

41st year

NW MN

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

ISSUE 185

THE NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS IS PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEERS AT THE CENTRE: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc

www.centre.org.au



Bill Liddy, Alice Coulson, Lorna Hannan and Councillor Rohan Leppert with descendants of James Gardiner, Keith Gardiner (hidden) and Harold Gardiner.

Community day relaunches local park

A community picnic event on 1 June celebrated the relaunch of Gardiner Reserve after a \$2.8 million capital enhancement and expansion.

Councillors Cathy Oke, Rohan Leppert and Nicholas Reece were among the crowd of about 250 who enjoyed the day.

Indigenous elder David Tournier carried out a Welcome to Country.

Descendants of North Melbourne Football Club's James 'Tiger' Gardiner, whom the park is named after, shared stories of their grandfather and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Lorna Hannan and Bill Liddy from the Hotham History Project shared stories of local history and the importance of community.

The day was organised by a team of local volunteers (Alice Coulson, Duncan Miller, Alison Maddock) and City of Melbourne staff, including Community Engagement Partner Tallia Gillary.

Among the many activities were a Rotary barbecue, a performance by 'BBQ punk' band 'The Burnt Sausages', the Junior Ranger Trailer, craft activities and a pinata.

Despite a prediction for bad weather, luck was on our side – not a single drop of rain.



Kangaroos mascot Mufaro Muneri with band members from 'The Burnt Sausages'. Photographs: Jim Weatherill

From North Melbourne to the Royal College of Music

Rosalynd Smith

Jeremy Kleeman is a North Melbourne local through and through. However, he is planning to up sticks and leave in September.

One of Australia's fast-rising young opera singers, Jeremy was recently awarded the 2019 Australian International Opera Awards scholarship. The \$70,000 will allow him to participate in the opera program at the Royal College of Music in London.

"When you're thinking of moving overseas, you start to see all the things you're going to miss, so it's a bittersweet experience," he says.

At 28, the bass-baritone is well on his way to a professional career in Australia and has been working as a classical singer for the past five years. Stepping back into full-time study will come as something of a shock but this course will allow him to study with some of the opera world's most prominent coaches and specialists.

"It will take my craft to another level," he says. He will also perform roles in three opera productions at the London college. He is excited that they will be attended by agents and casting directors on the lookout for new talent.

Jeremy will be busy between now and September. His main project is a new opera by Elliott Gyger based on Peter Carey's novel *Oscar and Lucinda*. He will perform multiple roles as well as singing in the chorus. He sees it as the most challenging music he has ever had to learn, but says it is beautiful and cleverly expressive of the libretto by Pierce Wilcox.

The production by the Sydney Chamber Opera in late July will see him dashing between Sydney and Melbourne during the rehearsal



Jeremy Kleeman.

Photograph: Rosalyn Smith

period for other concerts.

Our last chance to hear Jeremy in Melbourne before he leaves will be when he sings the bass solo in Fauré's sublime *Requiem* with the Melbourne Bach Choir on 6 July at 7.30pm at All Saints Anglican Church, St Kilda.

Despite Jeremy's regrets at leaving North Melbourne, he is excited at the prospect of this great adventure. He sees it as an amazing opportunity and is very grateful for the scholarship support.

"At 30, the baritone voice starts to find its full power and expression, and I'm glad to be going into the course with some solid professional work under my belt," he says.

Jeremy hopes he will be able to carve out a career singing overseas and in Australia. A return to North Melbourne is definitely on the books.

North Melbourne resident Rosalyn Smith sings with the Melbourne Bach Choir.

Want to know more?

Tickets for the 6 July performance are available at: mbc.asn.au.

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Stop the press!

Congratulations to former board member and honorary life member of The Centre Lorna Hannan, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours list for service to the community through a range of organisations.

Rotary sausage won vote in a landslide

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary has ensured that the 'democracy sausage' is a feature of our local polling booths.

The club ran the sausage sizzle at North Melbourne Primary School at last month's federal election and turned the day into a successful fundraiser.

Setting up the equipment and cooking a few sausages is not as simple as it sounds. There's a lot of organising and always a few snags along the way.

The club's first job was to estimate the quantities of food required. We put in big orders of beef sausages, veggie burgers, hamburgers, eggs, bacon and onions, as well as three types of sauces and lots of bread and rolls.

Rotary also had to jump a few necessary bureaucratic hurdles to get approval from the school, the Australian Electoral Commission and the City of Melbourne.

Club members arrived by 7.00am to set up the equipment and start cooking. We kept serving until around 3.30pm when the food ran out. Fortunately, that was about the same time that the queues of likely customers started to dwindle.

We had 24 volunteers on the day and collected close to \$4,000. While we have several uses for the money, we contribute to the school fund that pays for school camps and excursions as well as uniforms for students whose parents struggle with such costs. We expect our first payment will be about \$1,000.

North Melbourne Rotary happily admits its prices were set at a level to make a profit with the aim of using that money

to do as much good as possible.

At \$4 a sausage and \$5 an egg-and-bacon roll, they were probably offer the dearest election sausages in Australia. However, of the roughly 1,000 sales, only two people commented about the price. In fact, many generously left the change with us.

This one event took up more than 150 volunteer hours and leftover food went to Missionaries of Charity in Fitzroy.

Neville Page is secretary of North Melbourne Rotary.



A welcome sight (and smell) on election day. Andrew Georgiou, Neville Page and Domenic Cichello were among the Rotarians who ran the barbecue.



The volunteers at the new polling booth at the Victorian Archives Centre missed out on the tasty treats. Maybe next time.



North Melbourne Primary School volunteers made sure there were some sweet temptations to distract voters. Photographs: Anne Burgi

Want to know more?

If you would like to sample a Rotary meeting, you are welcome to be our guest at one of our meetings at 6.30pm each Thursday at the Mercure Hotel, North Melbourne. If interested, please contact club secretary Neville Page on 0414 673611 or email on page@ghp.biz.

Imogen Bower

Matiu Bush was born a Kiwi but he now calls North Melbourne home since arriving here a decade ago.

A trained nurse practitioner, he specialises in aged-care innovation and has been involved in designing the world's first digital wallpaper in dementia units. By touching the paper, patients can make swans dive and cockatoos fly and also create snow angels. "It allows people with dementia to delight in shape and colour," he says.

Last year, Matiu's One Good Street proposal won state government funding. The social-impact start-up provides an online platform for people to offer

Ride down One Good Street



One Good Street founder Matiu Bush

their assistance to the elderly and participate in volunteer programs. It operates via a Facebook group and most of its 600 members are from North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington.

For many older people, the enemy is loneliness, especially as they become less mobile. Matiu's project harnesses the idealism of the young. "There is real appetite among young people to do stuff that benefits society and that looks after older people."

One Good Street already operates a 'Library of Aged Care Things' project. It allows older residents to access donated aged-care equipment, such as wheelchairs or walking frames.

Soon, it will launch its 'Ride to End Loneliness' project. It was inspired by a Copenhagen program in which young people

take residents in aged-care homes on a ride around their neighbourhood in a rickshaw-style bike. It allows them to view the sights they're no longer able to see independently while enjoying some pleasant company and some Vitamin D.

Matiu dreamed up One Good Street some years ago when he was helping look after an 83-year-old neighbour.

The good work of One Good Street not only eases a burden on the public health system. It also improves the mental and physical health of elderly people. "Research proves that the more

young people participate in such programs, the fewer older people enter emergency. It literally saves lives," Matiu says.

He points to the reciprocal benefit of young people being involved with the elderly. "They are the answer to reconnecting us to our humanity. When you're involved in the death of elderly people, we contemplate our own mortality. And through this, we reorientate ourselves to a greater sense of what is meaningful and spiritually nourishing for humans."

Imogen Bower writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

You can check out the project's terrific work via the Facebook group: [One Good Street](#).



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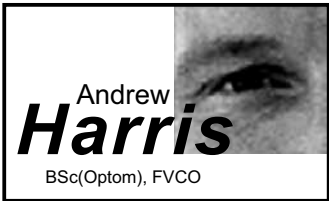
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Hong Kong students lend a hand at The Centre

Tanaka Nyamvura

Drop in to The Centre anytime until late July and you might meet Regina Pang and Jason Ng. The two social work students from Hong Kong Baptist University have just started on their six-week student work placements. For both, it's their first visit to Australia. "I'm thrilled but I admit I'm a bit nervous, and I really want to learn about the local culture," Regina says. "I'm keen to see how The Centre operates so I can learn how to organise community

programs in my future career." Jason is excited by the prospect of helping out at The Centre. "I know it will be a challenge and it will take me out of my comfort zone, but I'm looking forward to interacting with people from different cultures," he says. Both are keen to learn about our local community as they know this will be invaluable in their future aspirations. Regina plans to be a social worker and to help others, while Jason hopes to be involved in social work after graduating

then perhaps move on into counselling. They also have other plans during their visit. For Regina, it's an Australian icon that is beckoning. "I want to go to Sydney so I can tick the Opera House off my bucket list." Jason won't have to travel so far. "I want to taste your famous seafood that I've heard so much about. And I really want to go to the zoo and get a photo of me feeding a kangaroo." Tanaka Nyamvura is a new contributor to the News.



Jason Ng and Regina Pang in Hong Kong. Photograph: Regina Pang

Lort Smith's pet therapy program honoured at Government House

Suzanne Kundevska

Lort Smith's pet therapy program was celebrated by Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, and her husband Anthony Howard AM QC at a special event at Government House in early May. The function recognised 30-plus years of the North Melbourne-based pet therapy program and recognised the important contribution it makes to the lives of Victorians. In her speech, the Governor acknowledged Lort Smith and its commitment to preserving the human-animal bond in the community. "Lort Smith often helps to smooth the hard edges of loneliness, anxiety or grief. Or to make someone feel safer or more secure," she said. Megan Nutbean, Lort Smith's community outreach coordinator, who has seen first-hand how the program transforms lives, attended the special event. "It was an honour to have the pet

therapy program acknowledged in this significant way," she said. "The positive impact of the human-animal bond is real and is backed by scientific data. The research validates the therapeutic effects of human-animal relationships," Megan added. Lort Smith's pet therapy program trains, assesses and approves teams of volunteers and dogs that visit hospitals, residential care services, aged-care facilities and a variety of other settings. Pet therapy teams visit people who are often at a particularly vulnerable point in their lives. Interacting with a dog – and their volunteer handler – at such times is incredibly healing for vulnerable people. Last year, the volunteer-dog teams had 23,000 interactions with people, providing more than 2,500 hours of pet therapy all over Melbourne and beyond. The program was involved at many locations, including the Royal

Children's Hospital, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Royal Melbourne Hospital. To become part of a Lort Smith pet therapy volunteer team, pets and their handlers undergo a thorough recruitment process. Dogs need to be well natured and enjoy being patted, while the handler must be able to control them under any circumstance. This life-enriching program that Lort Smith provides free of charge is only possible with the help of our generous supporters. It is they who enable this rewarding program to thrive. Their kindness will help it continue for another 30 years and well into the future. Suzanne Kundevska is PR manager at Lort Smith.

Want to know more?
To learn more about Lort Smith's pet therapy program, visit: lortsmith.com/our-programs/pet-therapy/.

Fresh look for Errol Street icon



Locals had a chance to see the building behind the verandah when one of our heritage buildings underwent a facelift. The W.B. Simpson & Son office has been a feature of the Errol Street streetscape since 1939. The work was to replace the original verandah, which was removed sometime early in the 20th century. When you're in Errol Street, have look at the new verandah, including the ornate posts (inset). Richard Simpson said it was important to North Melbourne

and to Errol Street that we are able to preserve our rich Victorian history. The family-owned real estate firm's history stretches back to 1872. The founder, William Simpson, was joined by his son, J.W.A Simpson. Since then, the eldest sons have followed their father's footsteps. Most recently, Darrell Simpson was joined by his son Richard Simpson, the fifth generation to join the business.



Governor Linda Dessau and husband Anthony Howard with volunteers and therapy dogs at Government House. Photograph: Lort Smith

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. The Centre is looking for volunteers for the Spring Fling in October. Among the positions to be filled are:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Social Media and Marketing Coordinator
- Activity Coordinator
- Community Engagement Coordinator
- Graphics Coordinator
- Programming Coordinator
- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Event Assistant
- Site Manager
- Festival site crew

If you are interested please email staff@centre.org.au



Brens Pavilion to be upgraded

Yoey Maxwell

Brens Pavilion in Royal Park is used by more than 1,000 AFL, rugby and gridiron players a year. It's a great local hub – and it's about to get an upgrade. The number of women using Brens Pavilion and playing sport is growing fast. While this is fantastic, the current facilities – built in the 1960s for men – are now dated and in desperate need of repair.

The changerooms are tiny and overcrowded. Showers are open and directly adjacent to urinals. Toilets are broken. There is also an urgent need for safety lighting, as players currently have to walk to the tram or their cars in the dark after games.

When state MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell visited the pavilion with Rohan Leppert, Greens councillor for the City of Melbourne, both were keen to help.

We're really excited that the community's advocacy has succeeded. Melbourne City Council has committed \$800,000 in the 2019-20 budget to complete detailed design documents for upgrading Brens Pavilion as well as Ryder and Western pavilions in Royal Park.

This decision brings design work forward by a full year. It will allow construction to commence much sooner, which is great for the community.

Ellen has asked the state government to continue and expand the Female Friendly Facilities Fund, which provides funding to



Ellen Sandell (far right) with sports players in Brens Pavilion. Photograph: Yoey Maxwell

improve sports facilities for women. We will continue to advocate for this to help the council fund the works needed.

As the plans take shape, the local clubs and community will be closely consulted to make sure the upgraded facilities are as inclusive as possible. This upgrade is great news for all players of sport in inner Melbourne – and particularly for women and girls, who have long needed better facilities.

Sport builds connection and promotes health in our communities. We're proud to support local sports clubs and women's participation in sport, and we'll continue to work with the community until the upgrade for Brens Pavilion is complete.

Yoey Maxwell is an adviser to Ellen Sandell MP.

Want to know more?

Ellen Sandell MP is on maternity leave but community members can contact her office by phoning 9328 4637 or emailing office@ellensandell.com.

Celebrating culture and diversity through film

Eliana Jones

Spanish Language Fiesta visitors had the chance to see *Con Voz en la Radio*, a short documentary from Costa Rica.

The film was presented in collaboration with Melbourne Filmoteca, which shows enriching and diverse Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American films in Melbourne through the dedication of its many volunteers.

A Special Edition Program celebrates Filmoteca's 20th Anniversary with an eclectic mix of cultures, languages (Spanish, Portuguese and Indigenous) and genres (drama, suspense, comedy, documentary) for immersive experiences.



The films are delighting Melbourne audiences at monthly screenings, normally at ACMI Cinemas in Federation Square.

While ACMI's Fed Square building is being renovated, Filmoteca temporarily goes 'back to the future' by returning its original home at Treasury Theatre with an array of special events and Q&A sessions.

Want to know more?

For program details and ticket sales, visit: www.acmi.net.au/events/melbourne-filmoteca/.



Filmoteca members Montserrat Cuellar, Tatiana Echeverri, Diana Paez, Daniel Acevedo, Eliana Jones, Mariluz Fuentes and Peter Cheserem.

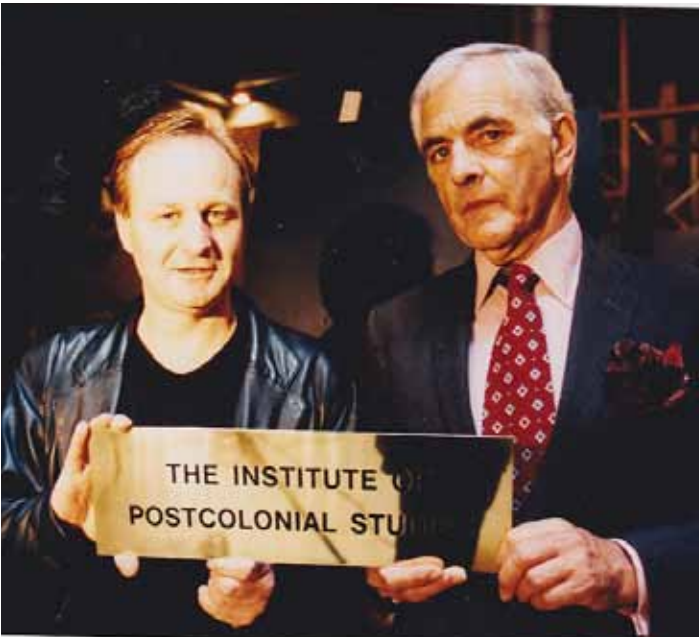
North Melbourne institute explores 'dangerous terrain'

John H. Smith

The Institute of Postcolonial Studies is a handsome building at 78-80 Curzon Street. Since 1996 it has been home to an independent institute dedicated to fostering a creative academic community identifying with postcolonial studies. This broad field examines politics, history and relationships between colonising and colonised peoples, and includes the destructive impact of colonialism on Indigenous societies. For 23 years the institute has drawn together diverse groups in programs examining 'dangerous terrains'. These include areas of knowledge on the edge of cultures and communities, which can be challenging. Topics for lectures and forums include working with young Muslims, Aboriginal peoples and Indigeneity, the soundtrack of war, border protection, the politics of climate, and Israel-Palestine relations.

The building was originally one of North Melbourne's many colourful hotels. Built in 1863 as the Souter Johnnie Hotel, it provided lodging, refreshment and a change of horses for travellers to the goldfields. After being decommissioned in 1904, the pub became a boarding house and slowly declined until, in poor condition, it was abandoned in the 1970s. In the 1990s a new life began to stir when friends Phillip Darby and Michael Dutton, academics from the University of Melbourne, reimagined the wreck as the home of an independent institute. Undaunted by the task facing them, Phillip called together business and academic friends. The property was purchased in 1996 with support from a benefactor. Renovating was a complex process that included converting the shambles that was the stables into an excellent meeting room. Three years later, the transformed

property was officially opened as the Institute of Postcolonial Studies. Professor Ashis Nandy, from Delhi's Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, conducted the launch and charged IPCS "to think boldly in terms of utopias and alternative futures". The institute flourished under the leadership of Michael Dutton and Phillip Darby, with PhD student Edgar Ng as executive officer. Michael accepted a position at a UK university in 2005 while Phillip continued as the director until his recent retirement in March, when Edgar also retired. This transition marks an important stage in the life of the institute as it keeps exploring new areas of knowledge. John H. Smith writes regularly for the News. Want to know more? The Institute's website can be found at <https://ipcs.org.au>.



IPCS co-founders Michael Dutton (left) and Phillip Darby. Photographs: IPCS



Phillip Darby and Ashis Nandy open the unfinished IPCS in 1999. Photograph: IPCS

Change of focus for community group

Gary Bateman

RAID@3051 held its annual general meeting recently at the North Melbourne Recreation Centre.

Members agreed that RAID will cease to operate as an incorporated organisation. This reflected the view that with the opening of the Woolworths complex, RAID had fulfilled its primary purpose.

Chair Peter Hogg said: "This does not mean that RAID@3051 ceases as a community group; rather, it frees up the governance requirements of being incorporated. RAID will continue as an informal entity to continue advocating for better integrated development in our neighbourhood."

A second special motion dealt with the group's finances. It was agreed that any remaining funds from RAID "be donated to a local community organisation with a like mission to that of RAID".

The meeting gave members the chance to reflect on RAID's achievements since it began in 2011 when local residents came together to seek a better outcome from the proposed North Melbourne Woolworths development.

RAID started as a small community lobby group with eight members. Early meetings were held around a committee member's kitchen table. The group peaked a year later with 165 members. Numerous meetings followed, especially in the early days and during preparation for the five-day VCAT appeal in 2013.

RAID campaigned strongly to raise funds and to take its case to court. Despite relatively limited resources, it fought the best fight possible. The group presented



Peter Hogg (chair) and Tess Demediuk (secretary) address the AGM. Photograph: RAID@3051

a very credible VCAT bid, which was overseen by local resident Jane Good through her legal firm, Brand Partners. Jane provided largely pro bono representation, and sourced and briefed our barrister and expert witness.

While RAID began as a single-issue group, it was active on many other fronts. It put its concerns about large-scale local developments to the City of Melbourne.

The group's engaged with a number of developers active in the North Melbourne area with the aim of giving the community a voice regarding acceptable expectations of integrated development.

The group is still concerned with local issues and continues to engage with Council on traffic management planning in the area.

Development will continue in North Melbourne and surrounding areas. RAID holds

that development is welcomed when done well, when it is not excessively large and when it gives something back to the community.

The group also remains committed to lobbying local, state and federal governments to appropriately invest in the infrastructure – schools, public transport, aged and child care, and open space – as necessary elements to maintain amenity in inner-city growth areas like ours.

RAID has been well supported over the years by members of the North Melbourne community – by its own members and their neighbours.

We especially thank Mr Kwan and his family, loyal supporters of RAID, who have run the IGA store in Melrose Street for years and have been affected by the nearby Woolworths development. In recognition of that support, many locals continue to shop at his store.

The contribution of committee members over the period of incorporation is acknowledged: Peter Hogg, Tess Demediuk, Marg Leser, Lorna Hannan, Angela Williams, Gary Bateman, Peter Keogh, Peter Topping and Megan Cusack.

In particular, Peter as chair and Tess as secretary have been tireless ambassadors for RAID since its inception. Thanks also to the City of Melbourne councillors Ong, Oke, Leppert, Reece, Shanahan and Kanis from whom RAID enjoyed support and positive engagement over the years.

Gary Bateman is a member of RAID@3051.

Pop Up Neighbourhood House in Docklands

From July, The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc will be trialling a Pop Up Neighbourhood House at the Docklands.

For two years we will be connecting and engaging with Docklands residents, helping locals take ownership in creating activities and programs that are relevant to them. We are very excited by this opportunity to use Community Development principles to help build a stronger, more resilient Docklands community.

This program has been made possible by the generous support of the City of Melbourne's Social Innovation Partnership program. As well as the City, The Centre will work with Development Victoria and other service providers and stakeholders.

One of the main priorities will be to provide opportunities for newly arrived residents to feel more welcome, to help build understanding, social cohesion, belonging and resilience through intercultural and intergenerational connections.

The Centre will also be working to create pathways to meaningful and secure employment for all members of our community.

Want to know more?
Volunteers are essential to the work of any Neighbourhood House, and if you are interested and would like more information please contact Carol on 9328 1126 or admin@centre.org.au.



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Miss First Nation crowned

Warwick Jones

The Meat Market on Blackwood Street hosted the Miss First Nation beauty pageant last month. And there was no shortage of spectacular costumes and dazzling glamour on display.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drag queen talent quest celebrates the diversity of Indigenous people. Eight Indigenous drag artists from around Australia battled it out to win the Miss First Nation crown.

A ceremonial fire-pit burning on the street welcomed patrons. Inside, a eucalyptus forest rose to the high trestle ceiling while overhead a neon sign read ‘Womindjeka’ (welcome).

Lenny Mickelo came from Brisbane to enter the pageant as ‘Sarah Moany’. “It’s all so cheesy, but there’s a ceremony when it comes to drag. It’s very ritualistic.”



Chocolate Boxx is crowned as Miss First Nation. Photograph: Warwick Jones

Lenny and Sarah share a sense of humour and a way of moving. “She is just me times ten,” Lenny smiles.

“During Miss First Nation, Sarah was reborn into the contemporary world, to a soundtrack of womb, water and heartbeat. She dances like the emu and the carpet snake, two of my cultural totems.”

Lenny’s been doing drag semi-professionally for eight years.

Before that, he danced for Bangarra Dance Theatre in Sydney for 12 years from when he was 18, straight out of school.

Last year he toured the country with Priscilla Queen of the Desert, playing Jimmy ‘the black fella’.

The first time he felt persecuted for being gay was at school when the girls would fight with him over a white satin dress on

dress-up days. “I wanted to look like Cinderella,” he says. “Maybe they weren’t homophobic, maybe they just hated that I’d take the dress.”

Lenny is nostalgic about the happy-go-lucky nature of his childhood. “I feel I could learn a lot from my younger self. I was so pure,” he says.

When he was just seven, Paul Keating called him “a pretty little girl” during a visit to Lenny’s hometown of Barcaldine in Queensland. He had grown up there with his mother, an opera singer and his earliest inspiration.

As young as three, Lenny would put on her clothes in front of her old-fashioned duchess and sing in the mirror. “My mum encouraged me to embrace my little free spirit, God bless her,” he says.

Lenny is from Bidjara country in central Queensland, and identifies with the Kalali, Gungulu and Jarowair clans. He says Aboriginal culture is very accepting of homosexuality.

“I’ve been to so many Indigenous clans, especially up in Arnhem Land

where the mob are proper black-ways and very traditional, and they only judge you on whether you’re a good person or not.

“It’s not like I run around like some screaming queen when I go to those communities, but it’s obvious what my sexuality is. They don’t care,” he says. “If there’s homophobia in Indigenous communities, it’s from the influence of Western culture.”

Sarah Moany was awarded runner-up and the coveted Miss Photogenic title with the Miss First Nation title going to the deliciously named Chocolate Boxx.

Her alter ego, Corey March, is a proud Dunghutti man. “When asked my name, I can say it’s ‘Boxx’ with two x’s. It could have been three, but I’m not that kind of girl,” Corey simpers.

His mantra is simple. “Let’s all be happy and love each other. We’re alive. What’s there to be mad about?”

Warwick Jones writes regularly for the News.

Annie’s helping hand full of wisdom and love

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Local psychologist Annie Cantwell-Bartl has always had a passion for social justice.

“I admit my background was fairly ‘toffy,’” she giggles, remembering her youth in Toorak and the NSW Riverina.

Annie earned qualifications in arts, counselling, theology and nursing before netting a master’s in both counselling and theology and completing a doctorate.

This red-headed pixie then managed a hyperactive psychological practice with many exceptionally compromised clients. At the same time, she mothered and raised five children with academic husband Bernd Bartl while also engaged in her love of fine horses.

Her reputation was enhanced during and after the 2017 Bourke Street massacre, when the government and emergency services appointed her to assist individuals who were caught in the turmoil.

Quite separate to her intense academic and professional years, Annie has herself been touched by life’s challenges since her early

moves as a child. “My father was a publican and we moved to Finlay – a small town in the Riverina – when I was just eight.

“I could roam to my heart’s content there. I learned to ride horses with a horse expert and excelled, competing at local shows around NSW fairly successfully,” she says.

The family moved back to Melbourne when Annie was 10. “It broke my heart. We left behind dear friends, dear horses and riding opportunities, but later I kept some horse events going and won the Champion Girl Rider competition at Geelong.”

She also returned to Loreto in Toorak in grade six, waking early to ride track work on thoroughbred racing gallopers. “I left school at the end of year 12. I was influenced by the Loreto nuns, all highly educated, feminist women who talked of social justice and opportunities for women.

“By contrast, my mum was a traditional wife and glamorous socialite who loved being photographed at the races,” Annie says, shaking her head.

“The Jesuits who visited Loreto showed us a contemporary theology and a questioning of all things. Not long after I lived in a group house and was introduced to left-wing politics.” Later, she married philosopher Bernd Bartl.

In her early career, Annie maintained a frenzied work-life. “I did an arts degree at Melbourne while nursing part-time, then at the end of second year had Ben, who was born with a deformed ear and some jaw shortening.”

Annie’s hectic life continued with a counselling diploma, the arrival of baby Anthony and work in drug and alcohol rehab. In an intense workload she interviewed 700 people – both patients and carers – where the patients were all dying of a terminal disease.

“This was an extraordinary journey for me,” she says. “When people in a vulnerable time of their lives told me what mattered for them, of wanting to live simply and responsibly to the natural world, of their relationships, of loving and being loved.”

Annie leans forward, her fingers knotted: “My son Anthony was hit by a car in



Annie Cantwell-Bartl.

Macaulay Road, Kensington. My sporty, active little six-year-old boy became paralysed from the neck down and on a life-support machine for his breathing.

“He spent 14 months in the ICU at the Children’s and another six months on a ward.” His parents also wore his trauma: “Bernd and I worked so hard to help generate for Anthony a real quality of life, in contrast to the doctors telling us he would have no quality of life at all.

“We advocated for a whole list of supports for his survival. That meant a van to transport Anthony to medicos and consultants, as well as 24-hour attendant care. We do it all here,” she says, proudly.

“Anthony is paralysed from the neck down, so as a consequence I became more aware of how families are affected by these traumas. That’s always been a part of my work-life, but now much more sharply.

“We brought Anthony home,” she says. Now living in a calming Kensington residence, which the 32-year-old’s parents designed for him, Anthony is nothing like his medical condition would suggest. He is a true product of his parents’ joint intellect – and Annie’s caring soul.

Despite his critical condition requiring 24-hour professional nursing and personal care, Anthony has a glorious attitude to life. “He says ‘Life is a gift, Mum – I’ll give it what I can,’ and he does,” Annie says with pride. Now tertiary-educated, Anthony is proof that medical trauma can be overcome with love.

Annie now ricochets daily from psychological consultancies to lobbying meets to caring for racehorses at trainer Colin Hayes’ Flemington stables.

Annie’s wonderful theme of life is simple: it’s aiding and ensuring potential. It’s one she’s superimposed on her relationships and peaceful surroundings.

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey writes regularly for the News.



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On duty at the North Melb Community Centre

Mike Muscat

Lockie Allen made his first connection with North Melbourne Community Centre back in 2016.

The North Melbourne local spotted a job ad for the centre's duty manager and jumped at the chance to apply. "Unfortunately the position went to someone else but I was offered a role as a customer service officer, and I've been here ever since," he says cheerfully.

Watching Lockie in action at the front reception desk shows why he has become a fixture of the place. He attends to every enquiry without ever dropping his smile, and engages shy children as he answers their parents' questions about the facilities.



Lockie Allen behind the desk.

The well-equipped gym and large stadium are not the centre's only drawcards. The facility also

offers a rich range of health and family services targeted to members of the local community.

"It's a great place to work," Lockie says. "Every day is the same but every day is different." He glances up to wave to Tim Masic who is sitting at a nearby table.

Tim has attended the centre since 2008 and describes himself as its "best customer", while admitting he doesn't actually use the facilities. "My role here is to be kind to people, converse and make people feel good," he explains.

Lockie grins as he adds his own assessment. "Tim doesn't use the services – he is a service." Lockie's co-worker, Shani Cashin, nods. "There aren't many Fridays he's missed, he's always here chatting to people," she laughs.

Lockie and Shani are absorbed as they review a video they have recently uploaded to the centre's Facebook page. It is promoting a new basketball program for community members who are intellectually disabled.

"It's a great opportunity for them to meet up every Tuesday and have fun and socialise," Lockie says. "We just need to think up a cool name for the team." He and Shani trade a few suggestions before he diverts his full attention to the next customer at the reception desk.

As gymnastics coach, Shani sees not only the fitness benefits her sport brings to local children but also the social benefits as well. "It's so rewarding to see these kids achieve skills they never thought they could. It's not so much about

teaching technical jumps as it is about learning how the body moves and just having a go," she says.

The children also learn how to interact with others, how to build self esteem and to learn patience and respect. "I had a mother tell me recently that lining up for the trampoline was where her son learned how to be patient and wait," Shani says with a smile.

Mike Muscat is a new contributor to the News.

Want to know more?
The North Melbourne Community Centre, at 49-53 Buncle Street, is open to all North Melbournians. Drop in and be sure to say hello to Lockie. Check the website: <http://www.nmcc.ymca.org.au>.

Arts House Refuge explores displacement

Jane Noonan

Each year since 2016, the Refuge project at Arts House has dropped audiences into the hot zone of a different climate-related disaster.

From floods to heatwaves to pandemics, Refuge gives audiences fascinating new ways to explore their own response to climate change through a program of compelling events.

These events have been created by Refuge bringing together people who might not normally collaborate in a crisis. They include artists, Elders, academics, scientists, local residents and experts from the world of emergency services.

Refuge 2019 is taking a leap into the foreseeable future to consider the idea of displacement

– the displacement of people prompted by climate change crisis, and Australia's own histories of displacement.

One event in this year's Refuge program is the *North Melbourne School of Displacement*; a live art installation and discussion project by Sydney-based artist Keg de Souza.

"This project has actually grown out of a project I did in Sydney's Redfern, the neighbourhood I live in," Keg explains. "The first *School of Displacement* was originally presented at the *Biennale of Sydney* in 2016 and came about because I wanted to really focus on local issues and on local politics that have global relevance."

The school 'building' in the project is actually an expansive, dome-like structure created



The School of Displacement 'building' made from discarded tents. Photograph: TextaQueen

from a multitude of tents. "These have been salvaged, donated or purchased from op shops and recycled, so they're all basically discarded materials," Keg says.

The fragments are sewn together, creating a beautiful stained-glass effect, breathing new life into a previously disposed-of item, an item that can also become a metaphor for displacement.

Keg is co-programming this North Melbourne edition of the *School of Displacement* with Melbourne-based writer Claire Coleman, author of *Terra Nullius*. "Claire and I are working to create a program drawing on histories of displacement – especially in this country – and using them to learn from, and think about, the future," she says.

Topics planned for the four

days of the program include: 'Over Our Heads – housing and homelessness'; 'In a strange land – how does culture survive when you can't go home?' and 'A billycan, a crowbar and an axe – Indigenous survival techniques for the Apocalypse'.

Keg's vision is a simple one. "We hope that it's a welcoming space for people to come and participate, a safe place to discuss these particular topics, and an inviting prospect for local residents to come and talk about their own particular issues in the area."

Jane Noonan is communications coordinator at Arts House.

Want to know more?
Refuge takes place at Arts House at North Melbourne Town Hall in August. Local residents are encouraged to participate in the program of events. More details can be found at artshouse.com.au/refuge.

Dr. Rebecca Manger
MB.BS, Dip RANZCOG, FRACGP
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The plains-wanderer. It's an Australian bird that is genetically distinct. Evolution has seen it battle on for ages, and there is estimated to be only 1,000 mature adults left in the wild. Once they ranged from southern Queensland through New South Wales, through Victoria and into South Australia. And now I hear that these seriously cute flightless birds are endangered. It's the first I've heard of them.

There's no point talking about the recent federal election. But how could the coalition and Labor have clashed over climate policies? Labor had one, a crappy one, and the coalition didn't have one. Where were you, Melissa Price? But even under Labor, Australia bitched and whinged against the Kyoto Protocol. It ended up as a wishy-washy

VERY IMPRESSIVE

thing – millions spent on it and no civilised person wanted to sign it.

◆◆◆

Margaret Atwood published her first novel, 'The Edible Woman', in 1969. But she only came to my attention when I learnt of 'The Handmaid's Tale' 18 months ago. I'm loving the HBO adaptation of 'Handmaid'. But now I've read Atwood's 'The Heart Goes Last', I'm wanting more. I've missed out on lots, including the excellent title, 'Strange Things: The Malevolent North In Canadian Literature' (1996).

◆◆◆

Bloody! Amazing! Show! 'Rogers

Waters: The Wall' has recently finished on SBS Viceland. The stunning show was interspersed with footage of Roger, his gorgeous 75-year-old self, driving a magnificently sedate 1930s Bentley through Europe to visit his father's grave for the very first time. Give me a chance and I'd easily take him as one of my older Husband Options.

◆◆◆

Mark Andrew Laidler. I only just found out today that your magnificent self is gone. Sadness Reigns Supreme Over Me. You were one of my favourite



Melbourne people. Though I only knew you since 1999, I had two solo art exhibitions in your Collingwood Gallery and we had many conversations on art. I'm devastated to no longer have you and I'm going to be remembering you FOREVER.

◆◆◆

All that Clive Palmetto nonsense. Hundreds of thousands of dollars spent; all those nasty campaign ads. We put up with all that, only to get the worst possible result of endless climate inaction. If Adani is approved, then surely the mine Clive Palmetto wants to put right next door will also be approved. Both have been advertised as the LARGEST open cut coal mine In The World.

Very Impressive regularly shares his views on life in the News

On your bike ... and you're off to Pentridge Prison

Are you a guerrilla bike rider? All you need is to ride without a uniform and to drag along a friend or two to explore new places.

In this two-hour ride, you're off to jail. Leave North Melbourne, follow the wonderful Merri Creek and head for the old Pentridge Prison.

Find your way to the Capital City Trail, either under the freeway or at Flemington Bridge station. The bike path crosses over Flemington Road and will take you past the back of the zoo. Keep going through picturesque North Carlton. Here, two bike crossings give you priority over cars, the only two priority crossings in the entire trail.

Don't ride up busy St Georges Road. Just diverge left at the bike path intersection shortly before Rushall station. This short path takes you over

WHEELS ON FIRE

Tim Cremean



the Merri and swings left, bringing you up to the St Georges Road bridge. Now, head back towards the city on the bridge. Take the second exit down to the creek and you're on the Merri Creek Trail.

Follow your nose until you come to the Coburg Lake dam wall. This path will take you past lush parklands, Ceres Community Environment Park (buy a plant, care for the planet, have a coffee), the Russian Orthodox church with its onion domes, and the refurbished Brunswick velodrome.

Cross the Moreland Road bridge and rejoin the trail across the creek. Pass the fire service yard and you'll arrive at the Kendall Street suspension bridge. Then ride beside the idyllic vegetable gardens that make excellent use of the fertile flood plain soil.

You'll soon reach the dam wall. From there you can explore the Coburg Lake reserve. Or you can cross over to Murray Road, turn right for 100 metres, cross at the lights into Stockdale Avenue, then ride through the new housing estate to the end and turn right up the hill.

In Church Street, you'll find the Boot Factory café. The building is steeped in

history as it was once the old Pentridge Prison boot factory in which prisoners made boots for their guards.

To get home, either go back along your outward path or you can take the quick way. The left side of Church Street will take you across Sydney Road and along O'Hea Street. Turn left at the Upfield line bike path and cycle straight back to the zoo through groovy Brunswick.

If you're lucky you can race a train and enjoy the boom gates clearing a path for you. But don't race the boom gates. That's never a good idea.

This ride has a bit of everything. You'll get out of jail and you'll find some good coffee. Keep pumping those pedals!

Tim Cremean shares his love of bike-riding in each issue of the News.

Runners welcome the bitter chills of winter weather

It's getting chillier by the day and winter is finally upon us. It's time to rug up and pull out the coats from the back of the wardrobes.

For runners, it's a thrilling time. The arrival of cold and rain is just what we wanted.

Yes, it's marathon time. Runners thrive in colder weather. We're probably the only Melbournians who you won't hear complaining about the bitter June chill.

Others might choose to huddle up inside near the heater. However, serious runners do their best training sessions in the winter as they tune up for their marathons and competitive runs.

As I wake to the sound of rain pelting down, I'm rapt. There is nothing better

MARATHON GIRL

Thea Oakes



than running in the cold and the wet.

Do you know that you burn more calories during workouts in colder weather? Even if you don't care about calories, running in the cold also helps strengthen your heart, as it has to work a little harder to pump that blood.

So, there's some motivation for those of you who are put off by the winter gloom. Get those running shoes on.

If you're into serious training, perhaps with a marathon ahead, here are some tips to help you get to that finish line.

Embrace the treadmill. Yes, I agree, sometimes winter weather can be just too horrendous, and you can't bring yourself to run outdoors. Enter your friend, the treadmill. A treadmill run is much better than no run, even if, like me, you're a strictly outdoors runner.

Buy some proper cold weather training gear. You don't have to run in a singlet and shorts, unless you want to end up a delicate shade of blue. A long sleeve and compression pants will be fine.

Stick to a training schedule. It will keep

you honest and ensure you're training like a real pro. Check the Melbourne Marathon website, which has some great free training programs. Download them now!

There are lots of great events coming up. The Tan Running Festival is right on us (30 June), then there's Run Melbourne (28 July) and, later in the year, the classic Melbourne Marathon (13 October).

All three events have distances to suit runners of every level. It's so important to have an event marked on your running calendar. Runners know that clear goals keep you motivated.

Thea Oakes writes a regular running column for the News.

Language has lessons for teachers and students

Tanaka Nyamvura

For many students at North Melbourne Language and Learning, picking up a new language is a means of survival. Misbah Wesene is a recent arrival from Somalia. A young father, he found knowing English was essential when he almost lost his job. “I realised how important it was for me to improve my English skills when I started getting bad reviews from my customers,” the Uber Eats driver says. He is now a star level-two student and his rapid progress has landed him a new part-time job. Sahra Ahmed, who is also Somali, has faced the grim reality of unemployment. “With no English, you can’t get a job,” she says quietly. Poor health has prevented the young mother of three small children from making rapid progress in learning English, but she has high hopes of gaining the qualifications she needs to work in childcare. At North Melbourne Language and Learning, both Misbah and Sahra are taking government-

funded classes that will lift them to level-three competency. This standard gives students a working knowledge of the English language so they will be able to write basic English and put together a cover letter and a resume, both so essential to getting a job. All Language and Learning students receive ongoing support from the many volunteers who make excellent use of the available resources. Classroom assistant Laurie Armstrong has been volunteering for five years. “I retired two years ago after many years teaching as a planner at Deakin University,” he says. “I heard about the program from a friend and, as my career wound down, I came here to help these wonderful students.” For Laurie, volunteering is a way to make a positive contribution to society. He is now acutely aware of the challenges faced by the recent arrivals whom he assists. “As a monolingual man myself, I can’t imagine how these people are able to learn a second language,” he says. At Language and Learning, his

role varies from helping teachers with lesson plans to providing one-on-one support to students. “Seeing how the students are so grateful and dedicated to learning is why I volunteer.” Hoang Nguyen, herself a former student, now volunteers as an administration assistant once a week. Unfortunately, even though she is a level-three English graduate, she is still unemployed. But even though she is finding it difficult to get that elusive job, the nurturing environment at Language and Learning is one of the reasons she has returned to help others. “The people here are really nice and they’ve taught me a lot, and I will continue volunteering so I can gain the skills I need to be able to get a job. I came to Australia after I got married. I love the different cuisines here, I love them all,” she smiles. Not all volunteers are long-termers. Connor Sallen has only been on board for a month and travels from Preston for his weekly session. He loves seeing the students making progress and says it has already made him a more open-minded person. “I interact with people from different backgrounds and I now have a better understanding of where they’re coming from. It’s a great experience.”

The relationship between North Melbourne Language and Learning’s dedicated students and the generous volunteers is heartwarming. Each of them is having their own lives changed, one person at a time.

Tanaka Nyamvura is a new contributor to the News.



Volunteer Laurie Armstrong (left) with student Jampa Tsewang.



Volunteer Hoang Nguyen (standing) with student Thi Hanh Dinh.




Volunteer Connor Sallen (right) with student Meng Zhang. Photographs: Manatosh Chakma

From the archives

The *North Melbourne Advertiser*, a four-page local newspaper (1873 to 1894), published some lively letters to the editor. One unhappy reader, Philip Ryan, took issue with young boys playing noisy games and using colourful language. Just imagine that! “As a resident of Little Arden street, I would like to ask, through the columns of your widely read paper, why it is there is no police supervision in this district. “From midday to midnight there is a constant uproar occasioned by boys playing all sorts of games, accompanied by language unfit to be described. “All this might be tolerated if they proceeded no further, but when it comes to throwing stones and other missiles, causing breakage of windows and other damages, besides endangering the limbs and lives of the residents, it is surely time the police authorities should look after the matter.”

– North Melbourne Advertiser (Friday 12 March 1886)

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Vietnam vet shares Anzac story with students

Amanda McArthur

North Melbourne Primary commemorated Anzac Day at a school assembly the afternoon before the public holiday.

Year 6 student leaders acted as hosts and shared the honour of explaining the meaning of the Anzac story and reciting the ode of remembrance. Then followed the Anzac Day address, the stirring Last Post and a respectful one-minute silence. The ceremony concluded with Reveille.

Principal Sally Karlovic introduced this year's speaker, Bob Slater AM, a regular at the school's assembly for the past eight years. Bob is a retired Australian Army brigadier and saw action in Vietnam. Two grandchildren, Griff (year 5) and Nimmy (year 2), attend the school while two others, Angus and Felix, are past students.

Bob told the children of the significance of the Anzac Day dawn service and reminded them of the sacrifice of those who had



Vietnam veteran Bob Slater at NMPS at the Anzac Day commemoration with grandchildren (from left) Nimmy, Griff, Felix and Angus.
Photograph: Amanda McArthur

given their lives. He explained how the Anzac Day march is a commemoration of service over self and of the mateship that flowed from service to the nation.

To illustrate his words, he told the story of five boys from two families, all of whom attended the school in its early days when it was called the Errol Street Primary.

The two Kleeberger brothers volunteered within a month of the outbreak of WWI. Both boys went ashore in the second wave of the Gallipoli landing. Both were badly wounded. One died of wounds while his brother went on to fight in France before returning home at the end of the war.

The three Neely brothers also

fought on Gallipoli in the later stages of the doomed campaign. One was killed at Lone Pine where he is buried. The other two boys went on to fight in France. One was killed in the bloodbath at Pozieres and the remaining brother returned home at war's end.

The two boys, one from each family, who survived the war

and came home to their families would have reflected at Anzac Day dawn services on their brothers who died in conflict. Their service must never be forgotten. Then, during the Anzac Day march, the two would have joyfully reunited with their mates who were also fortunate enough to return home to a grateful nation.

Bob's inspiring address touched the children with its simple message. He urged them to remember those who served and died, to embrace Anzac Day as a symbol of proud service to the nation, and especially to grasp their school's strong link to the Anzac story.

It was wonderful to see how attentive all students were during the assembly. They clearly sensed that Anzac Day is an important national occasion that reminds us of the sacrifice of those who served.

Amanda McArthur is Bob Slater's daughter. She has two children at North Melbourne Primary School and two others who are past students.

St Al's students tread the boards in *Hairspray Jnr*

Jodie McLeod

More than 40 St Aloysius College students took part in the performance of *Hairspray Jnr* in May. The production ran for five nights at the college in front of a total audience of more than 1,200 delighted parents and friends.

The performance was a spin-off from the Broadway production *Hairspray*. It is set against the background of the developing American civil rights movement of the early 1960s and follows the story of pudgy teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream to dance and sing on television.

In achieving this, she came to lead a great change, under a banner of social justice, for race integration and acceptance of everyone regardless of their colour or their ethnicity.

The students immersed themselves in the production, displaying skilled dancing, perfectly blended harmonies and fast-paced energy. They were fortunate to have the tuition of professionals who guided them through their acting, singing and dancing. Their performances were enhanced with the latest digital screen technology, which added brightness and colour to the stage.



Amber Sindoni leads the cast as Tracy Turnblad. Photographs: Jodie McLeod

So many people contributed in other ways to the production's success. While it was the performers who received the applause at the final curtain, so

many others in the background made it happen by their work in essential areas such as costumes, hair and makeup, props, audio and lighting.

Year 12 student Amber Sindoni played the lead role of Tracy Turnblad. "The show has made me grow and develop as a performer and has provided me

with fond memories of my final year," she said. "I feel honoured to have been a part of it. Nothing will ever beat that electric feeling of opening night."

Amber was well supported by many fellow performers. They included Mia Simpfordorfer (Tracy's mum, Edna), Greta Linehan (Corny Collins, TV host), Beatrice Madamba (Penny Pingleton, Tracey's best friend), Abigail Clayton (Link, Tracy's heartthrob) and Aanisha Monterio (Motormouth).

Aanisha won the audience over with her moving rendition of 'I Know Where I've Been'. "I loved performing in the musical. I learnt so many new skills," she said.

For Beatrice, the connection with the audience proved thrilling. "I loved hearing them laughing and obviously enjoying our performance."

Drama teacher Nadia La Velle directed *Hairspray Jnr*, while Natalie Ward was vocal director. "It was wonderful to watch the students put time in and develop as performers as they learnt new skills. They worked collaboratively to stage a wonderful production," Nadia said.

Jodie McLeod works at St Aloysius and was musical producer for *Hairspray Jnr*.



Performers in full voice in *Hairspray Jnr*.

If you can speak, you can sing

Susie Kelly

Simonds College is building a strong culture of music among its 435 students. The school has found it was a challenging task convincing boys who have had little exposure to music to attend regular rehearsals and to move out of their comfort zone. However, great progress has been made. Teenage boys often struggle with singing in their high school years. They tend to see it as something that's not cool or manly. To make matters worse, they are at the same time experiencing huge changes in their voices. Last year, a small choir was established and began to meet weekly. Just months later, our students had the amazing opportunity to sing at the Hamer Hall as part of a massed choir



Stephen Taberner leads the young blokes at his 'Sing Like a Bloke' workshop. Photograph: Susie Kelly

from Melbourne boys schools in the Associated Catholic Colleges' ACCent on Music concert. Even then, the school's music teachers were concerned that it was still only a small minority of students making music. As a result, they applied for a grant through our cleaning contractors, Danihers, who generously funded 'Sing Like A Bloke' workshops for every year 7 to 9 student. In March this year, 40 boys were sitting in the newly renovated music room, looking very nervous. Then an energetic New Zealander in a peaked cap bounced into the room and immediately grabbed their

attention by starting a clapping game. Soon, they were all clapping along. The Kiwi, Stephen Taberner is a vocal guru and leader of the Spooky Men's Chorale. He told the surprised boys, "If you can speak, you can sing." Rather than beginning with scales, a song or even vocal warm up, Stephen started with rhythm – the basis of all music. He proved an instant hit. "We began by just playing games and copying silly accents, shouting responses at different pitches, and basically copying everything Mr Taberner did. Suddenly we were singing," says Matteo Encena,

junior music captain. By the end of that first session, each group had experienced singing in several parts. They also sang a South African song, 'Shosholoza', which has become a big hit in Simonds' crowded corridors. Nhial Michael, a drummer and year 8 student, recalls watching a Youtube video of Stephen's group, The Spooky Men's Chorale. "They were wearing funny Viking hats and singing 'Dancing Queen' by Abba as if it was a Swedish folk song. They had really good singing voices and it was pretty inspiring." Stephen has passed on his

wisdom, wit and musicality to more than 200 students. They have learnt that whenever they speak, they are actually singing, as they have learnt to copy pitch since they were babies. They learnt how puberty changes the male voice, and a series of fun activities ensured their confidence soared. Some boys have recently formed a group called 'Rebel Clefs' and it has sung various popular songs chosen by students. After all, a teenage boy who sings has to be a bit of a rebel!

Susie Kelly is music convenor at Simonds College.

Penguins a highlight of Phillip Island camp

Rita Totino

Last term St Michael's Primary took 42 excited children on camp to Phillip Island. Five teachers accompanied the grade 4, 5 and 6 students, and all returned to school as very happy campers indeed. Activities included feeding

the pelicans at San Remo, riding bikes, flying on the giant swing, dangling from low ropes, and climbing the mechanical wall. While some of these were challenging, students and teachers alike overcame any initial nerves. The children were thrilled to experience the exhilaration of

being pulled 10 metres above ground and then dropping and swinging through the air. Felicia (grade 5) mastered the giant swing with ease. "I am so glad I did that. It wasn't that scary after all," she said. For Hayden and Astha, the big attraction was the mechanical wall, and they took the risk of

dialling up the wall's speed. Teacher Helen Coates was most impressed with their agility. "They clambered up it like little monkeys, they were so good," she said. The highlight of the camp was rather more sedate. On a balmy evening – just a distant memory now as winter's chill

bites – the children waited for the penguins to emerge from the sea. When they did, they were met by squeals of delight. As they waddled to their burrows, thunder rumbled in the distance. Teacher Anne Draper highlighted the broader benefits of the Phillip Island camp. "It allowed us to learn more about the children's hidden talents, the sort that may not shine at school. We learnt lots about them, and they learnt lots about us," she said. As with all school camping experiences, the benefits are often unseen. As the children explored the natural environment of the island, they were able to share stories and collect items of interest to take back to school. All the while, they were becoming mindful of the beauty of nature. Some children loved the camp for simpler reasons. While camp fare is not always to everyone's taste, Tony (grade 5) gave the chicken and chips a definite thumbs-up. "That was so delicious," he said. "Can I have seconds?"

Rita Totino is the learning and teaching leader at St Michael's Primary School.



St Michael's students and teachers at the Phillip Island camp. Photograph: Rita Totino

Not so green after 53 years!

Gary Dowling

Kevin Mansfield is a living treasure of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club. The 84-year-old's love affair with lawn bowls started 53 years ago.

"I had my first game in Perth way back in 1966. In 1974, when work brought me back to Melbourne and I was living in the Hotel Spencer in West Melbourne, I bumped into club president Harry McKenzie. He soon dragged me down to the club."

Just one year later, he was elected secretary. Kevin proudly reels off the many other roles he has held. "I was the club treasurer, greens director, greenkeeper, delegate, selector. I was made a life member in 1985."

He recalls West Melbourne as a much more colourful place in those early days. "Famous horse trainer Tommy Smith used to drink at the old Flagstaff Hotel during the spring carnival, but I never drank there often. The beer cost too much and I could never back a winner."

The area was also the base of the Hare Krishnas. "They were a colourful lot and they used to do a lot of singing and chanting." He smiles as he recalls the equally colourful *Truth* newspaper just around the corner.

Kevin has seen the club's fortunes wax and wane over the years. "Numbers dropped off in the 1970s, and we didn't have many young members. Then in the 1990s we revived a bit when workers in the nearby Customs office started to join."



Kevin Mansfield in action using his bowling arm. Photograph: Jeff Attard

Then two separate events ensured the club's current success. Mick Molloy's cult film *Crackerjack* sparked a surge of interest in lawn bowls, and at the same time the club established its long relationship with sponsor City Mazda.

"We used to have very few female members, but now women have leadership roles both on and off the green," Kevin says.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing. In 1994,

fire destroyed much of the club building. "It even got into the bar area," he grins ruefully. "The gold lettering on the club's honour boards melted, but old photos have been used to keep our records intact."

The club rose phoenix-like from the ashes. "We set up a temporary bar in the greenkeeper's shed and put in new drainage lines. I was very honoured to have a new synthetic green named after me in 1995." He also played a key role in forming the club's board of management.

With council approval, the club has been redeveloped with a synthetic green, new clubrooms and a turf green. Now, the club's excellent facilities are frequently used by the local community.

Kevin recalls the club's Division 6 pennant premiership in 2005. "I still play the video of that year and our celebrations. After the win, our president, the late Cliff Noonan, walked tall with his chest stuck out for a long time," he smiles.

"I encourage people to have a go at the game, you can play it whatever your age. And it's more skilful than people think. Also, we're a great club. We've had lawyers, professional types, tradies and knockabouts."

Kevin still enjoys a regular beer (medicinal purposes only!) and a weekly flutter on the nags. And he definitely won't hear a word against his beloved Western Bulldogs.

Gary Dowling is vice-chair of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club.

Get on board at The Centre

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc is overseen by a volunteer committee of management ("the board") of up to nine people.

The board meets 10 times a year for about two hours, and also presents to Centre members at the annual general meeting in September.

Board members should be good team members and interested in local community life. The board should have a broad range of skills, but this year candidates with corporate governance or accounting experience would be especially welcomed. Board terms run for three years.

The atmosphere is collegial, the role is engaging and the results for our community are worth the effort.

Want to know more?
Contact The Centre's director, Tom Seddon.
The Centre, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne, phone: (03) 9328 1126.

Ready for a Spring Fling?

Volunteers are needed to help at Spring Fling 2019 on Saturday 19 October. There are plenty of positions to be filled.

Contact:
springflingfest@centre.org.au

Errol's Angels fly around the world in song

Kate Ritchie

Helen Michell is one of the founding choristers in Errol's Angels community choir. The group has been a feature of North Melbourne's music scene since 2002.

As the Angels' librarian, Helen can speak confidently of some of the choir's most impressive performances and of the camaraderie of being in the group.

Back in 2002, she saw a choir notice in this newspaper and thought it would be interesting to sing and to meet new people. From its humble beginnings, the choir has moved to larger premises over its almost two decades and it has performed at many festivals, hospitals and fundraisers.

Starting out with some well-known tunes like 'Summertime' and 'You Are My Sunshine' through to Bach and 'Stand By Me', it was determined early on that experience or the ability to read music was not necessary.

"It was felt that sharing and the positive vibes that come

from being in a choir was more important. It has even helped me get over winter colds and flus," she smiles.

As the Angels' librarian, Helen has access to a huge range of works that have either been performed, canned or are to be looked forward to. Some that stand out include 'Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica', the South African national anthem, and 'Siyahamba'. "The rhythm and melodic African works are challenging, but they sound marvellous," she says.

Helen enjoys the challenge of foreign languages and highlights songs performed in African languages, Hebrew, Spanish, Japanese and Macedonian. Then there was 'Bohemian Rhapsody', with its complex musical arrangement that we never quite made work.

The choir has a number of enthusiastic bass and tenor men who make such a difference to the sound and the types of works we can attempt. If you think you are the next Freddie Mercury, or just enjoy singing, you're welcome to join.



Helen Michell and Maryanne Clements. Photograph: Kate Ritchie

Under the direction of Maryanne Clements, the Angels love the repertoire and the relaxed atmosphere. As well as works from around the world, we are now practising some penned by Maryanne herself. A bonus is learning about the inspiration for the lyrics.

Helen would love to see more locals join the choir and get the 'buzz' that we all enjoy. "My neighbours often ask me what we're doing or when is the next performance. I encourage them to come, but some have a bit of performance anxiety and most of

them are busy people," she says. "If they only knew what they are missing out on."

Helen loves singing baroque music, and especially enjoys 'Ave Maris Stella'. At the same time, 'California Dreaming' is also one of her favourites. One day she might join a big musical performance such as Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. "Until then, I'll keep turning up on Thursday nights," she laughs.

Like her fellow choristers, Helen enjoys performing for good causes in front of appreciative audiences. Being an Errol's Angel sure is a great antidote to life's pressures and winter woes.

Kate Ritchie is a member of Errol's Angels.

Want to know more?
Errol's Angels practise on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm at the Maternal and Child Care Centre, 505 Abbotsford Street (near Flemington Road) and follow the school terms.
No auditions needed. Just turn up, or enquire at The Centre in Errol Street for more information.

It's an art group for everyone

Nancy Lane

Melrose Art Group attracted several new members at the April Spanish Language Fiesta. Group secretary Pat Duncan, organised an exhibition at the fiesta featuring the group's six Latin American members. These artists come from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Despite their varying styles and techniques, they share a love of painting and the use of bright, inviting colours.

Many of the 20 or so group members come from other countries – Malaysia, Mauritius, Malta, Poland, Israel, Russia, Ukraine and Australia, of course. Pat herself is originally from Scotland, and despite having spent 32 years in Australia, her still-strong accent is a giveaway.

Initially, she dabbled in painting, as well as ceramics, when she was working and living in Edinburgh. When she arrived in Melbourne, she continued those interests by joining a pottery course then taking painting classes in Footscray.

Fourteen years ago, during her long service leave, Pat's father-in-law suggested that she take a look at the Melrose Art Group exhibition. She liked the idea of painting regularly and joined up, later dropping out when she briefly returned to work.

"But after I retired, I had a nice Monday routine: swim at 8 in the morning, then start painting at 10," she says.

"That was when Jean McKendry ran the joint. Jean's motto was that the seniors group should be open to all. We have tried to stay true to that motto, even after Jean passed away."

The group keeps a supply of paints and other materials for those who don't have the money to buy them or who just want to



Pat Duncan (left) with Latin American artists Carmen Lucak from Chile and Nelida Barroso from Argentina, setting up the Melrose Art Group's exhibition at the Spanish Language Fiesta in April. Photograph: Nancy Lane

give painting a go. The group has also received grants to provide professional support.

Last year, Wiradjuri artist Judith Young came once or twice a month to run classes. This year, artist and jewellery designer Phebe Parisia has run workshops in watercolour, collage and linocut, and has acted as a mentor. Over the past 18 months, Joanne Sullivan has facilitated *en plein air* painting sessions at scenic spots around Melbourne.

Pat herself likes to paint mainly in oil or acrylic. "I haven't quite mastered watercolour," she admits. She enjoys taking photographs of her favourite places and then converting them into paintings.

Pat has exhibited her work regularly, including at Hobson's Bay 'Art in Public Places', Brunswick Street Gallery, Linden Gallery's 'Postcards' exhibition, Altona Rotary exhibitions and the Melrose Art Group's annual exhibition. She has recently started to post photos of her paintings to Instagram at @patdunart.

She is one of the nine female artists in the Creativity Cluster.

This group recently held a month-long exhibition and daily art activity program at the Renew Geelong Concept Space.

Pat also tried her hand at teaching for the first time, running workshops on the basics of acrylic painting and on creating your own mandala.

Over the years, the Melrose Art Group has come to mean much more to Pat than just painting. "We have lunches together, we go for five or six outings each year. But most of all, we enjoy getting to know each other and learning about each other's cultures."

Her wish? "When people read this article about us, they realise that they don't need any materials or painting experience to join. No matter a person's cultural background, they will be welcomed to our group."

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

The Melrose Art Group meets every Monday from 10am to 3pm at the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre, 109-111 Melrose Street, North Melbourne. Contact Pat Duncan, 0403 443 021.

Focus is on wellness

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Completely Well Woman (CWW), a new general practice at 142 Chetwynd Street, North Melbourne, specialises in women's medical concerns.

Dr Rebecca Manger treats female medical conditions and brings 30 years experience as a GP in Brisbane and Melbourne's inner west. Born in Altona, she spent her secondary and tertiary years in Australia's north, graduating in medicine from the University of Queensland.

Dr Manger, 54, moved back to Melbourne in 2001 then spent 13 years at a Yarraville general practice where she conducted sessions in women's health. "I like to take my time with women's appointments, so here at CWW we give 30-minute consultations, rather than the usual 12-minutes," she says.

"I don't think I'd ever decided to be a doctor ... until I was," she reflects. "However, I was so interested in the study it could have taken me anywhere. You don't really learn to drive till well after you have your licence and you don't comprehend medicine's scope until you start doing it."

CWW consults on preventative health, including cervical cancer screenings, breast checks, contraception and blood pressure analysis.

Sexual health matters are fundamental to many women, so CWW also provides STD tests and manages patients' recovery. "Contraception is predominantly a woman's concern, so we write pill scripts, as well as inserting Implanon devices for other women," Dr Manger explains.

"The Implanon is a plastic polymer about the size of a matchstick that is inserted under the skin of the upper arm. You can prove you have effective



Dr Rebecca Manger. Photograph: Supplied

contraception 'on board' in a nightclub under the ultraviolet lights," she smiles. "There's no missing its glow!"

Dr Manger inserts and removes IUDs, as well as delivering Depo injections once every 12 weeks. "Depo is a plain progesterone shot for unreliable pill takers."

"We also examine fertility issues and manage pregnancies, especially through our accredited shared maternity care provision with the hospitals, as well as the many postnatal care concerns."

"It's amazing today, but something like one-third of all Australian pregnancies are unplanned, according to Marie Stopes Australia, the only national, independently-accredited and safe abortion, vasectomy and contraception provider. They help women take full control of their reproductive lives," she says.

"CWW's gynaecology sector is a huge subject in its own right. We also consult on menopause and the resulting osteoporosis, or lack of bone density, for many women."

Women who are interested in an appointment can ring practice manager, Karen, on 9329 1763 or through the website www.completelywellwoman.com.au

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey writes regularly for the News.

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THE GREENS

Authorised by D. Lawson, 296 Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC 3065.

Training wheels are off for first-year teachers

Maurice Gaul asked first-year teachers at our local schools about how they have handled their first two terms in the classroom.

Alicia Keighran

Alicia Keighran is delighted she's teaching in an all-boys school. The one downside is that at just 158cm, navigating the crowded corridors is a problem. "I get lost amongst the crowd of tall adolescent boys," she laughs.

A science teacher at Simonds College, Alicia knew her first year teaching would be challenging. "Friends are surprised I chose an all-boys school," she admits. "However, after two minutes into the first class, it wasn't an issue."

First up, she had to explain her Irish surname. "I said: 'It's Keighran, rhymes with Ed Sheeran'. Then soon after that, one of the boys said: 'Hello, Miss Edsheeran'. We still laugh at that."

She felt the first-day nerves of all starting teachers. "I wanted to make a good impression and help the year 7s transition to secondary. They were nervous too. Since then we've both been on a journey."

Keen Collingwood fan Alicia shares footy talk with her sports-mad students. Her year 8s tease her about the Eagles' Dom Sheed, who sank the Pies in last year's grand final. "Dom Sheed gets mentioned every single day," she says ruefully.

Alicia's good relationship with the boys was sparked at the year 7 camp. "We built a rapport, talking about music and sport. I had a kick of the footy but was better at shooting hoops."

She has learnt to stop putting pressure on herself. "I still plan classes but I realise I can complete things the next day." After initially struggling to draw the line between school and her personal life, she now sets boundaries.

"I don't take my laptop home at weekends. I'll go out with friends and I love shopping. Clothes are my biggest killer. And definitely shoes!" she smiles.

Not every moment has been smooth sailing. "On my first day, I had to show the boys how to use their lockers, but I couldn't open the lock. Everyone was giggling until one showed me how."

When she's teased with the old line that Collingwood fans rarely have trouble unpicking a lock, Alicia rises to the bait. "That's so not fair," she says, rolling her eyes.



Alicia Keighran (Simonds College)



Susannah Woolley (North Melbourne Primary School)

Susannah Woolley

Susannah Woolley came to the classroom after finishing a degree in journalism. "I loved talking to people and writing their stories, but I always knew I'd end up in teaching," she says.

Now, in charge of 21 lively young Preppies at North Melbourne Primary, Susannah is writing a new chapter in her life. "I felt prepared after my training but it's been a big learning curve and I'm learning as much as they are."

It's a long way back to the first day of school in February's searing heat. "It was daunting and I was nervous, but the Preps were more nervous. There were more tears from the children than the parents," she smiles.

That first day was a time for settling. "I wanted them to feel safe and happy, so we had lots of cushions, toys and breathing exercises to calm them down. Once we buddied them up with someone, they were fine."

Susannah's eyes light up as she sums up her first half year. "They grow so quickly. I love the light-bulb moments as they learn to spell words and listen to sounds. Watching them build confidence and friendships is beautiful."

She freely admits there have been hurdles along the way. "There are a lot of balls in the air and I'm learning to keep juggling the important ones. It's been a challenge, I knew it would be, but in Prep there are funny moments every day."

Every first-year teacher has to learn how to survive. "You've got to know when to stop," Susannah says. "You're the best teacher when you're not exhausted. But I admit I think about teaching all the time, I don't just switch off when I walk out the door."

Susannah has developed her own personal survival plan and has it down pat. "I catch up with friends, I keep up a social life, and once I get home and go for a run, I feel much better."

In spare moments, she's enjoying reading Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. The novel's angry teenage rebel, Holden Caulfield, is a world away from Susannah's joyful Prep classroom.

Kristy Boettcher

Kristy Boettcher brings an impressive background to the classroom. Trained as a P-12 teacher, her studies in behavioural science and health education have given her a broad basis for teaching.

She takes PE at St Aloysius College and teaches year 11 psychology. "During my training, I had experience as a sports assistant at my old school in Warragul," she says. "It's helped me in teaching PE here to girls sometimes not so keen on sport."

Working in Melbourne, far from home and family in Gippsland, has been a challenge. Kristy admits to what she calls a few "weak moments" in term one when she missed home and had to adapt to the endless demands of the classroom.

However, she is now happily settled and laughs about her first day. "I was nervous, I had six lessons out of six, and my first class was PE. I forgot my phone and I couldn't mark the roll as the net was down, but it all went OK."

Since that awkward start, it's been a breeze. "Our camp in Torquay was great. The girls really came out of their shells, and we did activities ranging from surfing to water safety," she says. "And now, back at school, I'm doing self-defence and street safety with the girls."

Kristy has learnt the unseen reality of teaching. "There's lots of admin work, I'm a year 7 home-room teacher and there are always pastoral issues. There's a lot more than lesson planning, and they don't tell you that at uni," she smiles.

She has also come to terms with the tyranny of teaching. "Early on, I'd go home to Warragul and spend all day planning lessons. Now I realise I have to plan a bit smarter."

Kristy has taken on the role of St Al's rowing coordinator. "I didn't know anything about rowing," she admits with a laugh. However, as she explains how she prepared for the task, she exudes enthusiasm and energy.

"I researched rowing's technical aspects over the summer, and I did a coaching course. I've also borrowed from the expertise of the parents of our rowers." An 'oarsome' effort indeed.



Kristy Boettcher (St Aloysius College)



Hayley Kermonde (St Michael's Primary School)

Hayley Kermonde

Hayley Kermonde had some valuable hands-on teaching practice before starting as a first-year teacher this year. "After finishing my degree, I was employed last year as a learning support officer," she says.

She worked as a teacher aide at St Michael's Primary. It proved an excellent move. It gave her a practical taste of teaching and also led to a position on staff.

Hayley laughs as tries to recall her first day. "It was five months ago and it's a bit of a blur now. We did lots of get-to-know-you games, but it was just a whirlwind. I knew how to teach lessons but that first day was a challenge," she admits.

Now, with almost half the year gone, things have settled down. She takes the grade 4-5 composite, and it was a bonus that she knew the children from her teacher aide experience with the grade 3-4 composite last year.

"We do lots of shared work with the grade 5-6 class next door and we have three year levels in the one space. It works well," she says, oblivious to the cleaner tidying up the tables in the classroom.

Hayley enjoyed the camp to Phillip Island. "We did abseiling, went horse riding, tried the giant swing and visited the penguin parade. We had a rotating rock-climbing wall and you could turn up the speed so the kids had to climb it really fast."

She enjoyed seeing the children outside the school setting and seeing the quieter ones grow in confidence. "As we walked to the penguins, a boy said: 'Isn't this breathtaking!' I thought, 'Oh my gosh, you're just eight,'" she laughs.

Hayley admits her first year has had its challenges. "It's different to the student lifestyle where you work when you want, get up when you want. This year, I always seem to be working on something."

She has learnt to separate herself from the tyranny of teaching. "There's been more work outside school than I expected. Now I set boundaries. No schoolwork after 7pm or on Sundays. I like to go hiking, I make jewellery and I sew."

BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chris Saliba



The People vs The Banks

Michael Roddan
(Melbourne University Press, RRP: \$34.99)

The banking royal commission, long resisted by government and the industry itself, lifted the lid on a snake's pit of scandalous behaviour. There seemed to be no bottom to the wrongdoing. The banks basically had a licence to pickpocket their customers.

A steroid-fuelled sales culture took no prisoners when it came to signing up people to useless financial products.

Overlooking this feeding frenzy was a rogues' gallery of corporate executives and managers. It's astonishing that such highly paid individuals could be so incompetent, causing so much damage to their respective institutions. Witness the demise of former treasury head and NAB chairman Ken Henry, singled out in Justice Kenneth Hayne's final report.

Michael Roddan, a finance journalist with The Australian, has written a rollicking page-turner that doesn't shy away from skewering some of the banks' worst offenders. The book employs a sharp, acerbic wit making it an entertainment, almost a lark and a frolic.

That doesn't distract from the serious issues at stake. Roddan devotes chapters to some of the cases the royal commission covered but the media forgot, such as the treatment of Indigenous Australians by the finance sector.

A worthy document of a sorry history in Australia's corporate culture.



The Nancys

R.W.R. McDonald
(Allen & Unwin, RRP: \$29.99)

Eleven-year-old Tippy Chan's mother has won a holiday, a two-week cruise. Enter babysitters Uncle Pike and his new boyfriend, Devon. Fabulous, funny and creative, they have descended on the New Zealand town of Riverstone.

Uncle Pike fled Riverstone as a teenager and found refuge in gay Sydney. Now he's back with a vengeance.

Tippy and Uncle Pike share a love of Nancy Drew novels. When a grisly murder happens in the small town – Tippy's teacher is found dead, headless – Tippy and Uncle Pike form The Nancys, a crime-solving club inspired by Nancy Drew. Their sleuthing opens up a new side of Riverstone: it turns out many of the locals are not what they seem and some of Tippy's closest relationships are forever changed once the real murderer is discovered.

R.W.R. McDonald's The Nancys mixes brilliant comic writing with a carefully plotted whodunnit that keeps you guessing until the last page.

The cast of small town characters is vividly drawn and true to life – there's many an eccentric or annoying type you'll recognise in these pages. Most of all, it's Tippy's wry, self-deprecatory narration that wins the show.

A truly original debut that charms from the first page to the last.



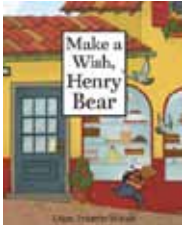
Make a Wish, Henry Bear

Liam Francis Walsh
(Roaring Brook Press, RRP: \$26.99)

Last birthday, Henry Bear made a wish, one he regrets. He wished his parents were more fun. As a result Mama Bear and Papa Bear now encourage him to eat cake for dinner and stay up late watching TV. Mama Bear scoffs that school is boring. Why not take your toys along? Henry Bear is almost at his wits' end. He's always late with school homework and is falling behind.

When Henry Bear meets new girl Marjani at school, he tells her his troubles. She has an idea to solve his problems. With another birthday coming up, why not make a new wish? Henry Bear does so and his old life returns. His parents start acting like adults again, making sure he is in bed early and well rested for the next day at school.

Writer and illustrator Liam Francis Walsh's Make a Wish, Henry Bear is a delightfully told cautionary tale about the perils of getting what you want. His charming illustrations, with their soft colour palette, capture the cosy atmosphere of a close family. The introduction of a hijab-wearing bear, Marjani, adds a nice touch of diversity. An ironic, often droll bear story that is sure to keep its young audience enthralled. (Age: 3+)



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

MAKING MUSIC

Ruby Smith



Rule Of Four

HEXDEBT

A punchy, tight debut album from Melbourne punks HEXDEBT, *Rule of Four* is a knockout. HEXDEBT don't feel like visitors in a boy's club of punk, they feel totally unselfconscious, completely at home.

As delightfully aggressive as Agnes Whalan's staccato vocals are as they chant through the album, the band knows when to pull back and let the impressive instrumental work of Isobel D'cruz Barnes (bass), Aife Larkin (guitar), Whalan (guitar) and Lucy Fry (drums) shine on tracks like 'Covenant'.

A smoothly integrated album, *Rule of Four* can lose some of its specificity in a number of filler tracks that really act as preamble to the following songs.

It's an album with a few too many overtures, but HEXDEBT are skilled enough to let you enjoy simmering in hazy instrumentals on tracks like 'Flux'.

An impressive debut from a band with a promising future.



UFOF

Big Thief

Big Thief's third album, *UFOF*, is softer lyrically than previous albums. When Adrienne Lenker (vocals) moves away from the macabre poetry of Big Thief's previous albums, what replaces the absence is pure joy as she fills the album with colour and light. *UFOF* is an album that remains small, that revels in it. The insistence on such an intimate scale feels confident and comforting, without constraining its emotional capacity. The result is distilled nature, reflected in both Lenker's lyrics and the looping, fairytale musical backdrops of songs like 'Open Desert', an album standout.

Big Thief never succumbs to kitsch, grounded by the background darkness that stood out on previous albums. Songs that threaten to float into a forgettable ether are grounded by swampy, looping baselines and shimmering, immaculate riffs (provided by Buck Meek and Max Oleartchik, respectively). This album feels both immediately comforting and totally alien.



Ruby Smith is a North Melbourne student and works part-time at Heartland Records.

Local volunteer drivers sought

The Leukaemia Foundation is calling for volunteer drivers in the North Melbourne area to help transport people living with blood cancer to vital medical appointments.

The foundation's much-loved patient transport service has been providing people with free transport for more than two decades.

It currently has limited volunteers available, so many local people living with blood cancers are either unable to access the transport service or are on long waiting lists.

Local residents can help the foundation to continue this vital community service by giving a few hours of their time – either weekly, fortnightly or monthly. You can make a real difference for a person living with blood cancer.

To find out more, contact 1800 620 420.

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Get a hit of Zen on court

Tim Cremean

The North Park Tennis Club is set among the gum trees in the western edge of Royal Park. It is almost a meditative environment.

Cockatoos and lorikeets squawk in the trees and hollows. The recently enhanced man-made billabong plays host to water birds. Cyclists pedal past the club along the bike path that snakes up the hill. Only the hum of the traffic queue, just metres away in Elliott Avenue, makes it less than a rural idyll.

The three artificial grass courts are like carpet sprinkled with sand. They wear and play well. The small club has a proud history boasting many pennants and trophies. There's a big barbecue for social events, excellent lighting that comes on automatically as daylight dims, and a computerised booking system. The courts are well used for lessons, competition and social tennis.

For years we had a resident cheer squad of a few weathered colourful characters who most likely were sleeping rough in the park. One liked my left-handed shots and even offered some free coaching and match-point adjudication. He has since moved on and I miss his advice.

As my body ages, I need all the encouragement I can get. I only took up tennis in my forties as a social hit and giggle when I could squeeze it in between work and family. I now realise it is the best aerobic sport of all. You can play when you want, without heaps of equipment. Tennis is also unisex and social.

I've been a keen North Park member for about 20 years. I've played evening competition



North Park club coach Gabriel Moise. Photograph: Tim Cremean

mixed doubles and had lessons from coach Gabriel to develop a backhand. Now, with more free time, I play several times a week. Unfortunately, my body is waning and I occasionally need time off to recuperate.

I now enter the court like Monty Python's black knight. A crane could lower me onto the synthetic grass, kitted out with elastic ankle straps, knee support, groin container and occasionally an elbow sleeve. Before a game, there's stretching and walking to limber up.

Tennis, like golf, gives the satisfaction of hitting a beautiful shot. Also like golf, many shots are not so beautiful. As I lack skill, I compensate with court coverage. There's nothing more satisfying

than returning the ball at full stretch. Even better if the ball drives deep down the line for a winner.

Serving was always a mystery to me until a friend asked: "Have you tried keeping your eye really on the ball?" It works! I now watch it like a hawk, even after I've hit it. Occasionally, all the moving parts come together with the simultaneous rotation of the body and the striking of the ball.

Tennis is a great game. It'll keep you fit and introduce you to new soulmates. It'll cleanse your mind of life's daily worries as you reach that Zen state of tennis consciousness. It's cheaper than hiring a guru.

Tim Cremean writes regularly for the News.

SHAPING OUR STREETS Syd Sherrin

Redevelopment is not a new idea

North and West Melbourne still proudly display a number of properties of significance, but many have been demolished over the past century.

One of the most significant was the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum building.

The asylum was built on the hill of Victoria Street, circa 1860, bounded by Miller Street, Abbotsford Street, Elm Street and Curzon Street. The buildings were demolished in 1911, and a new subdivision of land was created and sold off to the public.

The allotments were substantial and the houses built around 1920 are still sought after for their opulent Edwardian architecture and spacious designs.

The streetscape of North Melbourne was further transformed in 1958.

Victoria's premier at the time was Henry Bolte, who could see that there was a lack of quality accommodation for many young professional people wanting to

live close to the major hospitals and universities.

There were many old slum houses in North Melbourne in the block bordered by Arden, Abbotsford, O'Shanassy and Curzon streets.

Mr Bolte drafted the Slums Reclamation Act in order to demolish these houses, many of which were in very poor order.

A.V. Jennings and Master Builders Associated designed and built 108 one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, in six blocks of 18 units.

These apartments were beautifully landscaped, and today they still are in demand.

The premier also created low-interest loans specifically designed for female employees of the hospitals and universities, providing an excellent incentive for them to buy an apartment in this new development.

W.B. Simpson & Son sales manager
Syd Sherrin has worked in North Melbourne since 1989.



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Boomerang bags

Volunteers make 'Boomerang' shopping bags from recycled fabric. Buy one from the Centre or come and help us make them.

ELLEN SANDELL STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen – I'd love to hear your ideas and concerns.

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NWMA annual
general meeting

The Association held its annual general meeting for the calendar year 2018 on Tuesday 16 April this year immediately followed by the April ordinary general meeting.

The following members were elected unopposed to the committee: Kevin Chamberlin (chair), Sebastian Clark (deputy chair), Jane Poynter (secretary), Jacqueline Stevenson (treasurer), Janet Graham (assistant secretary) and Bill Cook, Michael Horscroft and Geraldine Suter (ordinary committee members).

Michael received a vote of thanks and a round of applause for his outstanding 20-year service as treasurer.

Metro Tunnel Project

Four Association members, including a representative from the Hotham History Project, attended a meeting hosted by Rail Projects Victoria and Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) on 14 April to be briefed on the Legacy Art Program for the new Metro stations.

The briefing was detailed and the presenters were receptive to the NWMA group's ideas for artwork depicting the social, industrial and natural history of North and West Melbourne for the future station on the Arden site.

The Legacy Art Program covers two themes: to reflect the industrial, manufacturing and railway heritage; and to be a catalyst for urban renewal. In addition to site-specific artwork for each station, there will be an Indigenous theme linking all five stations. Expressions of interest by artists have now closed and only established artists will be considered. The budget for the North Melbourne station is \$655,000.

In response to CYP's invitation, the Association put together a comprehensive submission and

attached historic photographs, a reproduction of J.S. Calder's painting *Port Phillip Bay from the south-west corner of Royal Park* (c1860), a 1924 plan showing the railway sidings in the Arden area and a recent photo of the Geelong & Melbourne Railway Company (G&MR) 1857 plaque formerly embedded in a wall in Laurens Street and now in storage.

West Gate Tunnel
Project

This massive road project is well underway and nothing has happened to allay the Association's and other residents' fears about the impact of additional traffic pouring into West and North Melbourne from the exit at Dynon Road.

Another major concern is the effect on Moonee Ponds Creek, where new overhead roads will join the CityLink complex supported by huge concrete pillars sunk into the watercourse.

Moonee Ponds Creek is already compromised by CityLink, and further impacts, on both wildlife habitat and the enjoyment of this scarce natural resource by the rapidly growing human population, seem inevitable.

The West Gate Tunnel Authority has established community liaison groups similar to the Metro Tunnel Project's community reference groups. The NWMA has applied to have a representative in the West Gate Tunnel Project Community Liaison Group (North Group). One of our representatives in the Metro Tunnel Arden and Parkville Community Reference Group volunteered to take on this role too, as there are a number of issues common to both projects.

Friends of Moonee
Ponds Creek (FMPC)

The NWMA member of this group also represents the



North and West
Melbourne
Association

Kensington Association. He has found FMPC to be a valuable forum for sharing information about the local waterways. As mentioned above, Moonee Ponds Creek is also a major player in the Metro Tunnel and West Gate Tunnel projects.

Another form of pollution that could threaten the Moonee Ponds Creek area has come to our representative's attention: excessive noise from the new roads. A consultant has explained that road noise between midnight and 6.00am is not subject to environmental audit. It is also permissible for a number of isolated events that exceed the daytime noise limit to occur as long as there is not continuous exceedence.

Abbotsford Street
housing estate

The second meeting of the Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne, Community Consultative Committee has finally been called for Tuesday 25 June, eight months after the initial one. The 3.30pm start is not designed to encourage attendance by anyone who has a job.

The majority of dwellings on the estate will be private and there will be no true public housing. The balance of accommodation

will be community housing managed by community housing provider HousingFirst. Community housing does not provide the same protections as government-run public housing, leaving the most vulnerable tenants exposed to higher rents and insecure tenure.

The Abbotsford Street estate has been vacant for more than eight months and the site fenced off. We now understand that building of the new properties will not begin until 2021 with planned completion in 2023.

While more than 80,000 people languish on the waiting list for housing and about 300 sleep rough in inner Melbourne, this habitable accommodation lies empty.

Something is seriously wrong with Victoria's planning priorities.

Guest speakers

At the May meeting, Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis spoke about his roles as the community liaison officer at Melbourne North Police Station and secretary of the Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee.

Nick was responsible for setting up the highly successful Camp for Kids program, where troubled young people engage with the police in activities like bike-riding and role-plays. The attitudes and self-esteem of most youngsters improve dramatically, reducing the likelihood of a brush with the juvenile justice system.

Before the Carlton Police Station closed and moved to Wreckyn Street, Nick worked in Carlton at the time of the underground wars, later the subject of the first *Underbelly* TV series.

Another interesting experience he recalled was helping the keepers at Melbourne Zoo tranquillise and capture an escaped orangutan!

Want to know more?

North and West Melbourne Association meetings are open to the public and take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Bastow Institute, 603-615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. For further information email info@nwma.org.au or visit www.nwma.org.au.

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- Getting to know MS Word
- Creating Slide shows
- What is 'the Cloud'
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FROM THE DIRECTOR Tom Seddon



Once more into the laneways

April's Spanish Language Fiesta was a great day out. George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street were busy from start to finish.

The variety of Spanish and Latin American food, traders, singers, dancers, musicians and other activities in the lanes, the North Melbourne Library and the Legion Hall meant there was always something different to do, see or hear. Or eat!

Thanks to Fiesta coordinator Tatiana Echeverri and her team of volunteers and Centre staff, especially our MC, Catalina Gonzales, who kept everything jumping all day long. Also thanks to sponsors City

of Melbourne, Victorian Multicultural Commission and Niño Early Learning Adventures, and all our other supporters.

Spring Fling

Looking ahead to October, Spring Fling has been a fixture on the North and West Melbourne calendar for more than 40 years, with only a few exceptions. Spring Fling has occupied different parts of Errol, Queensberry and Victoria streets over that time.

It is ever more expensive and onerous to close several busy streets, divert the

tramline, and do the many other things required to deliver a major street festival safely and within regulations. We reckon it's time for a rethink. How about a party in the park? In the laneways? Different things happening in different places? What appeals to you? If you have ideas about the future of the event we'd like to hear them too.

For 2019, Spring Fling will take its cue from the Spanish Language Fiesta. George Johnson Lane, Little Errol Street and Raglan Street will come alive with music and dance, crafts and activities. And lots to eat and drink.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact The Centre. There will be lots of jobs to do both in the lead up and on the day.

Term 3: Courses and Programs

The Centre offers a variety of educational and social courses and activities. Monthly bus trips to interesting places. Classes to

improve your computer, phone or tablet skills. You can also learn about bookkeeping and accounting, customer service, job readiness and writing for publication. Pilates and movement classes. Join me on Thursday evenings singing with Errol's Angels. The full list is below.

Boomerang Bags

Boomerang Bags have really taken off. Thank you to everyone who has donated material, equipment, sewing skills and other help. Call The Centre or follow us on Facebook to find out when our next workshop will be, or drop by and buy a head-turning shopping bag made from recycled fabric.

Paper Crafting

A new program for Winter 2019 is paper crafting. Nancy Hoetker will lead classes in cardmaking starting in July. Call into The Centre for details. Who needs a Hallmark card if you can do better yourself?

On course with the Centre



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Errol's Angels Community Choir

Time: Thursday 7.00pm–9.00pm
Membership: \$176 / \$109 concession* per term
Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne

Home Away From Homework Club

Primary (Grades 4–6)
Time: Wednesday 3.30pm–5.00pm
Secondary (Grades 7–10)
Time: Wednesday 3.30pm–5.00pm
Cost: \$37 / \$27 concession*
Venue: North Melbourne Library

Open (Grades 4–12)

Time: Thursday 3.30pm–5.00pm
Cost: Free to City of Hobsons Bay residents
Venue: Altona North Community Library

Centre Adventures – Monthly Bus Trips

Time: Tuesdays 25 June, 23 July, 27 August 9.00am–5.00pm
Cost: \$42 / \$32 Health Care Card concession* #
Meet at: 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Community Morning Teas

Cost: \$5 or bring a plate of food to share
Time: Tuesday 4 June, 6 August, 3 September 10.00am–12.00 noon
Venue: 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

* subject to conditions

subject to staff–student ratios

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROGRAM

General Pilates Sessions for Term 2 break

The Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
\$23.50 per session
Tuesday 5.30pm–6.30pm
Thursday 6.30pm–7.30pm
Contact The Centre for dates

Tuesday Pilates

The Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
Commencing 16 July
5.30pm–6.30pm – General
6.30pm–7.30pm – General/Rehab
7.30pm–8.30pm – Introduction to Pilates

Wednesday Pilates

The Legion (behind North Melbourne Library)
Commencing 17 July
9.15am–10.15am – General

Thursday Pilates

The Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
Commencing 18 July
5.30pm–6.30pm – Beginners
6.30pm–7.30pm – Intermediate Plus
7.30pm–8.30pm – Intermediate

Older Adults Exercise Classes

The Legion (behind North Melbourne Library)
10.15am–11.15am – commencing 17 July
12.15pm–1.15pm – commencing 19 July

Cost \$194 per term or \$142 Health Care Card concession

COURSES

Bookings are now being taken for next term.
Contact The Centre on 9328 1126, at admin@centre.org.au or www.centre.org.au for dates.

Information, Digital Media and Technology

16 weekly 2½-hour sessions, including term break.
Wednesday 9.30am–noon
Cost: \$120 / \$90 concession*

iGadgets

Four weekly two-hour sessions, Thursday 10am–noon
Cost: \$25 / \$20 concession*

One on One IT Tutoring

Cost: \$60 per hour. Times to suit you.

Introduction to Customer Service

Eight 2½-hour sessions, Wednesday afternoons (TBC)
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession**

Introduction to Accounting/Basic Bookkeeping

Eight three-hour sessions, Friday morning (TBC)
Cost: \$75 / \$55 concession**

Introduction to News Media

Seven three-hour sessions, Tuesday 1–4pm
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession**

Classes follow school term dates unless otherwise stated.

The Centre also has tutors able to deliver workshops, short courses or one-on-one training on a variety of subjects. Minimum and maximum numbers may apply; fees (if any) will vary. If you are interested in Art Therapy, Photoshop, Teacher's Aide Training, Spanish Conversation, Job Interview Practice or Resume Writing get in touch!

The Centre: Connecting Community in
North & West Melbourne Inc
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne, Vic 3051
Tel: (03) 9328 1126
Office hours: Monday 10.00am to 6.00pm
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm





The *North and West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers from North and West Melbourne and the inner city. It is now in its 41st year of production. 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 and advertisements 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 subscriptions

Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$20 per year (four issues) sent anywhere in Australia. The *News* is distributed free throughout North and West Melbourne. Further copies are available from The Centre and the North Melbourne Library.

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.

Publisher: Tom Seddon
Editor: Maurice Gaul
Production: Anne Burgi
Proofreader: Liz Harrington
Advertising: Janet Graham
Distribution: Tom Seddon
Photographer: Jim Weatherill
Writers: Imogen Bower, Tim Cremean, Maurice Gaul, Very Impressive, Warwick Jones, Katrina Kincade-Sharkey, Nancy Lane, Mike Muscat, Tanaka Nyamvura, Thea Oakes, John H. Smith

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Please deliver contributions, letters and feedback to:

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

Provisional dates for rest of year

Copy deadline for Spring 2019 issue:

Friday 23 August

Publication date: Friday 13 September

Copy deadline for Summer 2019–2020 issue:

Friday 15 November

Publication date: Friday 6 December

North and West Melbourne News is available online at
The Centre's website: www.centre.org.au

Advertisement sizes and rates

Size	\$/issue	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)		\$1550	\$1300
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$750		\$650
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$545		\$475
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$400		\$350
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$200		\$175
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$105		\$90
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$95		\$80

- Prices ex-GST
- The *News* reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.
- Book a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount.
- Make your advertisement stand out in *full colour*.
- Prices are for supplied artwork (high-res PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.

Volunteers to cook and garden

Robyn Phelan

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program has been an important and integral part of North Melbourne Primary School's curriculum for many years.

We are making a call-out for volunteers who would like to join teachers and wonderfully enthusiastic primary-school children to cook and to garden.

Come and join the delicious camaraderie of the kitchen on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Bring an apron, your excellent, moderate or basic cooking skills and an appetite. Or bring some garden gloves or wear old gloves and enjoy our winter vegetable garden.

Importantly, you will need a Working with Children Check, which can be applied for online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au or by completing some paperwork at Australia Post.

Interested?

Please email north.melbourne.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. If you would like to know more about the program, see our website, www.northmelbourneps.vic.edu.au/



Meals prepared and ready to share, thanks to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

Photograph: Robyn Phelan

Work with the North and West Melbourne News!

The *North & West Melbourne News* always welcomes volunteers! If you're someone who loves your local community, then we want you. We need volunteers to help with editing, writing and distribution, so there are plenty of ways to get involved.

Do you have a keen eye for detail and enjoy making connections within your community? Why not work with our editorial team to help source stories and generate contacts with local groups?

Do you have a way with words and enjoy writing? Then you could apply as a contributor. We're always looking for well-written stories about the local area, so feel free to send us pitches and ideas or get in touch to ask for an assignment.

If you want to be involved but don't feel that the written word is your thing, why not join our distribution team or social media network? Getting the *News* to people is just as important as writing it. Volunteers are needed to assist with distribution, so if you're someone who likes a good walk then this might be the job for you.

Please contact us at editorial@centre.org.au
We'd love to hear from you.

North Melbourne Book Group

Third Monday of every month at 6.00pm
North Melbourne Library

17 June	<i>The Arsonist</i>	Chloe Hooper
15 July	<i>Transcription</i>	Kate Atkinson
19 August	<i>Bridge of Clay</i>	Markus Zusak
16 September	<i>Warlight</i>	Michael Ondaatje
21 October	<i>The Death of Noah Glass</i>	Gail Jones
18 November	<i>Any Ordinary Day</i>	Leigh Sales
16 December	Favourite books of the year	

All welcome — no bookings required

Enquiries 9658 9700

www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street

Enjoying each other's company in Gardiner Reserve

Mark your diary for Sunday 1 September!

Let's invite each other to gather again in the renewed Gardiner Reserve on Sunday 1 September at midday.

We'll see how this expanded patch of open space and playground is working for us. Watch out for the giant spider!

Bring a picnic if the weather is kind and your ideas about what else we want to see on our patch.

This will be another opportunity to meet old friends, welcome new neighbours and relax under the magnificent old peppercorn tree.

Maybe the new cinnamon wattle with red flowers will be in bloom!



Photograph: Marg Leser



Laneways were alive with Spanish sights and sounds



Linh Nguyen

Nearly 50 people – organisers, volunteers and stallholders – arrived early to transform George Johnson Lane into a vibrant laneway full of colourful decorations for the fourth Spanish Language Fiesta.

The Fiesta celebrated the beauty of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture, as well as the cultural diversity of North and West Melbourne’s community. It also connects community members regardless of their cultural or social backgrounds.

“It’s a place for people to come together and find resources, as well as immerse themselves in the culture,” says Tatiana Echeverri, The Centre’s community development officer and the fiesta coordinator.

By noon, people were flooding in along the red-bricked lane. The enticing aroma of Latino food filled the air from plates of obleas or arepas.

Children, eyes sparkling with excitement, lined up to have their faces painted or to make their own artwork using recycled materials.

Those who didn’t speak the language were able to join in a number of Spanish teaching activities. Despite its early-morning start, the introductory Spanish class by Farolito Spanish Language School was fully booked. The poetry performances, play-based Spanish sessions and storytelling for children at North Melbourne Library were also popular.

After the welcome speech, dancers and performers took the main stage. From the famous flamenco and salsa to the graceful cumbia, the music and the performers’ energy soon had the crowd joining in salsa and cumbia lessons conducted by Mosaik Experiences.

“The number of attendees increased significantly, and our activities were more inclusive this year,” Tatiana says. “Both children and adults were involved and enjoying different activities.”

It was a fun-filled day for the Spanish Language Fiesta team and participants alike. We can be sure it will be back next year, bigger and better than ever.

Photographs: Jim Weatherill, Linh Nguyen and Diana Paez

Linh Nguyen was a Spanish Language Fiesta volunteer.

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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