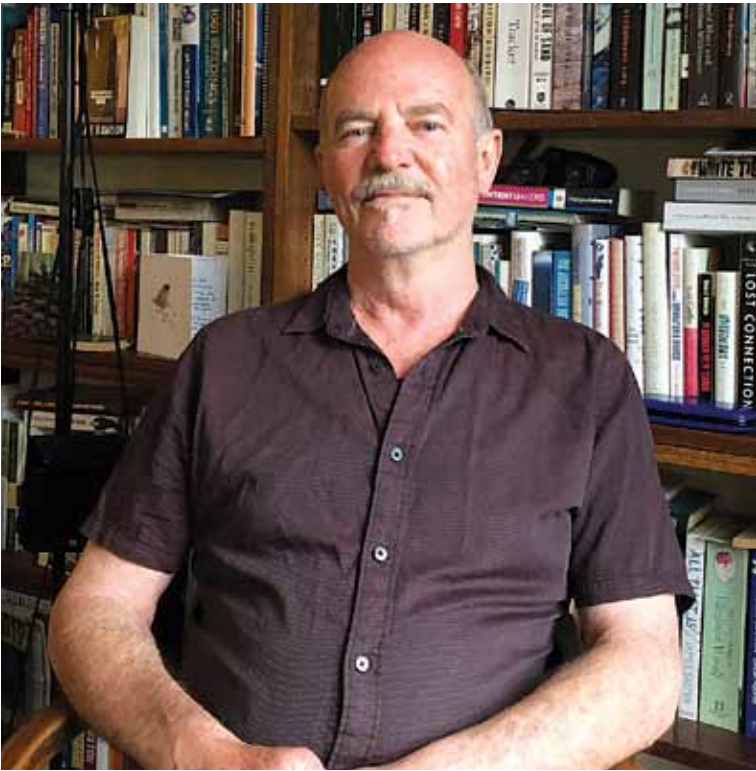
Capel Street. Photo: Stephen Hatcher

Salom’s latest novel explores the land of the lost and missing

Elise Cara

Internationally recognised poet and novelist Philip Salom lives in North Melbourne with wife Meredith, a cuddly cat, Squiz, and an especially playful cat, Dermot. His career ranges from an award-winning, internationally acclaimed poet to a Miles Franklin shortlisted novelist. His rich output includes 14 published collections of poetry and five published novels. His latest book, *The Fifth Season*, follows writer Jack as he befriends Sarah, the sister of missing person Alice, while staying at an Airbnb in the town of Blue Bay. The book turns on the theme of the missing. “Since childhood, I’ve always been fascinated by the missing; missing people, missing connections, missing experiences. All of the characters and events within the book reflect, in various ways, on missingness,” he says.

Philip grew up on a dairy farm in Western Australia and spent a lot of time alone as a child. All the while, the countryside isolation was creating an expansive and imaginative writer’s mind. “My experience was fairly lonely, so I spent a lot of time in my imagination and it, wanting things to fill the spaces of absence, began to create what becomes the writer. You invent your own stories, you invent your own possibilities, and you fill in what is missing,” he says. While working on a cattle research station, he began oil painting on the side. After studying science at university, he realised he was much more passionate about art. Later, his fascination with reading inspired him to pursue writing as a full-time career. “I’ve always been interested in art. When I was young, it was music and visual art. When I started to read in depth as a young adult, I realised



Writer Philp Salom in his home library.

that writing was what I wanted to do,” he says. Philip won international recognition after his first poetry book, *The Silent Piano*, was published in 1980. A publisher friend from university asked if he had a poetry manuscript in the works. “I spent about a year writing my

first serious poems for publication. The two readers’ reports were over the moon, they loved it. I couldn’t believe it,” he says. The book went on to win the Commonwealth Poetry Prize for best first book. The awards continued with his third book, *Sky Poems*, judged overall best book of poetry in the Commonwealth.

Philip’s work has been influenced by North Melbourne’s cultural mix. His novel *Waiting* was inspired by two neighbours living opposite in his street and ended up being shortlisted for the Miles Franklin, becoming a finalist in the Prime Minister’s Award for Literature and being shortlisted for the Victorian Premier’s Prize. Philip has always sought to appeal to inner lives and universal truths and thus to appeal to a wide readership. He is keen to explain that setting a story within a local environment does not preclude this. “You can write about living in this particular block of units and make no reference to anything outside of it, and end up with a book that could be read in another country, another language, and readers will say it speaks to them.” Philip is now hard at work in his small home study on his next novel. He is setting it locally, in North Melbourne and Parkville, and it will feature humorous banter between the two suburbs. “I think I’m a better writer by writing locally than when I wasn’t. That’s something I’ve learnt late as a writer,” he says.

Elise Cara writes regularly for the News.

From the archives

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 more than 130 years ago, in the same month you are reading this.

Nora has to fork out for pinching the spoons (1883)
Nora Keowan was charged with stealing cutlery from cricketer Thomas Boyle. Young Nora had been employed as a domestic servant but, when her employers were absent, she stole some spoons and took them to a pawnbroker. The bench opted for leniency, fining her two shillings and demanding that she return the spoons.

Two ladies in court over unladylike language (1884)
Mary Bindon was charged with

using abusive language at Janet Callanan. Bindon was notorious for using vulgar language when she was upset. Callanan ended her hour in the witness box by admitting she hadn’t actually heard the language but was sure Bindon had used it. The frustrated magistrate promptly dismissed the case.

Young Alfred in strife for throwing stones (1883)
A respectable-looking lad, Alfred Smith, was charged with throwing stones in Victoria Street and endangering the public. Shopkeeper Mr Ekman testified

he feared Alfred would smash his window and alerted police. The bench established that Alfred made 12 shillings a week as a young draper and fined him that amount.

Never a gentlemanly act to hit a lady (1887)
James Hayes was charged with assaulting Isabella Gogins, who swore he threatened to “knock her head off” then struck her in Courtney Street. She denied provoking him in any way. Hayes was bound over to keep the peace and told it was cowardice for a man to lift his hand to a woman.

Two fiery women go at it poker and tongs (1883)
Ann Murphy and Ellen Watson were charged with assaulting each other. Murphy stated she had been sitting at a neighbour’s house when Watson rushed in and struck her with a poker. In turn, Watson alleged Murphy had first struck her with tongs. After witness Mary Dobbin supported Murphy, Watson was fined two shillings.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News



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“Thank you for your support during the tough times in 2020.” – Frank, Lucy and Domenic

As my writing guru, Sir (he's not really a Sir) Douglas Adams wrote: "The earth is a spacecraft hurtling through space, humanity are passengers. Not the crew." After an awful 2020, what a year we're having already. I've just made my fourth rescue of an unfledged wattlebird this summer. Do you know that in Australia we have about 440 species of butterflies, 830 of birds and 1,300 of ants. We also have eight species of earthworms, including Gippsland's Giant Earthworm.

★★★

Remember Trump? I bet you do. Do you know that The Donald had a disgraceful record on animal welfare? I can give you lots of reasons to prove what an animal-hater he was. He ended wild-bird protection laws, he awarded lion trophy hunting permits to GOP donors. He allowed hunters to kill bears and wolves and their cubs. He allowed hunters to use helicopters to chase animals. He reversed Obama's ban on hunters bringing elephant trophies back to the US.

VERY IMPRESSIVE

★★★

Let me tell you a story from December. I'm calm enough to share it with you now. One day I turned into Angry Person-Yelling Man when I had a disagreement with one of my neighbours, all over some stupid shit. It's no good me being Angry Person-Yelling Man because I'm a 6'2" idiot and I'm sure I can at times be frightening. Why did it happen? I guess it was because I'm an idiot. I did some gardening and I calmed down.

★★★

Tonight I've again been reminded that trauma does not go away. Nor does it become any easier to bear. It keeps returning with memories remarkably similar to the original horror. Tonight's bucket of crying was brought on by seeing a TV news break about the Tram Shelter Collapse. Then I recalled



the 20-year anniversary (foolish word in this situation) of the 2000 Childers backpackers fire. Robert Long, who lit the fire that claimed 15 lives, has just had his parole denied.

★★★

The latest Mars probe (the Rover mission, I think it's called) is due to land around now. Onboard is, amongst thousands of other items, a Very

Impressive boarding pass. If it actually lands, many will be astonished. Of the last 27 probes sent to Mars, 15 have disappeared without a trace. My concern is that all of them were nuclear powered. Are we polluting the Martian atmosphere before even we get anywhere near it? Potentially killing any life that may be there?

★★★

The fastest man-made object isn't a hypersonic jet or spacecraft. It's a large manhole cover. When the US began underground nuclear testing, nobody knew what would happen. In July 1957, a test bomb was placed at the bottom of a 485-foot deep shaft with a half-ton iron manhole cover on top. When the bomb blew, the cover couldn't be found. When an astrophysicist replicated the test, cameras caught the cover shooting off at 125,000 miles per hour. Must be a record.

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

Lingering memories of meeting men lost on life's margins

More than 50 years ago, I saw for the first time the pain of homelessness in North Melbourne. It was confronting and I still have vivid memories of it.

In my last years at school, as part of a social welfare group, I visited Ozanam House in Flemington Road to be a volunteer. It was then an overnight shelter run by St Vincent de Paul (the much-loved 'Vinnies').

We attended a Catholic school in leafy Malvern and we all led sheltered lives. It was confronting to meet men who had fallen on very hard times. Our teachers gave us no preparation nor did any come with us.

Before we arrived, the men had queued up in the street in the late afternoon in the hope of a place for the night. Only about 50 could be accommodated and some were turned away and wandered off. The lucky ones could only stay for one

TOBIN'S TALES Gavan Tobin

night, except for one old bloke who was a 'permanent'.

He helped the men who didn't know the rules and procedures. He was the only one who spoke to us, he seemed to accept his situation and he was the only 'character' I recall. There was nothing wrong with the men who were given shelter. There was a certain dignity about them, they were all very quiet and I never saw any trouble.

Our work started inside the facility when we helped to serve a hot evening meal. As each man took it, he would whisper "Thank you, Brother". This was a term of respect because they knew

we were taught at school by religious Brothers.

After dinner, we supervised the showers that were a condition of entry. First, the men emptied their pockets and handed over items for safekeeping. I was saddened as I collected, at best, a few coins, a comb and perhaps a tattered family photo or religious medal.

When the men had showered, we handed out towels and fresh PJs. As at dinner, there was no jollity, jokes or chatting. Many seemed withdrawn, perhaps broken in spirit. The memories are with me still.

After some free time, the men headed

off to their dormitories. In the morning, they had breakfast, were handed a cut lunch then headed off. I doubt there was any counselling or health support offered.

I don't want to denigrate Vinnies' well-intended work so long ago but it was very institutional. By today's standards, perhaps a failure.

After we finished, we would catch the tram and head home. Little was said, either then or the next day at school.

I never heard any boy make any disparaging comments about the men.

Today, I'm thrilled to see Vincentcare's wonderful facilities on the same site, offering respect and redemption to those in need. We have come a long way.

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



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New creative frontiers will be crossed at Arts House

Samira Farah

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary performance space, housed in the North Melbourne Town Hall, where artists and audiences gather to find new creative frontiers.

At the end of last year, Arts House held a call out for artists to participate in a new two-year professional development program called Makeshift Publics.

Makeshift Publics is a research program focusing on the space between community leadership, creative practice and place. It has been created to directly respond to the situations we all face right now, as well as to provide critical and substantial support to artists during the pandemic.

We are now pleased to announce the 10 artists who have been selected as part of the program and who in their own way will respond to the question, "What do communities need when we can come back together again?"

These artists are: Arika Waulu, Andy Butler, Alexander Powers, Bridget Chappell, Efen Pamilacan,



Lucreccia Quintanilla, Nikki Lam, Ruth Ruach, Timmah Ball and Yasbelle Kerkow.

This collective represents a diversity in practice, including DJs, live performing coders, photographers, filmmakers, rave organisers, queer party organisers, sculptors, native gardeners, space-creators, urban planners,

choreographers, writers and visual artists. Most of them combine several of these activities.

With the mentorship of eight facilitators from a range of artistic fields, this creative cohort will collaborate to explore a wide range of ideas. These include how communities heal, decolonisation, the role of the institution, social class

disruption brought about by COVID, diversity in the arts, the role of the artists in the city's recovery, what brings their communities (such as the queer community) together and how to work with Elders.

Members of the local community will be able to engage with the ideas explored by these 10 artists at an open day later in the year.

ABOVE: The 10 artists who are part of the Arts House program.

Samira Farah is an associate producer at Arts House.

Want to know more?
To find out about Makeshift Publics, go to artshouse.com.au

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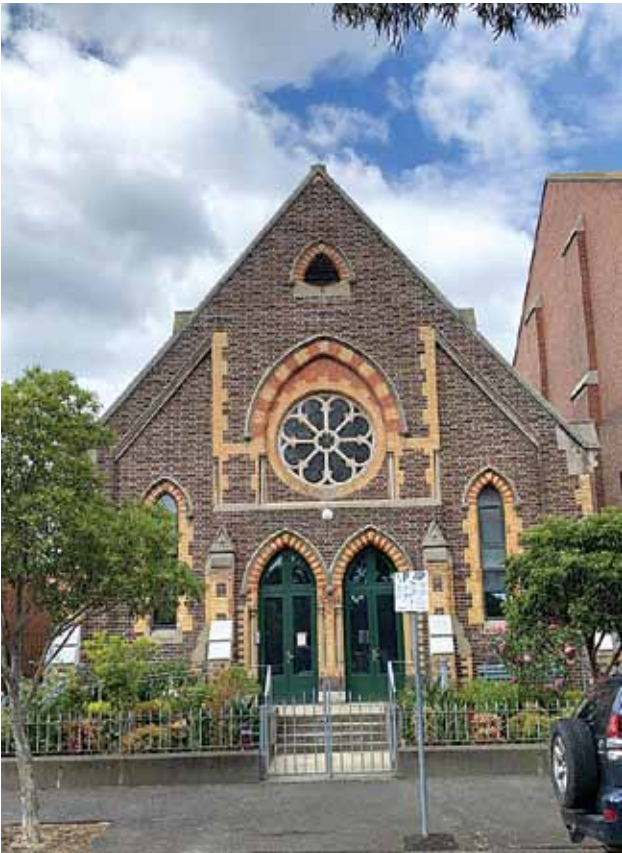
Laura Misale

Sandwiched between low-rise homes and the imposing St Michael's Catholic Church in North Melbourne's Brougham Street stands the façade of a decommissioned Methodist church. From the street, it still looks like a place of worship and prayer. However, the old church building has been repurposed as Abbeyfield House, which offers affordable housing for 10



Abbeyfield House resident Elly Feldman is a passionate gemmologist.

independent older people. It operates under Abbeyfield Australia, a nation-wide community housing provider. Step inside the front door and you'll find not an institutional setting, but a home. The smell of curried sausages is wafting as housekeeper Carol hums a tune to the radio playing in the background. Resident Peter is reading with his magnifying glass, sunlight pouring in from the window behind him. Liz Clifford is president of the Abbeyfield Committee. She tells how the old church morphed into a welcoming home. "When the church closed its doors, many thought it was a historic landmark and should be preserved. They also knew there was a shortage of affordable accommodation in the area," she says. "Since Abbeyfield House opened in 1997, more than 40 older adults have made their home here, including our most senior resident,



Restored church façade at Abbeyfield House.

now in his nineties. We might have a church façade but we are just an ordinary house in an ordinary street." Over the years, the house has been home to the likes of rose garden enthusiasts, jewellery makers and painters. Residents start their day as they choose. Some help themselves to breakfast

in the renovated shared kitchen that features a brand-new oven. By midday, the chef has cooked up lunch and residents gather to enjoy a tasty meal. The menu is enticing. "Just this week, we've offered a range of dishes, including chow mein, lasagne, butter chicken and a good old classic roast followed by panna cotta. Mealtimes allow our residents to travel around the world," Liz says. Elly Feldman is happy to call Abbeyfield House her home. She is a jewellery and bead specialist, a former business owner and once was president of the Bead Society, which sounds an apt position for a gemmologist. She is often found with a book in hand with her iPad charging nearby. She stays active, gets around on her electric scooter and spends her days involved with local community groups. "I go to the library, the Melrose Art Group, the YMCA and I enjoy the Heart Smart exercise group," she says. Last year's COVID lockdowns hit the residents hard, limiting their community activities and confining them to the home. Extensive repair work, to ensure the ageing building was safe, was also disruptive to everyone. However, that work has maintained the beautiful church façade and upgraded interior features for residents. "It retained a local landmark that is now able to keep serving the community," Liz says.

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.

Angels sing a new song

Rosie Greenfield

Errol's Angels community choir is back in full voice for 2021. However, we're not quite the Angels we've been for recent years. We're the new Angels. We've got a new leader, a new location and a new name to better reflect our community. The one constant is that we still love singing and we're as welcoming of new members as ever. If you enjoy singing or you'd like to give it a go, well, now is the time! We're excited to announce Jane York as our new leader. Jane describes herself as a 'musical instigator dedicated to the community-building power of music and creative collaboration'. Those sentiments are definitely singing from the Angels' songsheet. Jane has led groups of all ages and abilities for more than a decade, with a focus on contemporary music. This includes hidden gems from the 1960s and surprising arrangements that reflect Jane's modern approach to group harmony singing. In line with our reimagined version, we are after a new name that better reflects our purpose and our physical location. Our working title for the moment is Sing NoW – singing is what we do and we are definitely based in our local community here in North and West Melbourne. With lockdowns behind us (we hope!), the choir wants to celebrate our return and meet all of you. The Centre is arranging a Come & Try Day for Saturday 24 April, which will allow

locals to sample some of its existing programs. If you have ever wanted to sing with a group, this is for you. Maybe you sang at school long ago or maybe you've been told you can't sing. Well, come along and join us, and we will build your singing confidence and competence. It doesn't matter if your voice is high or low, powerful or soft. Just come along and experience the joy of singing with others, perhaps for the first time. If you can't make the date, just contact The Centre to register your interest and you can even join our group at a later time. Remember, we are mixed group of male and female voices and we don't hold auditions. Most importantly, we are a community choir, which means that we reflect our community. And that is you! On Thursday 29 April, we will recommence our weekly 90-minute singing sessions starting at 7.00pm. We are planning for a new venue to provide us with the additional space needed to meet any future social distancing requirements. There will be a COVID-safe plan to ensure we sing in safety.

Rosie Greenfield is a member of the reborn Errol's Angels.

Want to know more? Come along to The Centre's Come & Try Day on Saturday 24 April. If you can't make it, register your interest with The Centre on 9328 1126. You can also check new choir leader Jane York's website: www.janeyorksings.com



New choir leader Jane York on the ukelele. Photo: @hilarywalkerphotography



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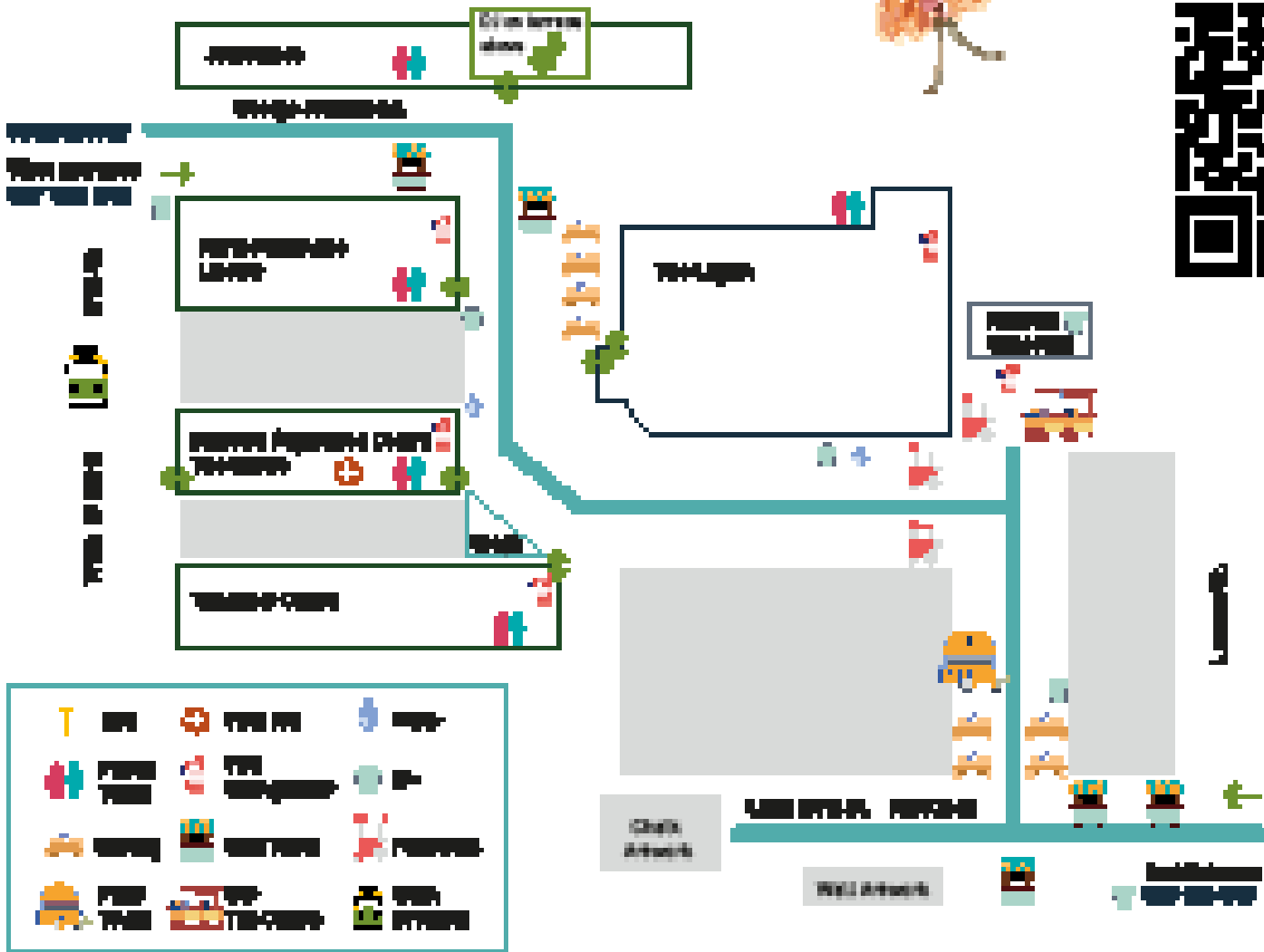


BOOKING THROUGH EVENTBRITE



BOOKINGS THROUGH EVENTBRITE

MAP



PROGRAM

George Johnson Lane

11.00am	Spanish Activities Zone - Paragallo Latino
11.30am	The Mexican Music Men
12.00pm	Caribay
12.00pm	Spanish - Spanish Language Directors Office Melbourne
12.00pm	Fla Fla Fla - Sing and song folk music for kids
12.00pm	Ballet Dance Group (Spanish Dance)
1.00pm	The John Foundation
1.30pm	Peruvian Class - Spanish Experience
2.00pm	La Chorrera
2.00pm	Things Must Fly
2.00pm	Mexico
2.00pm	Flamenco Fiesta - Flamenco dance
2.30pm	San Luis Peruvian (Latin)

The Legion

11.00am-11.30am	Yoga Class in Spanish - Caroline Mayo
2.00pm-2.30pm	Theatre performance - Alejandro Barrios

North Melbourne Library - Kids Corner

11.00am-11.30am	Storytelling in Spanish
11.00am-11.30am	Spanish Class for Kids - La Vozes Spanish School

North Melbourne Library

11.00am-11.30am	Spanish Class for Adults - Paragallo Spanish School
12.00pm-12.30pm	Fairy Performance in Spanish - A Fox Library
12.00pm-1.00pm	Music Time - Flamenco

ALL DAY FIESTA

SATURDAY • 27 • MARCH • 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Food & Drink:
Visitors will find during the day a variety of food stalls, providing the best taste of Latin America and Spain in Melbourne.

Market:
Shop and enjoy the authentic merchandise from Hispanic vendors. Do not forget to take a souvenir with you from the Spanish Language Fiesta!

Facepainting:
Add some colour to your day. Get paint on your face and exhibit it along the Fiesta.

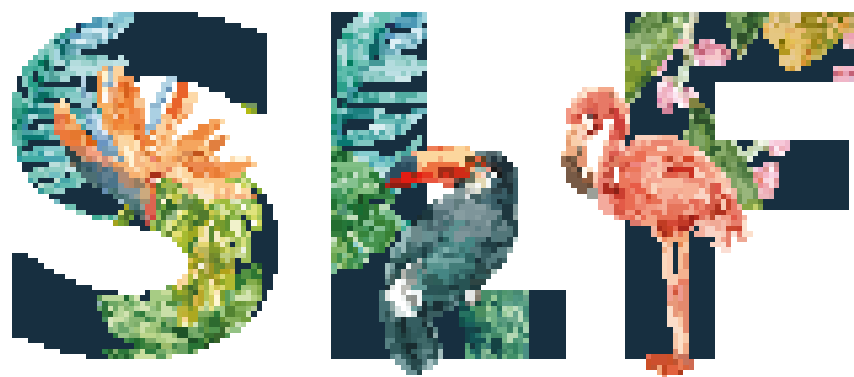
Artisan Craft:
Get closer to traditional characters and discover from Latin America and Spain and visit this stall to coloured and paint with the spirit.

DON'T MISS OUT

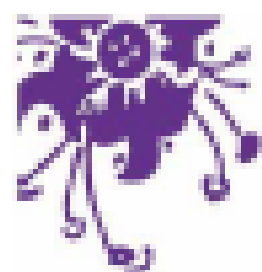
Food & Wine Tours: 12.00pm-2.00pm
Join Maria Vides on a Spanish food and wine tour through the streets of North Melbourne.
Presented by NMMFA.

[spanishlanguagefiesta](https://spanishlanguagefiesta.com.au)



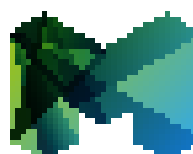


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Spanish Language Fiesta 2021

Presented by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne is proud to support the Spanish Language Fiesta in 2021. Community festivals such as this celebrate the very best of our diversity. Held during Cultural Diversity Week, the Fiesta invites all Melbourne to explore the rich cultures of Spain and Latin America in North Melbourne's George Johnson Lane.

From storytelling, poetry, theatre, film, music, dance and food, this festive event is an authentic showcase of our Spanish-speaking communities. Who could resist knowing some basic dance moves from the Flaky with Latinas group? To keep our toes tapping, the Mexican Music Man will be on stage too. In 2021 the Fiesta makes a welcome return and reminds us of the joy of gathering in person, in our city's language, streets, parks and gardens.

Melbourne can again count on the skills, life and well-planned events to boost our city's social and economic recovery. Congratulations to the organisers and I invite all in our city to enjoy this celebration of Melbourne's rich and diverse culture.

Sally Day,
Lord Mayor

EVENT FRIENDS

- North Melbourne Library - The Lygon - North
- A Mac Lagan - Parilla Spanish Language School
- La Victoria Spanish Language School - Paraguay School
- Melbourne Phoenix - Mexican Arts Group
- North & West Melbourne Festival Association (NMFA)
- Multi-Spanish Latin American Mothers Centre
- Face painting and Body Art by Caroline
- Alejandra Martin Gyron

COVID-19 Event

The Spanish Language Fiesta is a COVID-19 Event. This means it will operate in full compliance with previous restrictions.

Attendance is by registration. All event patrons are encouraged to register in advance via Eventbrite, identifying your hour of arrival. Registration is free.

Particular programs within the event require additional registration. Please ensure you check any particular sessions you would like to attend when registering.

Subject to audience capacity limits, registration at the event is possible; however, there may be delays in entry.

All patrons must wear a mask on arrival. Paper-based registration is available for anyone unable to scan in.

The following people are not permitted to be at the event:

- Anyone instructed to quarantine by the Department of Health
- Anyone who is unwell
- Anyone, who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including:
- Fever - Cough or sneeze - Cough - Sore throat - Unexplained breath
- Runny nose - Loss or change in sense of smell or taste.

If you can no longer attend, please cancel your ticket to allow someone else to attend.

Patrons must comply with the Victorian Government mask-wearing requirements in force on the day of the event.

Patrons are asked to maintain 1.5m distance between themselves and people from outside their household throughout the event, including when entering and exiting.

The Council recognises that COVID-19 is a fluid situation and government requirements on events can change rapidly. If we cannot offer the event as planned, a modified event will be delivered on-line. Registered patrons will be informed about how to access the alternative model of delivery.

SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR GREAT TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS!

- Talaya Parnic - Events Coordinator
- Monika Diaz - Volunteer Coordinator
- Andrew Melville - Arts and Community Engagement
- Sara Wilson - Marketing and Sales
- Sam Martin - Social Media
- Alejandra Gomez - Talent Production
- Caroline Eschwerri - Graphic Designer



Who's a Dirty Rascal?

Annette McQuarrie

Andrew McSweeney is a Dirty Rascal. So are John Fleming, Jerry Speiser, Mal Jones and Ian McDonald. You once knew them from bands such as Midnight Hunting Crew, Scared Weird Little Guys and Men at Work.

These five talented musicians are bringing their expertise to their eclectic rock band, Dirty Rascal.

Despite having more than few years under their belts, the lads are staying current with a new web series. It gives a sneak peek at the band's weekly rehearsal as they develop lyrics, song ideas and recording schedules.

There are currently four episodes on the Dirty Rascal Website, with a fifth on the way.

Chatting with Andrew McSweeney (vocals/guitar) about the web series at his North Melbourne music studio, it's easy to feel the vibe. An entire wall of awe-inspiring guitars, rock posters and comfy mismatched chairs – reminiscent of all those 1980s' share houses – surrounds the quintessential band 'coffee' table. It's actually a sound system packing case on four metal legs.

Before a rehearsal begins, the band sit around this table for chow and a chat. Stories are shared, grievances and ideas discussed, with some conversations shown in the series and others not. Then it's into the studio to create the magic.

After filming the rehearsals with



Andrew McSweeney is a Dirty Rascal.

iPhones set up in different parts of the studio, John Fleming (Scared Weird Little Guys) edits the show before uploading it to the website. Each episode is unplanned and unscripted.

"When we started the videos, I said to the guys that we should just tell our stories. We're all the wrong side of 50 but the right side of 70, but we love playing like we are still teenagers, and we get as excited as we always have," Andrew says.

This is the key to Dirty Rascal.

Unlike younger musicians, perhaps trying to achieve everything immediately and usually achieving very little, Andrew and the crew have been there and done that. Their passion for music is now no less than it was in their 20s.

Their combined wealth of life experience, their love of music and their career highs and lows, has brought them to a place they are happy to be in. The web series is a

terrific way for fans to follow both the band's journey in the recording studio and their preparation for future gigs, especially now venues are reopening.

Their CD *You Be The King* is available online through their website, and offers an excellent lineup of original songs. It includes classic rock with the song *Rolling Thunder*, a playfulness in *Be a Lion* and a chill vibe with the reggae-inspired *What Would Love Do*.

The boys are now working towards their second album and filming the process, warts and all, for their web series. Could Dirty Rascal end up as a Netflix original? Only time will tell.

Annette McQuarrie writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?
Watch the Dirty Rascal web series at www.dirtyrascal.com.au/

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell



Hello, residents of North Melbourne and West Melbourne! As your state MP, I'd like to share some news about a new local primary school soon to be built in our area.

As everyone knows, the two suburbs are growing fast. This brings a lot of challenges, not least of which is that enrolments at North Melbourne Primary School have doubled in recent years, resulting in overcrowding for our kids and pressure on teachers and parents.

We love our local primary school but there simply isn't enough space for such a fast-growing population. For several years, local residents have been lobbying for a new school to relieve some of the pressure from the existing primary.

My office and I have been heavily involved in this campaign. We were pleased to see that Docklands Primary opened this year, which will help a lot. And in more exciting news, finally, in the state budget last November, the government committed funding to build North Melbourne Hill Primary School.

The vertical school will be on the public housing redevelopment site on the corner of Abbotsford and Haines streets and is due to be completed by 2023.

Now, let me be clear. I do not, and did not, support the selling off of public housing land by this Labor Government and I have been working with residents to oppose privatisation of this important asset. Although we didn't win everything we wanted, we achieved some significant improvements, including the commitment to building a school on the site.

I know this will come as a relief to parents and young families in North and West Melbourne, suburbs that have been left behind for so many years by the government's lack of planning for schools in the inner city.

But I also know there are still a lot of unknowns about the new school. Parents are asking me questions such as whether the new school will be a campus of North Melbourne Primary or a separate school. The outcome will have implications for school zoning, what the new school will look like, and whether it will be well integrated into the local community.

We've been reassured that anyone with kids at North Melbourne Primary (or siblings of future students) will not need to change schools. However, there are still a lot of other unanswered questions.

I hear your questions and will be working hard to make sure the voices of locals and parents are heard loud and clear by the government and that you are consulted every step of the way.

I'd love to hear from residents and parents about your views so I can represent them to the government and in parliament. Do you have views you'd like to share with me?

Ellen Sandell is the state MP for Melbourne.

Want to know more?
If there's anything I can do for you, or if you'd like to know more about my work in the community, please get in touch: office@ellensandell.com or phone 9328 4637.



St Michael's North Melbourne

"Where I'm Known"

ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR 2022

Enrolments close 31st May, 2021

www.smnthmelbourne.catholic.edu.au

Denise Hussey - Principal

(03) 9329 9206



Elio's photos a snap peek at local homes' history

Joe Misuraca

West Melbourne resident Elio Sarpi weathered last year's lockdowns easily. The IT specialist and wife Courtney have often been at home in the past five years while supporting their 11-year-old son Roman, who was diagnosed with autism at seven.

Homebody Elio found a new hobby during the lockdowns when he started taking photos of North and West Melbourne's eclectic range of houses and began posting them on his Instagram account. "Initially, I just took photos of houses that I thought were interesting. I started this account and began putting some hashtags then I started telling my friends about it," he says.

He has amassed more than 1,300 followers so far.

"I've got them from everywhere. Over 90% are from Australia, and I get new followers each day. What's really amazing is so many of them have connections to the houses I photograph. They've either lived in the house or they know someone who lived there."

Elio says he is thrilled that some new followers to his eclectic collection of photos of homes in our local community come from the most unlikely places. "I've not only picked up people from the UK and the US but also some from India."

Along with the photos of local residences, Elio explains the history of each house. He happily admits he does endless hours of



Elio Sarpi at home.

research. "I've just joined the local history group, the Hotham History Project, which has wonderful material, and many old newspapers can be found online."

It's clear that Elio is totally absorbed in his project as the stories come tumbling out.

"I posted a photo of a house in Errol Street and only later found out it was the location of a shooting in the 1950s. A gunman was standing out the front of the house when he shot someone in the face and another in the back."

Not all discoveries are so grisly. "I recently

found a house that once was a gin factory then I found another where vermouth had been made by an Italian migrant family. My research found the family's grandson who had posted on his own Instagram account the label from the first bottle his grandfather had produced. Amazing!"

Elio rattles off some of his best local finds. "One was actress Sigrid Thornton's former home in Hotham Hill. Another was a home owned by an Errol Street café owner, a pastry chef who made a 15-metre-high cake for Melbourne's centenary. A third was a spirit merchant's house whose owner had a

stained-glass window at St Mary Star of the Sea dedicated to his son."

What's next for Elio? "One of my American followers asked: 'Why don't you do a coffee-table book?' I didn't know people still have coffee-table books anymore. Let's just see what happens!"

Joe Misuraca writes regularly for the News.

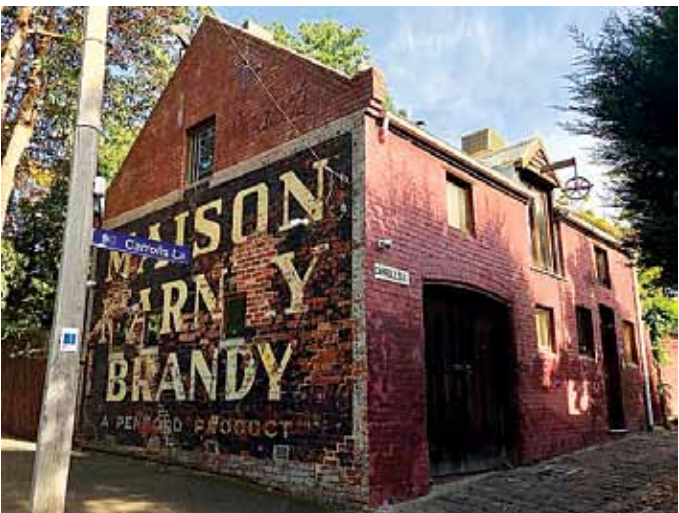
Want to know more?
Check out Elio's Instagram account: [housesofnorthandwestmelbourne](#)



Above left: A house that was once an undertakers.



Above right: A wine and spirit merchant's former home.



Right: Actor Sigrid Thornton's former home.

IPCS shares bright plans for 2021

John H. Smith

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions has ensured the Institute of Postcolonial Studies is starting the year with great optimism.

Director Melinda Hinkson and executive officer Carlos Morreo are looking forward to welcoming members and friends back to the Curzon Street Institute.

Face-to-face gatherings should be viable, albeit in smaller groups than previously.

Throughout 2021, IPCS will continue holding larger public events via Zoom, while a variety of ticket-limited activities will recommence soon. Three visiting fellows will also be

welcomed during the year and will contribute to the Institute's programs.

For those looking for a quiet and supportive environment in which to work, enquire about options for spending time in the Phillip Darby Reading Room.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?
Information on activities and events are available at [ipcs.org.au](#). Contact IPCS on 9329 6381 during business hours on Wednesday and Thursdays and from 2 pm–5pm on Fridays.

HUMAN LIBRARY

Do you want to share your lived experience?
Are you interested in breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes?
Are you interested in bringing the community together?

If **YES**, then join The Centre's Human Library!

By being a human book, you will:

- Share your lived experience
- Develop skills in project planning and storytelling
- Connect with other Human Books
- Help create social cohesion and community connection

Have a story to share? Contact Stacey Halls, Community Development Coordinator at The Centre, staceyh@thecentre.org.au or (03) 9328 1126

Expressions of interest close 12 April 2021.

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.

Let Tessa and Tilly bring love to your life

Annette Glenister

This year Lort Smith Animal Hospital is celebrating 85 years of improving the health and happiness of animals and the people who care for them.

The legacy that Louisa Lort Smith began in 1936 continues in our caring for and rehoming surrendered animals, such as two brindle beauties, Tessa and Tilly. We are looking to our community to find homes for these special dogs. They'll repay you with oodles of the human-animal bond.

Tessa is a lovely four-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier cross bull mastiff who, as a bigger dog, needs lots of exercise and is best suited to a home with a grassy backyard. Apartment living would be too cramped.

Tessa needs a special home as she has sensitive skin and is a carrier of a skin condition, which means she shouldn't be around other animals or young children. Our staff will explain what this involves. A bonus with Tessa



is that Hill's Pet Nutrition have generously offered to provide a year's supply of special dog food, valued at \$2,500!

Our other brindle beauty is Tilly. She is a 10-years-young Staffordshire bull terrier cross that was surrendered to Lort Smith. She has a sweet, gentle and loving

personality and likes nothing more than being by her companion's side.

Tilly's perfect new home would be quiet, with a comfy warm bed to sleep inside. If you are a family that works from home or are retired, you would be ideal. Preferably she would be the only dog of the household. She can't

go to a home with any small animals either, as the thrill of the chase would be too tempting for her.

Although Tilly had some health issues such as a copper accumulation in her liver and she has been diagnosed with liver disease (canine chronic hepatitis), she is currently on



medication and specialised food to help manage this. She also has some mild skin sensitivities.

Lort Smith is different to many shelters as we take on cases where an animal has no family and we'll never euthanise an animal capable of being rehomed.

We'd like to thank the clients that choose Lort Smith as their preferred vet. When they bring their pet in for treatment, they are also

helping us provide care for animals like Tessa and Tilly.

Annette Glenister is communications and PR manager at Lort Smith.

Want to know more?

Tessa and Tilly are available now from Lort Smith Adoption Hub at 38 Villiers Street, North Melbourne. Entry to the hub is currently by appointment only, so email adoptionhub@lortsmith.com or call 9321 7240.

Neighbours gather for a laneway party

The past year has cut us off from many activities and changed our day-to-day way of life, but many neighbourhoods have discovered new ways to connect.

In January, invitations dropped off to homes in Little Leveson Street led to a 'pop up party' on a vacant block of land (with the owner's permission).

Residents enjoyed a convivial evening – complete with shared food, comfy couches, a barbecue and good company.

The next morning, the block was vacant again, with no sign of the evening's festivities, but this little street felt more like a community.

Congratulations to the small band of residents who made it happen.



ELLEN SANDELL

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen. I'm passionate about a fair and liveable Melbourne. Tell me what's important to you.

(03) 9328 4637
office@ellensandell.com

146 Peel Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051

  
ellensandell.com



Rotary wheels into 2021

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary has shot out of the blocks in what is sure to be a busy year for the club.

After getting a \$6,000 grant from the Australia Day Foundation, we decided not to run our own project. Instead, we contacted three not-for-profit organisations with the offer of \$2,000 for each to enable them to run a project of their choosing.

The first group to accept funding was the local Ozanam House, part of VincentCare. The facility provides accommodation for homeless people as well as meals for needy people who drop in. It also provides medical, dental and counselling support, and relies on its many volunteers to provide its services.

A second recipient was the Yarraville-based Joseph's Corner. It provides counselling support services for the families of drug and alcohol addicts all around Victoria. The Corner was started by Sister Jeanne Dwyer who, even in her eighties, is still the organisation's driving force.

The third group was St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy. The house provides similar assistance as Ozanam House but doesn't offer accommodation. As a result, St Mary's used the funds to provide their drop-in clients with a special Australia Day hamper. More than 60 people appreciated picking up a hamper.

Other club activity has been closer to home. Last month we supported community identity Lorna Hannan to run a drop-in morning tea for African women living in the local high-rise towers. They met with other community members at the North Melbourne Community Centre in Buncle Street.

Our last news item is disappointing. We have to report that Sainab Sheikh, our club's president-elect, is still stranded in Kenya. In January, she and her son went to her native Somalia to help with local projects but, with their return flights cancelled, they now can't get home.

While they were in Somalia, there were attacks in Mogadishu, with nine people killed in a hotel. Without any contact from Sainab for 10 days, we were very anxious until she was able to get word to us that she had escaped from Mogadishu.

However, she had ended up in an area where armed rebels were operating. The pair had managed to get away from there but were then living in the countryside, sleeping under the stars without phone or internet reception.

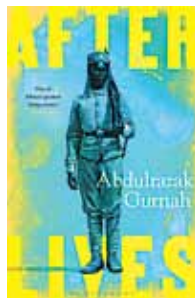
The good news is that they made it to Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, so at least they are safe for now. Life in Rotary is never dull!

Neville Page is president of North Melbourne Rotary.



Joseph's Corner founder Sister Jeanne Dwyer (centre) with two workers.

BETWEEN THE COVERS Chris Saliba



Afterlives

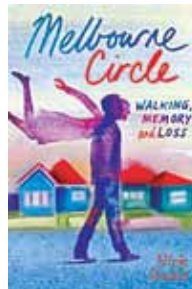
Abdulrazak Gurnah
(Bloomsbury, RRP: \$29.99)

German empire-building in early 20th century Africa is a subject not commonly addressed in Western literature. In *Afterlives*, by Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah, the ravages of German colonisation are illuminated in violent detail.

The story starts around 1907 and concentrates on the fortunes and misfortunes of a young man named Hamza. Forced to leave his home, he is conscripted into the Schutztruppe Askaris, native African soldiers who fight in the name of the German empire.

As the First World War looms, and European powers fight over their African possessions, Hamza experiences the cruelties and racism of the Germans. Exploited and abused by his superiors, he is slashed with a scabbard by a deranged field officer and barely survives.

Afterlives is an eye-opener of a novel, giving a detailed account of the brutal conditions of empire, the racism and exploitation. Gurnah writes a neat and compelling narrative, interweaving a complex and broad cast of characters over several decades. The book does get weighed down a bit in the last third, as it describes Hamza's marriage, but speeds up to a dramatic end. A scrupulous account of the Germans in Africa.



Melbourne Circle:

Walking, Memory and Loss
Nick Gadd
(Australian Scholarly Publishing, RRP: \$29.99)

Nick Gadd and his wife, Lynne, spent two years circling Melbourne's inner-city suburbs. 'Psychojogging' they called it; walking and exploring, theorising and researching the odd and uncanny places they visited. When Lynne died from cancer, Nick wrote up their expeditions as a way of dealing with his grief. The book paints an intimate portrait of Lynne through remembered conversations and shared experiences.

Melbourne Circle is a quirky and enchanting history of inner Melbourne, from the working class suburbs of Yarraville and Footscray to the glamour of South Yarra's 1930s' outre apartments designed by architect Howard Lawson.

Many will be surprised to read about Maribyrnong's once-bustling bomb factory, the Yarraville retirement flats built on toxic waste that sank, and that masterpiece of modern architecture, the ETA Peanut Butter Factory in Braybrook.

For those who like to absorb their history on the streets – pondering the life of former arcades and post offices, piecing together 'ghost signs' faded on old brick walls and staring in wonder at our architectural curios – there is much to delight in *Melbourne Circle*.



Brand New Boy

David Almond
(Walker Books, RRP: \$24.99)

George is the new boy at Darwin Avenue Primary Academy. Everyone is eager for him to fit in and regular boy Daniel is picked out as a good candidate to show George the ropes. Things are progressing swimmingly, but then the students start to notice weird things about George.

Firstly, did fellow classmate Louise really see George's ear drop off? Why does a school visitor named Miss Crystal continually follow George around with a clipboard writing notes? Events take a sinister turn when the smug Mr Eden Marsh turns up in a big, black van. He seems to be George's minder. Suddenly it's announced George will no longer be attending Darwin Avenue Primary Academy. What could have happened?

Daniel and his school mates decide that enough is enough and take drastic measures to save George. *Brand New Boy* is a warm, funny and sweet story about belonging and what it means to be human. As George slips from the children's grasp, the values of friendship and togetherness come to the fore. A quirky tale, expertly told, with an eclectic and realistically drawn cast. This is crowd-pleasing children's fiction at its best.

For 8+ years old

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

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Walk into history on the streets of North Melbourne

Words: Lorna Hannan; Photographs: Meg De Young

1. The cable tram house

Corner Abbotsford and Queensberry streets

Melbourne's first trams were horse drawn. Then came cable trams in the 1890s and electric trams in the 1930s. North Melbourne's cable trams were drawn by an underground steel cable on a giant wheel in the bowels of this building. Coloured brickwork and sandstone decorate the exterior. Inside, the wheel is long gone and the walls enclose residential apartments. The streetscape is similar and today's trams follow the same route down Abbotsford Street to Flemington Road.

2. The Bastow Institute

603 Queensberry Street

At the entrance is architect, Henry Bastow, plan in hand. It is North Melbourne's only public statue. The building was once a school and you may know other Victorian primary schools that look similar. This is not surprising, as Henry was the man in charge in the 1870s and '80s when 600 schools were designed and built for the Department of Education. At the back is the 20th century addition to the original 19th century building. Inside, it still looks a lot like a school, but it is now a training centre for school principals.

3 North Melbourne Town Hall

Corner Queensberry and Errol streets

You enter the building in Queensberry Street round the Errol Street corner. The *North Melbourne Advertiser* (23 June 1876) described it impressively: "The building is of noble proportions, exquisite in design, tastefully ornamented, and reflects the greatest credit on the architect, Mr J.R. (sic) Johnson." Built in 1876 as the Town Hall of Hotham, it later became the North Melbourne Town Hall. It is now known and used as Arts House. When it was built, a foundation stone was laid but it is not identified.

4 The former Lalla Rookh Hotel

511 Queensberry Street

This bluestone building stands next door to the Town Hall. It's one of many buildings in North Melbourne no longer used for its original purpose. What detail suggests it might have had an earlier life as a hotel? The intriguing name Lalla Rookh means 'tulip-cheeked' and is an endearment frequently used in Persian poetry. In 1817, in his Oriental romance, Irish poet Thomas Moore celebrated Lalla Rookh, daughter of a Mogul emperor.

This is the second in a series of walks around the area.

Want to know more?

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

www.hothamhistory.org.au





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Chronic Disease Management Plans

Courses and activities for you at The Centre

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne hosts programs and activities for local residents. If you have an idea for a course or activity or if you have some skills that you would like to share with others, please contact us. If you are not sure whether a program is right for you, make sure you register for The Centre’s Come & Try Day on Saturday 24 April. See page 3.

Health & Wellbeing

Pilates

Pilates aims to improve your awareness of how to use your body correctly and strengthen your postural muscles to allow you to support your spine. Pilates classes are graded so it is possible to find the level that suits your ability, experience or limitations. Exercises can be adjusted to suit all ages. Graded classes are taught by experienced physiotherapists Sue Gertzel and Fernanda Cury from City North Physiotherapy.

Intro to Pilates/Rehab

Suitable for those who are completely new to Pilates or have an injury. Program includes posture basics, finding your neutral spine, weight bearing, abdominal activation and breathing.

Tuesdays 8 pm-9 pm
(starting April 20 for 10 weeks)
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St,
North Melbourne

Beginners

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

Thursdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm
(starting April 22 for 10 weeks)
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St,
North Melbourne

Intermediate

This class provides the next step up with more challenging exercises. Strengthen your postural muscles and exercise in a manner that is safe for all your joints.

Tuesdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm
(starting April 20 for 10 weeks)
Thursdays 8 pm-9 pm
(starting April 22 for 10 weeks)
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St,
North Melbourne

Intermediate Plus

Our hardest class is suitable for people with a good level of body awareness and strength. Designed to improve your trunk strength and provide a really stable base for your other sports or daily activities.

Thursdays 6.45 pm-7.45 pm
(starting April 22 for 10 weeks)
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St,
North Melbourne

General Pilates

A class that caters for all levels of experience.

Tuesdays 6:45 pm-7:45 pm
(starting April 20 for 10 weeks)
Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St,
North Melbourne
Wednesdays 9:15 am-10:15 am
(starting April 21 for 10 weeks)
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)

Older Adults Exercise

A general strengthening class for those 60+. Includes low impact aerobics, balance exercises, strengthening exercises using exercise band resistance for all parts of the body. Suitable for people of all abilities.

Wednesdays 10.30 am-11.30 am
(starting April 21 for 10 weeks)
Fridays 12:15 pm-1:15 pm
(starting April 21 for 10 weeks)
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)

Food

Community Dinner

We need to eat to survive, but eating can be so much more than that. If you live in North or West Melbourne, you are welcome to come and break bread with other members of our diverse community. Each month’s dinner will feature a guest strings and percussion musical performance.

Sunday 2 May. From 5:30pm
West Melbourne Baptist Community
Centre, 4 Miller St, West Melbourne



To Market, To Market

With Queen Victoria Market on our doorstep, North and West Melbourne residents are lucky shoppers. Learn some history, meet the stallholders and most importantly stock up on good value, healthy produce

Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm (starting 22 April)
Departing from The Centre, 58 Errol St,
North Melbourne

Also see ‘Music & Munch’ in CREATIVE ARTS

For Kids

Home Away From Homework Club

Friendly and inclusive, students come to complete their homework (or our extra material) with the assistance of tutors. There are also games, and a nutritious snack and drink provided. For children in Grades 4 to Year 9.

Wednesdays 3.30 pm-5 pm – The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Wednesdays 4.30 pm-6 pm – North Melbourne Language & Learning,
33 Alfred St, North Melbourne

Business

Introduction to Accounting & Bookkeeping

This introductory course will explain the fundamentals of accounting and bookkeeping. By the end of this course, you will have the bookkeeping skills needed to run a small business or work in a position requiring an understanding of accounting and bookkeeping. Learn how to record financial transactions and produce balance sheet and profit and loss reports.

Wednesdays, 6 pm-8.30 pm (starting 28 April for 8 weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne



Exercise classes are back! Sue and Fernanda run pilates classes for all ages and levels of experience. ‘Older Australians’ are welcomed at the Legion (in the lane behind the library) for a fun class focused on keeping you strong and active.

Computers, Tech & Digital

Digital Drop-In

If you have a question or problem with a phone, tablet or computer, bring it in to The Centre and our resident tech-savvy team will do what they can to fix it. No problem too small.

Mondays 4 pm – 6 pm (starting April 19)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Computing Essentials

This course will make using a computer easy and simple. You will learn the essentials so you can enjoy and benefit from it without frustration or fear.

Wednesdays 10 am-12.30 pm (starting 28 April for eight weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

iGadgets

Develop the skills and knowledge in using your mobile device to its fullest potential. Learn how to customise it for your own personal needs in a relaxed friendly environment.

Fridays 10 am-12 noon (starting 30 April for four weeks)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne



Out and About

Walk Together

A walk for neighbours around the neighbourhood. Join 'Mrs North Melbourne' Lorna Hannan for a short walk around North Melbourne. Learn about the hidden history of those places you walk past every day.

Saturdays 10 am-11 am (starting 24 April)
Leaving from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Also see 'To Market To Market' in FOOD and Centre Adventures in FOR SENIORS.



For Seniors

Community Morning Teas

Join this group of multicultural seniors for an informal chat over morning tea – a place where friendships can flourish.

1st Tuesday each month, 10 am – 12noon (ongoing)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Centre Adventures

Visit historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest and significance. Normally a full-day bus trip, Centre Adventures are a great way to socialise and get out beyond the everyday

4th Tuesday each month 9.30 am – 5 pm
Departing from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Bookings:

All programs require booking in advance, especially for COVID-safe reasons. Book online at www.centre.org.au, by phone on (03) 9328 1126 or in person at The Centre, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne. Programs with low interest may not go ahead.

Creative Arts

Community Choir

A re newed version of the much loved Errol's Angels, join new music director Jane York in this all-ages, in-person community choir. The choir sings beautiful arrangements of popular songs from 1960s to the present day. No previous experience required.

Thursdays 7 pm-8.30 pm (starting April 29 for 10 weeks)
COVID-safe venue to be confirmed

Music & Munch

Bring your current favourite music track. Share what you love about it and expand your musical knowledge by listening to others. Every genre is welcome. BYO dinner.

Wednesdays 7 pm-9 pm (starting April 28 ongoing)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Photography

If you have an interest in photography, join other locals with a similar passion to learn tips, tricks and techniques to improve your shots, which ever camera or device you use. You might even see your photos in future issues of the North & West Melbourne News.

Tuesdays 6 pm-8 pm (starting 27 April ongoing)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Storytelling

Share Your Story. Our suburb is full of incredible stories and most of them aren't in books. Learn how to share your story with others, including public speaking and participate in our Human Library project later in the year.

Mondays 1 pm-3 pm (starting 26 April ongoing)
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Spring Fling – What is its future?

With a history going back 44 years, Spring Fling is one of the oldest festivals in Melbourne. In recent years the festival has changed and in 2020, COVID dictated no Spring Fling Festival could run. New Director of The Centre, Ariel Valent, has a history in festival management. He wants to hear from different parts of the community about what Spring Fling can be in 2021 and beyond.

Please attend one of the following 'Have Your Say' sessions, held by Zoom.

RESIDENTS: Tuesday 30 March, 6 pm – 7.30 pm

BUSINESSES: Wednesday 31 March, 10.30 am – 11.30 am

COMMUNITY AGENCIES: Tuesday 20 April, 10.30 am – 12noon

RSVP essential. admin@centre.org.au or 9328 1126

Costs:

The Centre is trialling a Pay What You Can for new programs. 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.

Some programs have fixed costs:

- Pilates and Older Adults Exercise: \$197/\$144 concession per term
- Centre Adventures: \$45/\$35 concession

A taste for Cindy’s divine dumplings

Claire Yeoh

Cindy’s Kitchen, at 2/520 Victoria Street, just round the corner from Errol Street, is a small and unassuming eatery that sells some of North Melbourne’s best dumplings. A family business that has been going for nearly five years. Behind the counter are husband and wife, Summer and Cindy. Before Summer opened Cindy’s Kitchen, he ran two similar eateries before closing them down as, he freely admits, age started to catch up with him and he struggled with aches

and pains. In 2017, even with his energy levels dwindling, he decided to open the Kitchen in a battle to make ends meet. Cindy says Summer has long experimented with flavours and ingredients to find the elusive perfect balance. “Summer lived in Hong Kong for a while and that was where he learned to master Cantonese cuisine,” she says with pride. *(Our discussion was in Mandarin and the translations are as faithful as possible.)* Most of Cindy’s Kitchen’s customers are North and



Summer and Cindy in Cindy’s Kitchen. Inset: A tasty dumpling coming up.

West Melbourne locals, with only a small fraction being ethnically Chinese. “Dumplings are the most in demand, for sure,” Cindy says. “We serve them either boiled or pan-fried, and they seem to be everyone’s first choice.”

Summer and Cindy enjoy gardening in any free time they can find. However, because of the long hours working in the shop, they spend most of their non-work time resting. Every morning, without fail, they wake up early to get their hands on the freshest produce. “The quality of our ingredients is very important and we prefer to pick out our own groceries,” Cindy says. Last year was a tough time for the business. Things were busy until mid-year, but the second COVID lockdown knocked them around, as it did all hospitality ventures. Given the Kitchen’s small seating area, Cindy and Summer depend mainly on walk-ins, but lockdown meant nearly all their orders came through delivery services such as UberEats.

That might sound like a silver lining, but it also meant that most of their profits were hit by a cut of about a third. They weren’t eligible for any JobSeeker or JobKeeper support. “Last year was really hard on us because it was dangerous, we were really tired, we didn’t earn much, and we didn’t receive any government help,” Cindy says. Business is slowly picking up and Cindy is optimistic that things will improve. What is certain is that this hard-working couple will extend a welcome as warm and generous as their dumplings. The Kitchen is the perfect place to satisfy your dumpling cravings.

Claire Yeoh writes regularly for the News.

Travels led Marcus to Errol St

Lizzy Footner

Marcus Ibrahim runs the busy 7-11 store in the prime corner location of Errol and Queensberry streets in North Melbourne. It’s a world away from where he grew up, in Aswan on the Nile, in the south of Egypt. He is quick to point out that he is the store’s franchisee, not the owner. “Nobody owns anything in life, they don’t. Can you own the air? No, you can’t own anything,” he says in his hard-to-place accent. Marcus reveals he inherited his love of travel from his father. He waxes lyrical about Shanghai, his favourite city in the world, and talks happily about his years spent working in Texas in south-eastern USA, a time that has left him with the slight American twang that intrigues his 7-11 customers. For a man who speaks in a quaintly idiosyncratic way, his assessment of American culture

is typically whimsical. “They have their ups and downs – light side, dark side – like any other culture or country in the world. But it’s up to what you want to see. Some people see only the positive. I like to get to the mysterious,” he says cryptically. Marcus reveals a quirky interest in our local history. “This is an old city, it’s an old small city, it used to be a gold depot after the 1850s’ gold rush. That’s why we’ve got so many pubs. This area had a lot of good and bad souls, of travelling souls. Coming from Egypt, I can identify with that,” he says. It’s not only the suburb’s colourful history that interests him. He reveals he loves jazz and hunts down the most lively local venues. “You’ve got to feel the rhythm with jazz. It’s the correct noise and you just adjust your thoughts. It’s like words but with an instrument. Jazz isn’t a place, it’s a culture, and

you can listen to it anywhere in the world,” he says. Marcus’ eyes light up as he muses on life’s mysteries. “Astrology is really just knowledge, food for thought. You can’t understand what might happen to you, but you can understand your own personality. If you have some faults, you can make them better,” he says. His words have an unvarnished home-spun philosophy and his advice for a happy life is disarmingly simple. “Just be happy, be safe, just do good things, be nice. Some people can be fake nice, that’s bad nice.” Suddenly, Marcus is distracted as he hears a late-afternoon commotion in the store. It’s the mad rush of local schoolkids lining up for slushies and a sugar hit. “I’ve got to go,” he says with a smile.

Lizzy Footner is a new contributor to the News.



Marcus Ibrahim with the Christmas mural that added a splash of colour to the 7-11 wall. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

ADAM BANDT MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW.

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NOTICEBOARD

Emerging into a changed neighbourhood

Hi there! I'm the new director of The Centre, hence also publisher of the *North & West Melbourne News*. It's an honour to work with The Centre's board and the staff and, most importantly, with the local community.

I'm a life-long member of the North Melbourne Football Club. More recently, I've been associated with St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre, Arts House and Hotham Mission, as well as The Centre through my previous role at the City of Melbourne.

I'm a believer in the power of neighbourhood houses. Rather than arriving with a fixed plan, I'm keen to listen and learn from this community and to ensure our program is responsive to local aspirations. Soon, we'll run some consultation sessions, but I'm keen to hear from you now about your ideas for the future of our community.

I would like to develop The Centre's program around three intersecting themes:

Progression: how community members might develop the skills to progress in their life, and how the area can progress as a neighbourhood.

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR
Ariel Valent



Connection: how community members can connect with each other, and how we can create and maintain meaningful connections in our rapidly developing area.

Expression: how community members can express themselves. As a musician, I know how important creative expression is to individuals and society.

The Centre's 2021 program is underway. We were delighted to open our doors in Errol Street in January. Our homework club resumed, a seniors' morning tea celebrated the 80th birthday of long-time volunteer Patricia Harwood and our pilates courses restarted, as did our training courses for residents of the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre.

We will be pushing ahead – subject to restrictions, of course – with a range of events in the coming weeks.

The **Spanish Language Fiesta**, on Saturday 27 March, will be our first significant community gathering.



A seniors' morning tea celebrated long-time volunteer Patricia Harwood's 80th birthday.

To be held in the laneway behind Errol Street, the fiesta will be a celebration of Spanish and Latin American cultures through language, poetry, theatre, music, dance and, of course, food! See pages 11-14.

A **Come & Try Day** will be held in April. It will be an opportunity

to sample some of The Centre's existing programs, as well as a chance for us, and other community organisations, to try out a few new offerings. It will all be free. We'll use feedback from the day to shape our programs. Please get involved! (See page 3.)

Spring Fling has been a great success for years and I've enjoyed attending them. I'm keen that Spring Fling reflects and celebrates our local community and I want to canvass your views on its value to the community. Register for forthcoming sessions or complete our on-line survey. (See page 21.)

Finally, I must acknowledge the emergence of another newspaper in our region. HyperLocal News has started *North West City News*, a monthly publication distributed to North and West Melbourne and neighbouring suburbs. It has a very different editorial style compared to our all-volunteer *News*.

While in ongoing discussions with them, I admit I objected strongly to the similarity of titles, but to no avail. Our own quarterly *News* will continue to celebrate the real people and real stories of North and West Melbourne in an entertaining and readable style.



The *North & West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers predominantly from North and West Melbourne. Readers' contributions and letters are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

Articles should be submitted by email to editorial@centre.org.au. Please use minimal formatting and do not embed graphics in documents. Photographs of suitable resolution for reproduction should be sent as graphic files attached with the article.

Finance

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

News distribution

The *News* is distributed free throughout North and West Melbourne. Get in touch if you know of anyone not receiving their copy. Further copies are available from The Centre, the North Melbourne Library and online at www.centre.org.au.

Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$20 per year (four issues) sent anywhere in Australia.

Volunteers

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

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Send contributions, letters and feedback to:

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Email: editorial@centre.org.au Telephone: 9328 1126

WINTER 2021 ISSUE
Contributions deadline: Friday 14 May
Publication date: Friday 11 June

SPRING 2021 ISSUE
Contributions deadline: Friday 20 August
Publication date: Friday 17 September

SUMMER 2021–2022 ISSUE
Contributions deadline: Friday 5 November
Publication date: Friday 3 December

NWMN advertisement sizes and rates for 2021

Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1732.50	\$1457.50
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high)		
or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$841.50	\$731.50
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$610.50	\$533.50
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)		
or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$451.00	\$390.50
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$225.50	\$198.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$121.00	\$104.50
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$104.50	\$88.00
• 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 <i>News</i> reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.		
• Email Advertising.NWMN@outlook.com for info and bookings.		

Easter Services in North and West Melbourne

St James Old Cathedral, Anglican
Corner King and Batman streets,
West Melbourne (opposite Flagstaff Gardens)

Palm Sunday 28 March 10.00am Holy Communion
Good Friday 2 April 10.00am Passion Reading
Easter Sunday 4 April 10.00am Holy Communion.

All services in the building are now also live-streamed at www.youtube.com/stjamesoldcathedral

St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic
Corner Victoria and Howard streets,
West Melbourne

Saturday 27 March 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Passion (Palm) Sunday 28 March 10.15am Sunday Mass; 12.00 noon Sunday Mass (in Lithuanian); 5.30pm English Mass — palms will be distributed at each Mass
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 29, 30 and 31 March, 7.00am and 12.30pm Weekday Mass
Holy Thursday 1 April 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 2 April 10.30am Stations of the Cross; 11.15am Seven Words of Our Lord on the Cross Sermon; 12.00 noon Holy Rosary; 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 3 April 8.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 4 April 10.30am Easter Mass; 12.00 noon Easter Mass (in Lithuanian); 5.30pm English Mass

St Mary's, Anglican
Corner Queensberry and Howard streets, North Melbourne

Palm Sunday 28 March 8.00am and 10.00am Services; 2.00pm Walk for Justice for Refugees
Maundy Thursday 1 April 7.00pm
Good Friday 2 April 10.00am Service

Sat 3 April 9.00pm Great Paschal Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 4 April 8.00am and 10.00am Services

St Michael's, Catholic
456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne

Not available at time of going to press

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic
35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Canning and Dryburgh streets)

Orthodox Ukrainian Easter will be celebrated on Sunday 2 May. Follow plans for the Great Fast and Easter services at www.catholicukes.org.au

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist
51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne

Passion Sunday 28 March 10.00am, a reading of the passion narrative of St Mark, with Eucharist
Maundy Thursday 1 April 7.30pm, a Tenebrae ('Shadows') service
Good Friday 2 April 10.00am
Holy Saturday 3 April 8.00pm Easter Vigil, with Eucharist
Easter Day Sunday 4 April 10.00am Eucharist
Check the MtE homepage for any COVID-19 impact on plans: www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

West Melbourne Baptist Church
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne

Good Friday 2 April: Walking the Way of the Cross. Meet 9.30am at West Melbourne Baptist Church and Community Centre, to take a short, gentle, meditative local walk stopping at different 'stations' to hear Good Friday readings. Walk ends in Miller Street Reserve with coffee and hot cross buns in the community centre.
Easter Sunday Gathering 4 April 5.30pm, 4 Miller Street



Mike Nicholson was profiled in the autumn 2020 issue of the News. He was about to open a new show at the Meat Market. Then COVID hit. But he has been busy planning the next public exhibition.

Want to know more?
Visit: Michaeljohnnicholson.gallery/



A new gallery space opened in January at West End Art Space (112 Adderley Street, West Melbourne). It includes a variety of artworks that show women artists working in a diverse range of contemporary art practices. Abstraction, in a range of styles – lyrical, expressive, intuitive, hard-edged, reductive and minimalist – is unified by an ongoing conversation on colour and light.

Want to know more?
Email westendartspace@gmail.com or visit www.westendartspace.com.au



Leah Justin, gallery director Anna Prifti and Charles Justin at the exhibition opening with an artwork by Fran O'Neill. Photographs: Amal Farah Photography



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