

A stitch in time behind the mask crusader

Anna Huynh

Deana Eddington began stitching gowns to protect front-line healthcare workers during the first lockdown.

In the harsher stage-four lockdown, the new North Melbourne resident found another way to help her community. She turned her sewing skills to making masks, and her efforts have seen her turn out well over 700.

It all started in her own apartment complex. Deana was taking a craft group in her unit when the news of a second lockdown hit. She quickly went upstairs to hand out extra masks for the people in her class. That small action immediately sparked a bigger idea.

"Oh, many people are going to need masks, I've already got the pattern and I know how to make it," Deana thought to herself. Then, rather than keep the idea bottled up, she posted an offer on the 'North Melbourne Good Karma Network' Facebook group.

"I put up a notice saying I'm going to make masks and, if you want one, just contact me," she says. Immediately, 150 orders poured in and, without knowing it, Deana had embarked on a journey that has filled her days in lockdown.

That first Facebook post led to the floodgates opening. Soon, supportive Good Karma network members were donating fabrics and elastic hair bands for the masks' earpieces.

"People were buying me gifts of flowers, chutney and chocolate. I was feeling the love and it was really nice. It was so gratifying," she smiles. However, she never suspected that her talents would be called on well beyond her usual contacts.



Louis XVII helps Deana stitch masks.



Deana's colourful masks.

Her post had somehow reached the healthcare workers at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Soon, Deana received an unexpected call. "A lovely lady from the Royal Melbourne said one of their professors, who was wearing a disposable mask, had broken out in hives and was forced to go home," she recalls.

Deana was asked if she could help out and provide her own beautifully stitched masks. "Of course I said 'yes'

at once. I ended up making a whole new batch of masks just for them," she says proudly.

She admits she has virtually never left the building since she threw herself totally into mask making. "I love doing it as it's kept me busy and productive. If I wasn't doing it, I'd be sitting around doing nothing," she says.

Deana is first to admit she couldn't have immersed herself in the masks without family help. Husband Grant has been her right-hand man, looking after delivery issues. And her standard poodle, Louis XVII, has happily taken on the role of greeting recipients during mask pick up.

Deanna's crusade began at the time of the forced lockdown of the North Melbourne high-rise towers. Since then she has sewn virtually without a break. "The numbers are big, but so is the joy. Okay, I admit I sometimes have an afternoon nap."

Anna Huynh is a new contributor to the News.

Pandemic affects policing in the inner suburbs

Nicole Pereira

A policeman's lot is not a happy one (Pirates of Penzance)

Sergeant Craig McIntosh can give the lie to that old line. A policeman for 14 years and now based at Melbourne West Police Station, he loves his work. "I dreaded a desk job and I didn't want to be doing the same things day in and day out," he says.

At Melbourne West, Craig's beat extends across the CBD and includes North and West Melbourne. "There's no doubt city policing is very different to suburban policing. My area rates high regarding alcohol-fuelled violence, protests and homelessness," he says.

With pubs and bars shut because of COVID-19 restrictions, alcohol-related violence has dropped sharply. Also, the ugliness of street homelessness has been reduced as councils have taken on responsibility and have placed the homeless in vacant buildings or in budget hotels.

This move of many homeless from the streets to safer and sheltered housing has been a welcome result of the lockdown. However, Craig mentions that homeless people can still incur fines for not wearing

masks. "If they can't pay the fine, it generally becomes a debt," he says.

Craig is keenly aware that homelessness isn't easily solved. "It's a long-term project for housing services. But most of our local homeless are reasonably easy to talk to, and we run several operations and support programs that involve chatting with them," he says.

He is heartened that recent COVID-related offences are generally milder than the occasional mayhem of Friday and Saturday nights. "Much of our work has been on hotel quarantine, monitoring arrivals, checking lockdown road blocks, and compliance checks at home."

Police actions during lockdown are less extreme than those portrayed on social and general media. "We only arrest people if they fail to provide their details. If they do as requested, they are free to go," Craig says.

This friendly cop smiles as he recalls creative excuses from people caught without a mask. "One man claimed he had a long beard and it was getting in the way. Another fellow was fined for being too far from home, then next day he returned and copped another fine."

Nicole Pereira writes regularly for the News.

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Nicole Pereira

Wallis Hamilton works at Inner Melbourne Community Legal on Queensberry Street in North Melbourne. She started at the centre in 2018 as a volunteer, soon became a paralegal and is now a graduate lawyer, specialising in fines and tenancy law.

After working at home for six months, she says the legal centre has adapted well to COVID-19. It has continued to serve its clients, including those residents trapped in the recent local high-rise lockdown.

"More than 3,000 people were subject to detention orders with one tower closed for 14 days, and no-one was allowed to leave," Wallis says.

Much of her work involved liaising with the Department of Health

Busy time for legal service

and Human Services (DHHS) to ensure residents received food and essential medications. "While we met some roadblocks, the legal centre was able, in conjunction with other organisations, to set up a help-line for people to call at any time during the crisis," she explains.

Wallis played a key role in being a 'legal observer' at the towers. She worked with the many volunteers who brought food supplies into the building, negotiating and liaising with them at that fraught time, while hundreds of police monitored the situation.

"Many of our centre's clients who needed food and medicine felt very alone and unable to communicate with DHHS," she says.

It became apparent that there were few policies in place to offer the support required. Wallis lists some of the problems residents faced.

"DHHS had communicated that they could be relocated into hotels, but we found this hard to arrange in practice, which often led to other family members falling ill when self-isolation wasn't possible."

Wallis explains that DHHS's lack of coordination and effective management resulted in community members volunteering to supply residents with basic necessities during lockdown.

"The volunteer groups did incredible work, implementing efficient processes and assisting

communities in dire need when the government failed to," she says.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal has since continued to reach out to clients to check on how they are coping and to see if they need any legal assistance.

The legal centre welcomes the Victorian Ombudsman's investigation into the lockdown and will work closely with him and with community members to ensure his recommendations are implemented.

Nicole Pereira writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

If you have recently received a COVID-19 related fine or you require any general legal assistance, please contact Inner Melbourne Community Legal on 9328 1885.



Wallis Hamilton of Inner Melbourne Community Legal.

Trip to Peru ends in quarantine

Laura Misale

Back in March, North Melbourne librarian Heather McKay was enjoying dinner in Lima, the capital of Peru, at the end of her 14-day South American holiday.

In the background, the TV news was being delivered in Spanish. It was only next morning that Heather realised the country had been placed in tight lockdown. "I went to the downstairs reception and was told that we had just 24 hours to get out of the country," she says. However, by then, it was too late to leave.

While the lockdown confined Heather inside her small hotel room, it couldn't dampen the sense of community that emerged among her fellow travellers. "Within a day there was a Facebook message group and a WhatsApp message group for Australians stranded in Peru," she says.

After three days, Heather found a possible way home. A Brisbane travel company was offering a charter flight to Sydney via Santiago in Chile for \$5,000. "None of us was

that rich, but we realised that if we didn't jump in, we would miss out."

After an anxious night, she woke up at four and realised she would just have to pay up. "I had to load up the credit card and call in a few friends," she grimaces.

On the morning of the flight, two weeks after lockdown began, a bus picked her and her fellow travellers up from their hotels at six o'clock. They filed into the bus, masks on and luggage in tow, and soon were boarding the final scheduled flight out.

"Some people had paid \$10,000 for first-class seats, but didn't even get to sit in them because everyone rushed onto the plane and grabbed whichever seat they wanted," Heather says.

On arrival in Sydney, she was bussed to hotel quarantine, where she spent the next two weeks. Each morning was like groundhog day. Security guards would deliver food to her door, she would wait 10 seconds for them to leave, then she would pick up her lukewarm, scrambled-tofu breakfast.

"You could get groceries delivered, but we had nothing to cook with. Some people were toasting bagels on an iron," Heather laughs.

Like the organised librarian she is, she passed the time profitably with some good Audiobooks. "The first Harry Potter book was a favourite. I also caught up with all Dervla McTiernan's crime novels," she recalls.

"Eventually, my travel agent booked me on a Virgin flight to Melbourne. Then the TV news reported that Virgin was cancelling all flights from Sydney except for one each day.

"People have since asked how I remained so calm. I say that I really don't know, but that was one time when I just about lost it," she says ruefully.

Heather eventually boarded a flight home to Melbourne, nearly a month after arriving in Peru. "Lockdown here is paradise compared to what I endured over there," she smiles.

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.



The view of the empty Lima streets from Heather's hotel window.

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Lockdown changes our shopping streetscape

Geoff Pound

This time last year many local businesses were struggling to survive and several 'For Lease' signs were appearing, especially along Errol and Victoria streets in North and West Melbourne.

Many local business owners said high rents were throttling their ability to make ends meet.

Since the onslaught of COVID-19 and the resultant lockdowns, pandemic restrictions have taken a sledgehammer to our local shops and cafes, bringing many more shopkeepers to declare that their business has been 'corona-ed'.

Hopefully, one silver lining to the pandemic crisis will be the return of shop rental costs to a reasonable level.

If, post-virus, you were offered one of the vacant shops free of charge, how would you use it? Would you shift your cottage industry out of your backyard onto Errol Street where you would have more space, some camaraderie with other budding traders, and greater foot

traffic? Some shops with upstairs and downstairs might have room for studio space for work and gallery space to display their wares.

Renew Australia is one such group filling empty spaces with potential traders seeking to trial a new business idea. They have partnered with the Docklands Spaces project to provide 24 new businesses the opportunity to try out their ideas across gallery, studio, office, retail and training spaces with minimal overheads.

Renew Australia has also conducted projects in the dying shopping strips of Newcastle and Geelong and it reports there are 40 creative projects and businesses looking for space in the heart of Wollongong.

The plan offers new business owners space to work and to display their products, with few overheads other than paying the utilities and maintaining the property.

For owners of the buildings, their shops are open and attractive, rather than being closed. This

overcomes the need to board up windows, and it reduces the possibility of vandalism similar to that suffered by the Royal Exchange Hotel on the corner of Victoria and Peel streets, which has had its windows smashed and the door broken down.

The new business owners might be on a rolling monthly lease if there are paying tenants who emerge, wanting the space for the long term. The hope is that the new occupants trialling their business might enjoy success and become long-term paying tenants.

For our community, the presence of new businesses might spark a vibrancy to replace the doom and gloom that has been left in our shopping strips by the pandemic.

Wouldn't it be superb to witness an explosion of creativity and business confidence that brings about a sustained renewal of our local shopping strips?

Geoff Pound is a local resident and minister of the West Melbourne Baptist Church.



St Michael's students learnt their lesson from first lockdown

Steven Hubbard

St Michael's Primary School wasn't expecting to be put back into a second lockdown. However, we had already learnt some very useful lessons from the first shutdown.

After term two, we had sought feedback from our staff, students and parents via an online survey. Their responses to our first

round of remote learning were carefully reviewed early in term three, and they enabled us to deliver an even better program in the second lockdown.

Visual arts teacher Luisa Vivarelli was delighted with the improvements she was able to introduce.

"After realising the first time round that many students didn't have access to materials, I organised some packs for them to take home. These included materials such as wool, paper and cardboard so everyone would have all they need to create their art," she says.

Luisa also built into her usual Zoom sessions the chance for the children to share with the rest of their class the art that they had created.

"I was able to maintain close contact with

them by recording a video explaining each activity, and they were able to watch my instructions on Google Classroom. It worked so well," she says.

All staff used Zoom meetings daily to connect with their classes and to run small targeted teaching groups for reading, writing and maths. Across the board, the school kept to a normal timetable. We even held a pre-school Monday morning assembly, which enabled the entire school community – staff, students, parents – to hear from principal Denise.

Outside the normal curriculum, we built in two innovative sessions.

Wellbeing leader Erin Jenkins organised Wellbeing Wednesday to break up our normal school week. The program was shaped around pens-down, screen-free activities designed to care for the children's anxiety levels and emotional health. And also, of course, to foster a bit of fun.

"Each week our cooking activity had a different focus. One week, we had the students preparing pancakes, another week they got into banana smoothies. We also offered mindfulness exercises and fun science experiments like magic milk," Erin says.

By the end of the week, it was time to wind down with Fun Friday as staff and students joined in on various themes. Crazy Hair Day

saw lots of wigs and dyed locks, and even some shocking-pink creations. On Superhero Day, Superman, Batman and Catwoman turned up and joined in the fun.

Steven Hubbard is deputy principal at St Michael's.



Jude and Cooper making pasta.



Pranav making a banana smoothie.



Stellarose with rainbow paper chain.

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Margaret's century of learning and life

Flora Sciarra

Dr Margaret Bowman OAM is 100 years old, lives alone and enjoys life to the full. After arriving in Australia from her native England 60 years ago, she lived near Ballarat then in the eastern suburbs before coming to North Melbourne 30 years ago.

Margaret has led a fascinating life and isn't allowing lockdown to slow her down. She keeps her body active with a seniors exercise class via Zoom once a week. "I used to do tai chi until recently, but it's since been suspended," she says.

When not on Zoom, she does warm-up exercises and enjoys heading out for walks with her dog, Wally. She says she doesn't know what she would do without him. "He's very sweet natured and a lovely companion," she smiles.

On their walks, she stops to chat to other dog walkers and enjoys hearing about what is happening in the local community.

A former politics lecturer at Monash, Margaret has always loved intellectual pursuits. Still as sharp as a tack, she keeps her mind active as a member of the University of the Third Age (U3A) and takes regular French classes.

"I do a French class because I have French family. My great-grandsons are French and bilingual, and they live outside Geneva," Margaret says.

Closer to home, she is an active member of the North Melbourne Library and the Hotham History Project. She also belonged, albeit briefly, to Errol's Angels community choir. "I can't sing so it didn't go too well," she laughs.

The lively centenarian is proficient at technology, but worries about

other seniors who are not. "I feel for older people who haven't developed a competence with modern devices. They are dreadfully disadvantaged and cut off from so much," she says.

Margaret owns an iPhone, iPad and a computer. As well as using Zoom, she resorts to What's App to keep in touch with her large family, both here in Australia and overseas. "It's so useful. I can keep in touch with my grandchildren and great-grandchildren without stirring from my desk," she says.

After three decades as a local, she simply loves the area. "North Melbourne is a marvellous place to live. Very, very friendly people. The facilities are splendid. What more could you wish for?"

Flora Sciarra writes regularly for the News.



Margaret is fighting fit at 100.

Local Rotary Club turns a new Page to start its year



New Rotary president Geoff Page (left) takes over from George Zindilis.

Manjula Pragasam

North Melbourne Rotary followed the tradition of Rotary clubs around the world and changed its president at the start of the new financial year. The club held its 'changeover meeting' in July at the Mercure Hotel.

At the time, face-to-face functions were allowed in limited numbers, which had just been reduced from 50 to 20. Then, just two days before our meeting, some postcodes were further isolated. We proceeded with the event but, as some of our attendees were affected, we also arranged to have it on Zoom.

The club overcame all the related challenges and the function proved to be an outstanding success. At the end of the night, Neville Page took over the presidency from outgoing leader George Zindilis.

With the changeover complete, the club sprang into action and began helping to provide food to residents locked down in local high-

rise apartments. We were able to contact nearby Rotary clubs and joined in donating money to the Somalian Women's Development Association to enable them to buy and deliver food to residents.

This support has since expanded to communities outside the high-rise blocks. We became aware of a number of families who were without resources and, as arrivals from New Zealand, were not eligible for government support. As a result, we ramped up our food deliveries.

Our club was able to supplement these food packs by gaining access to a pallet of packs that were going as food relief to the Philippines. As we now can't get the supplies over there, we decided to make use of them here.

We have continued to feature interesting speakers at our weekly Zoom meetings. Recently we heard from St Mary's House of Welcome's Robina Bradley about the outstanding work they are doing to

support the homeless. Our club will provide support for St Mary's as well as our ongoing support for the local Ozanam House in Flemington Road.

A recent club highlight was the induction of new member Dr Ida Whiteman, a local North Melbourne paediatric cardiologist. Through her contacts, we are trying to get a doctor out from Timor Leste to train here in paediatric cardiology so they can return home to a country that currently lacks anyone with similar skills.

We welcome new members to assist us in our community work. There is no shortage of good work to be done.

Manjula Pragasam is treasurer of North Melbourne Rotary.

Want to know more?

To find out more about North Melbourne Rotary Club, check out the website <http://rotarynorthmelbourne.org.au/> or contact Neville Page on 0414673611 or page@ghp.biz

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OUR LOCKED DOWN LIFE – VIEWS FROM THE INSIDE

Time to focus on the positives

Elise Cara

I found Melbourne's second lockdown much more challenging than the first.

Just as the second one was announced, I was ready to begin transitioning back to my normal life, the one I had before. So I was pretty disappointed when I found out that I had to be restricted at home again.

However, I soon made a conscious decision to focus on the positives and to make something good come out of this experience, perhaps something that could create a lasting change in my post-lockdown life. But first I allowed myself some time to mourn the 2020 that could have been.

Then I began savouring the things that brought me joy. In the morning, I loved the crispness of the cold air in my room. After a quick check of my phone's weather app, I was thankful I could stay in bed until the heater warmed the house. Much better than having to brave the cold and wind outside.

The day brought its own consolations. I was grateful to be able to spend more time with my family. We've always been close, but playing a game of Uno was never on our menu until we were all stuck inside looking for a way to pass the time.

My cheeky shih tzu-poodle cross, Charlie, certainly enjoyed lockdown. I had more time

to give him lots of extra cuddles, and he was deliriously happy when he was able to go on lots of longer walks in the park.

Lockdown made me see the bigger picture. As a second-year professional writing student at Swinburne, I had always spent a lot of time getting to campus by bus and train. Soon, I was wondering how I could use this bonus extra time to my own advantage.

I realised I could use that time for study and I chose to think strategically. I looked at my study plan and saw that if I overloaded on units this semester – taking five instead of four – I could graduate mid-year next year. A whole six months earlier than I expected!

So far, it's going well. I'm managing the study load and am glad that I have the time to finish all my work. It has made me view lockdown differently. Rather than feeling trapped and restricted, I now see it as an opportunity to do something that has set me up for the future.

I know that in a year's time, when I apply for full-time work and start to earn some money, I'll be thankful how I chose to spend my time in lockdown.

I'm already glad I got to spend some extra time with my family. And Charlie had no complaints about all that extra attention.

Elise Cara is a new contributor to the News.

Sinking into guilty pleasures

Shannon Colee

The second lockdown turned out very different to the first one, way back in March. I wasn't too fussed by that one.

Honest to God, my first thought then was 'Good'. I'm a homebody so being able to say, "Yes, we'll catch up soon," and then not have to follow up was a true blessing.

For those initial weeks, I truly lived the introvert dream. When not working, I was catching up on reading and watching documentaries. I was cooking healthy meals and planning out how I could use this time to better myself.

So, when we all started to see the writing on the wall and knew a second and harsher lockdown was coming, I thought I was prepared. It turned out the joke was on me because this second-wave lockdown has broken me down.

When I'm not at work I'm probably watching *The Real Housewives* – of any city in the world. It is now our sad reality that watching women argue in New Jersey, Atlanta, Beverly Hills and Auckland is the closest we can come to travel anytime in the near future.

The first lockdown seemed fun and different, a way to recharge without having to use my annual leave. This second lockdown feels long and permanent and depressing.

For a while, I thought I could see the end in sight. Hope flickered that we might have friends over to our house or we might be able to sit down in a coffee shop. Instead, we have a mandated curfew and we need a permission form if we have to drive to work.

We have to wear masks that make me feel as if I can't breathe, and when I go to the supermarket, I spend most of my time there trying to avoid people.

But maybe that's what this lockdown is all about. If the first lockdown was the one where I colour coordinated my wardrobe, kept a sleep routine and ate meals at the appropriate time, then maybe this second one is where my I sink into my occasional guilty pleasures like a warm bath.

Maybe I'm allowed to watch the real-life soap opera of *The Real Housewives* and to eat Doritos out of the bag. And if I want to watch *House Hunters* endlessly and to eat straight out of plastic containers so as to reduce my washing up, then what is stopping me?

Being in lockdown is hard and I've found there isn't one singular right way to cope. If mine involves talking to my dog about Teresa Giudice being sentenced to jail as I wait for my Uber Eats delivery in day-old pyjamas, then it's nobody's business but mine.

Shannon Colee is a new contributor to the News.

The morning commute from bedroom to kitchen table

Suzie Luddon

Another day in lockdown / Stage four in Melbourne / Appreciate the small things.

Appreciate the small things. Do they include the one hour of daily outdoor exercise allowed? Or the weekly solo grocery shopping?

Or maybe it's the corona calories that have slowly sneaked up on me. They're allowed as long as I can still fit into my new work uniform – jeans. I have blue ones and black ones and alternate them depending on how much effort I feel like expending each day on my attire.

My black jeans are stretchy so they

accommodate the extra curves better, but my blue ones add a touch of colour and look a bit dressier when I venture outside for the allotted hour.

And which mask to wear? The funky fabric one I bought on eBay, or the serviceable single-use ones that are less about fashion and more about being breathable during the daily walk?

Should I wear jewellery today? No, too much effort and I don't have any Zoom meetings. How about washing my hair? Nah, maybe tomorrow, it'll survive another day tied back.

After the morning commute from bedroom to kitchen table, and the day spent following the sun around the house with my laptop and to-do list, I log off, shut down and stand

bewildered for a few minutes, wondering how to separate work from not-work.

But not for long, when I remind myself that packed trains are a thing of the past, at least for now. Gratefully appreciating this small blessing, I do some stretching or drawing or look outside at the garden. It's my time now.

Such are the decisions made in lockdown. Our lives are smaller, our choices are narrower, and small things become bigger. I've become an amateur ornithologist and watch the birds with avid interest. I've also become an amateur epidemiologist, checking on the daily numbers and anxiously willing them to go down to zero.

I despair at those among us who refuse to conform to the rules, potentially consigning us all to further time in iso. But New Zealand

found community cases, and France became engulfed in a summer second wave, trapping the holidaying Brits who can only return on pain of quarantine.

When will we be able to leave our postcode, let alone venture to our regions, interstate, or beyond our shores to distant places?

As our world has shrunk, our vocabulary has grown: flatten the curve; social distancing; we're going into stage four; the new normal; turn on your microphone, I can see you but I can't hear you!

Thrown into a revolution of sorts wrought by a tiny virus, will our world ever be the same again?

Suzie Luddon writes regularly for the News.



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Grade 3s meet the chick challenge

Jaimi Darwell

Which came first: the chicken or the egg? The Grade 3s at North Melbourne Primary School have been grappling with this eternal teaser during lockdown. Stage four restrictions sent most of North Melbourne Primary School's students back to remote learning. Grade 3 accepted the challenge of using online technologies to both continue their education and to maintain a connection to their physical classrooms. Back to that chicken-egg



conundrum. The Grade 3 junior biologists (ages eight and nine) have been studying living things, life cycles, food chains and food webs. And what could be more fun than studying how eggs hatch and turn into chickens?

To get things rolling, teachers set up a chicken incubator and a brooding house in the classroom. After adding a few eggs, it was just a short wait to see what would emerge. To the children's delight, it turned out to be fluffy little chickens.

The students, locked down at home, were able to tune in each day to Chick Cam to see their little feathery friends live-streamed via WebEx. They were thrilled as they watched the life cycles.

"The chicks were so cute and so fluffy. I wish they could stay in our classrooms forever," Milly said.

Ikram became a keen watcher. "I am always logging on to Chick Cam. I ended up watching them all day," he admitted.

Samuel brought a more scientific view. "I was interested to see how the chickens would find their food and how much they would eat," he said.

Teachers were delighted that the students were so absorbed in watching the

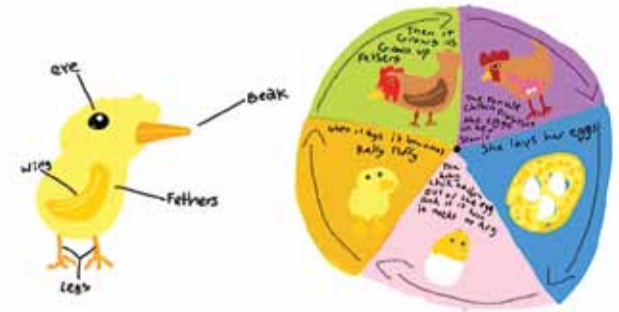
real-time hatching of the chicks. "They were so excited as the live streaming allowed them to learn about life cycles as the chicks emerged from their eggs," teacher Kim Ryan said.

The children were then asked to create their own life cycle and soon they came up with movies, collages and comics. "That was the best part. I made my own life cycle on paper and then I animated one on Keynote," a beaming Kazuma said.

Remote learning requires students to be motivated and to engage with their own learning. Teachers were pleased with the curiosity the children brought to their life-cycles study and the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they showed.

It was also a lot of fun. Amazingly, the Grade 3s were contacted by Atto, an alien who lives on an unknown planet called Zeta Canis. She sought their help in her quest to become a science officer.

Chick diagram.



Zeina's life cycle.

The children had to send their life-cycle research back to Atto so she could qualify as an officer and avoid being banished from Zeta Canis.

They took the task on board and their hard work

won out. "I'm so proud of what we did. We saved Atto," Kevin said.

Jaimi Darwell is Grade 3 team leader at North Melbourne Primary School.



Kazuma's life cycle.



Sarah's life cycle.

Simonds College students step up their pace

Robert Anastasio

Simonds College students and staff were in full running mode before the second lockdown hit. Many were out doing some serious training each day, and some had completed their own half marathon.

Then the stage four restrictions arrived. However, our Simonds boys have shown that lockdown doesn't mean you've got to be literally locked down. In fact, 190 boys and some teachers have kept connected and fit via VEC, our virtual exercise club.

VEC participants use the Strava app on their phones to record the various levels of activity they complete each day. Their exercise regimes can include running, cycling or walking. They record their distances and times, which are then shared with other club members.

The school has been able to build students' virtual performances into normal school life. All distances recorded on Strava win points for their house and accumulate towards the Carmody Cup, our annual award for intra- and inter-school sport.

"In lockdown, VEC participants

actually competed in our school's cross country competition. Knox house was awarded the trophy after students covered an impressive total of 1,261 kilometres," head of PE Hayden Wallis says.

Simonds' innovative virtual exercise project has created a great sense of camaraderie among staff and students as they award each other 'kudos' for their performances. Even principal Peter Riordan reports that he has been pounding the pavement on weekends.

The college's director of sport, Sean Westaway, is thrilled with the initiative's success. "It is promoting

physical activity among the boys in these difficult days. It has helped to ensure they are keeping fit as well as maintaining social contact with their teachers and classmates," he says.

Students Sebastian Gronow, Isaac Molinaro and Nicholas Tu are keen participants. College captain Sebastian has set a high standard for his classmates. "I haven't done any skipping since primary school but now I do a testing 30-minute workout every afternoon," he says.

Robert Anastasio is deputy principal at Simonds College.



Sebastian Gronow skips with style.



Keeping fit at Simonds.



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Arts House explores our world

Sarah Rowbottam

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

Of course, COVID-19 has dramatically changed what we do. Every year since 2016, Arts House has brought together artists, experts and emergency services to our usual town hall venue to explore the biggest climate 'What ifs?' of our time.

With stage four restrictions meaning the unimaginable became a reality, we took a leap into the digital world. This has enabled us to share some insights with you and to take you beyond the headlines and into the worlds – and the living rooms – of those who know what counts most in a time of crisis.

Hosted by artist, designer and game-maker Lee Shang Lun, the Refuge Talks Series is a free three-part series bringing together people who might not normally collaborate in a crisis.

Each 60-minute episode offers snapshots into how we prepare for, live in, and recover from a pandemic.

The first episode dives into the minds of thinkers who knew this was coming.

It touches on the insights gleaned during the fictional pandemic exercise at our town-hall home in 2018 to the fascinating things disease and medical experts get up to behind closed doors.

The second episode brings together artists and experts to explore the ways we can connect when isolation forces us apart, and how a crisis forces us to reframe how we care for each other. It

includes what we can learn from First Nations people who have survived waves of colonialism, and the chronically ill who live in these conditions daily.

In the final episode, we face forward.

From seismic shifts in government and communities to the relief of finally hugging a friend, there will come a time when we blink and adjust our eyes to the new world around us and we again sweat amongst many on dance floors.

For the series, three incredible First Nations musicians – Kee'ahn, Allara and Alice Skye – were commissioned to write new songs in response to their experiences of the pandemic and to perform live.

Artist Jen Rae provides a weekly demonstration from her personalised Future Proof Survival Guide, sharing practical survival tips developed with her family,



Refuge 2018 Pandemic, Arts House. Photograph: Sarah Walker

that offers advice on how you can start preparing at home with your loved ones.

Sarah Rowbottam is producer at Arts House.

Want to know more?

Refuge Talks Series episodes are free for streaming and include open captions and Auslan interpreting. <https://www.artshouse.com.au/ourprograms/refuge-talks-series/>

The NWMA's annual general meeting normally takes place in April but it was postponed until August this year because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Using Zoom, the meeting kept to a strict time schedule, helped by the prior circulation of the annual report for 2019, which contained reports from members who represent the Association in various organisations. Some highlights from these and updates follow.

CoRBA (Coalition of Resident and Business Associations) Melbourne

CoRBA Melbourne represents 18 resident and business associations within the City of Melbourne (CoM) area.

It provides an important sounding board for members to discuss issues regarding their relationship with the CoM and an opportunity to follow up on matters that CoRBA is engaged in, which may affect some member groups.

The overarching issue in 2019 was dealing with the amended local



government legislation with then-minister Adem Somyurek and his staff. The legislation that had failed to get through the Parliament the year before was significantly revised in 2019.

A CoRBA delegation met with the minister and his chief of staff to present a detailed account of concerns CoRBA members held in relation to the electoral structure and processes of the CoM.

Among these concerns were: dissatisfaction with the *City of Melbourne Act*; the deeming of

company votes by the CoM; the lack of optional preferential voting; lack of wards; rules around donations; lord mayor and deputy lord mayor elections; and voting qualifications.

Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

Representing the North Melbourne, Carlton, Kensington and Parkville communities, the PCCC met bi-monthly at the Wreckyn Street police station during 2019.

The meetings include reports on local crime and traffic statistics. Numbers in North Melbourne are consistently low, but there is an ongoing problem with theft from motor vehicles, often because car owners have left valuables in sight.

Each year the PCCC runs a Christmas Toy and Food Drive. The 2019 drive again attracted great support from local people, NWMA members being among those who donated toys and non-perishable food.

The gifts bring much joy to deserving families.

West Gate Tunnel Project

Our representative was able to attend only one meeting in 2019 because of a delay in the enrolment process. Before that October meeting, the Association had several concerns, which remain.

One is the impact of the completed West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) on vehicle flow into North and West Melbourne, an estimated additional 9000 vehicles per day. Another is the impact of the WGTP on Moonee Ponds Creek. The project will introduce three additional small bridges over the creek, but with no plan for noise abatement for those who walk or cycle along the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail.

A further concern, shared by the CoM, is that the WGTP will terminate a new cycling/pedestrian path onto the west bank of the creek without providing public lighting or rubbish bins.

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

The planned Arden and Macaulay construction areas straddle the creek. With a projected doubling of residents for both Kensington and North Melbourne, the creek is a vital part of the open-space strategy.

In 2019 the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects gave a planning award to the CoM for the City's commissioned plan. No ongoing budget appears to have been allocated to the development of this plan.

The creek continues to suffer from competing issues in governance, with private and public interests overlapping. Is Moonee Ponds Creek a drain or open space? Are the conflicting interests in the creek resolvable?

Members present at the AGM voted in favour of waiving NWMA membership fees for 2020.

Want to know more?

Email info@nwma.org.au or visit www.nwma.org.au.



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A thief got into our communal laundry. Stolen from the dryer were a red towel, a purple bathmat, seven orange bamboo socks, floral corduroy pants, a white shirt, a green scarf, five T-shirts of various colours and five underwears. And I'm still remembering other things that were in there. I'm devastated. I can't get over it. We've never had a problem with our laundry before.

★ ★ ★

The times are weird. They're weird times indeed. I'll paraphrase Zahi Hawas, Egyptian archaeologist and Egyptologist extraordinaire, who worked at archaeological sites in the Nile Delta and the Upper Nile Valley. Hawass said that each day is a day to prepare for the pyramids to tell you something entirely new about something you were not even slightly expecting. Makes sense to me.

★ ★ ★

VERY IMPRESSIVE

Yes, Mother's Day has been and gone, way back in May. Here's a late Mother's Day message to all the mothers I know. There are so many of you that I'm not sure if I should single out any one of you – other than my own Mum, that is. You are all doing a bloody excellent job. I hope you all got breakfast in bed from someone you love.

★ ★ ★

Way back before lockdown, I saw far too many smokers still puffing away outside all three of our local hospitals. Here's my suggestion to stop this disgusting behaviour. If you're on a northern Melbourne footpath and are within cooe of a hospital, you should get yourself a fine for having a smoking



device in hand. A very large fine to discourage you from doing it.

★ ★ ★

Melbourne. I'm over you. I don't want to be here anymore. You're too big and too busy for me. You're an annoyingly

disruptive city. You cause problems with my PTSD.

I grew up in small town Renwick, in New Zealand's South Island. Rural quiet and solitude is lacking in my life. I really want it back. Must visit Dimboola and the Little Desert National Park. So cute we could live there.

★ ★ ★

Vivacious. The word's been going through my head all night and it kept waking me up. It's part of a package – vivacious, petite, blonde, husky-voiced, gin and tonic drinking. Yes, my magnificent Auntie Linda, who died just over a year ago. I'm going to be missing you for so many uncountable years. Vivacious. Now I've used it three times. Will there be anyone else I ever use it for?

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

Spring is time to turn your thoughts to love ... of running

After months of on-and-off restrictions, I can tell you one thing – there are more runners out on the streets of Melbourne than ever before.

It seems that many of those who used to frequent gyms have turned to running, the cheapest and safest form of exercise in a pandemic. No equipment? No problem. Running involves minimal gear (good shoes are a must), and it's a great way to burn off all those isolation boredom snacks.

For those of you on the fence about taking it up, I highly recommend it.

It has been interesting watching Melbourne transition into mask wearing, with runners getting a hall pass for their runs. The 'buff' (sometimes called a neck gaiter) protects the face from the cold

MARATHON GIRL Thea Oakes



and wind, and it's become my best friend. I recommend investing in one if you don't have one and don't want to be treated like the enemy with an uncovered face.

I advise keeping your distance from walkers and to run on the road if you have to and when distancing is not possible.

With every woman and her dog out on the streets these days, it can be hard to avoid others. Maybe try running earlier in the morning or in the evening to avoid the afternoon sunshine rush.

Personally, I prefer running in the evening. However, stopping at traffic lights with no mask is awkward, and every police car that drives past has me feeling like a criminal on the run (literally). Even worse is getting home just on the edge of the 8pm curfew. When I spot a passing car at that pumpkin hour, I ponder the cost of bail.

Seasoned runners were looking forward to the Melbourne Marathon, now officially postponed, but this doesn't mean you have to postpone your

training. While the usual event offered medals and an amazing atmosphere, you can still strive for your own personal goals. Forget about the bling, just lace up those shoes and get out for a run.

In fact, the stricter lockdown rekindled my love of running. It reminded me that it's not just about pace, PBs and hitting targets. It's also about pure enjoyment and the magic feeling of freedom that we delight in when we run. It's so much better than being locked inside.

Get out and get running. After all, with spring now here, all runners' thoughts are turning to love – of running!

Thea Oakes writes a regular running column for the News.

Learn to sort the wheat from the online chaff (and frauds)

Whether you meet at Errol's for coffee, or further down Errol Street at Bobbie Peel's bar for something stronger, that first time you meet the potential love of your life is always fraught.

You've connected online, either by searching and swiping or being matched by an algorithm. You've exchanged a few pleasantries by keyboard, but there's only one way to find out if sparks might fly – and that's in person.

That means checking each other out, eyeballing, assessing within the first 30 seconds whether this is a depressing waste of time or whether spending the next 30 minutes together might just lead to something. It often does, and then we can celebrate our personal no-longer-celibate story.

But what if it looks like a success story, but it really isn't? What if the person you're meeting isn't telling

LET'S MAKE A DATE Suzie Luddon



the truth about who they are? What if they're unavailable, or are unhinged but parading as normal or, worst of all, deliberately targeting you in order to free you of your life savings?

Dating and social media platforms create endless opportunities for all sorts of misrepresentation. Mild deception, such as posting a 20-year-old photo is at one end of the spectrum, though it's hard to maintain that kind of deception when meeting in real life.

A bit further along are those who think they want to meet someone but are really seeking a distraction from the pain of

losing their last partner, or the approval that they never got from their mother or father, or a host of other issues that would be better addressed by therapy.

Then there are the cheaters, already married or attached, but looking for someone on the side. Fine if all parties consent to that, but not fine if deceit is involved.

The incels ('involuntarily celibate', if you didn't know) and crazies who are bearing a grudge and need to take it out on someone are scary. They're down the disturbing end of the spectrum with the catfishers, the ones who create a fake

online persona and proceed to put out lines.

Once they get a bite, they go all out to charm the person, probing for their vulnerabilities and grooming them with stories. They are professionals and they play the long game.

They're the ones responsible for the heartbreaking stories we hear of people losing everything or ending up in a South American jail after being convinced to go there to pick up a 'package'.

Sadly, there are real dangers lurking in the online dating world, so it pays to develop a strong radar for bulls**t. But that doesn't mean 'happy ever after' is a fantasy. For every dud, there's a genuine person, and more and more of us are meeting our significant other online.

Suzie Luddon shares her insights into dating in each issue of the News.

'Money Miller' loans his name to an early new thoroughfare

Stephen Hatcher

West Melbourne's Miller Street was named after Henry Miller, born in 1809 in Derry in Northern Ireland. His father, also named Henry, was a captain in the British Army.

Miller Street was named in 1851 when the first permanent building, the Benevolent Asylum, opened in extensive and unspoilt bushland. Until 1911, the asylum supported those who were needy, aged, infirm, disabled or destitute.

The Miller family had arrived in Sydney in 1824 with a boatload of convicts. In 1828 Henry junior started out as a humble clerk in Van Diemen's Land. In 1834 he married Eliza Mattinson in Hobart and they sailed to the new settlement of Melbourne.

Young Henry started work as a moneylender and financier, leading him to be known as 'Money' Miller. In 1849 he launched an insurance company and became its

RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

chairperson. He was later involved in establishing the state bank and served as chairman of directors. Intriguingly, he also faced court on charges of sheep stealing.

The first house built on Miller Street, on the southern side, late in 1858, is thought to have been a wooden house built by Thomas McFarland. A Victorian brick home now stands on the site at 63 Miller Street.

In 1858, Crown land purchasers in Miller Street were a veritable 'who's who' of society. John Austin Keens (lot 10) was a wholesale and retail ironmonger. Solomon Solomon (lot 9) lived in Melbourne's Collins Street before selling up and sailing for America.

James Taylor, a master builder, and

wife Jane lived at lot 25. Benjamin Cowderoy, first chairman of St Kilda Council, bought lot 7. He was also government valuer to the young state's railways and probate office.

Robert Service (lot 6) saw his son James become Victoria's twelfth Premier. James Watson (lot 4), from County Armagh, became a local merchant and politician. John Harbison (lot 3) became MLA for North Melbourne and owned Rich Hill Terrace in Dudley Street.

Just over Abbotsford Street is a block granted to the Primitive Methodist Church. The church is now gone, but the old church manse remains, now known as 660 Spencer Street.

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



Wide open spaces in Miller Street. Photograph: Stephen Hatcher

Play follows refugees' pathways to belonging

John H. Smith

Mammad Aidani is working with eight other Iranian men on a script for a play sponsored by the Institute of Postcolonial Studies in Curzon Street.

The drama, *Finding place after dislocation: refugee pathways to belonging in Melbourne*, might be a bit of a mouthful, but its simple message is one of optimism.

An acclaimed poet, playwright and theatre director in his own right, Mammad personally experienced the dislocation that authoritarian regimes impose on their people. "I was born and raised in poverty in Iran," he says.

The young Mammad was too radical for his repressive homeland. "When the Iranian Revolution came in 1979, my hopes for a democratic society were shattered and I went into exile in Italy," he says.

"Then, when the Iran-Iraq war began, my home city was invaded. I lost everything and decided I could not go back," he adds, without a trace of bitterness.

Mammad arrived in Australia in 1982 and attended university in Brisbane and Melbourne. He qualified in the diverse disciplines of philosophy, social psychology and theatre.

"I studied the effect on people of trauma and violence that can sap all their energy. Then I began to work with refugees to help them reflect on the highlights and challenges of their life experience," he says.

"Engaging with them in this way deepens their understanding of their own background and it



Writer Mammad Aidani.

enables them both to re-engage with their hopes and to develop skills for a new life."

Mammad is excited with the progress of *Finding place after dislocation* and he is as optimistic as the play's powerful and uplifting theme. "Our hope is that it will be performed in April next year," he smiles.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Check updates on how the IPCS project is finding innovative ways to work with stage-four restrictions at ipcs.org.au/finding-place-after-dislocation/

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Homework support continues

Neysa Charlton

Hotham Mission's homework club is continuing in lockdown to offer ongoing support to disadvantaged and marginalised children in North Melbourne.

In better times, the club caters for around a dozen upper-primary children in the Buncle Street community centre in weekly sessions run by a coordinator, a support worker and our volunteer tutors.

While lockdown has forced us to move to online learning, we are still able to keep supporting the children, both academically and socially. At the same time as moving online, we have also sent out monthly care packages to all our enrolled students.

The care package activities include materials to do science experiments, the children's favourite part of our pre-lockdown program. Now, they can do them at home. They can also opt to join the weekly

Zoom chats in which a tutor will help them with hands-on activities ranging from seed germination to making a zoetrope.

Care packages offer other possibilities. We send out mindfulness and art packs that include colouring books, nature art and origami. The students love our entertainment packs with diversions including Uno and Hangman, old favourites like snakes and ladders, exercise dice and even snacks.

Some children feel less comfortable with do-it-yourself learning so we offer support via regular Zoom contact. Several of our group didn't have the required electronic device to tune in so we were able to provide them with Samsung Galaxy tablets.

While some students are happy to work away independently, others love Zooming with a tutor for that extra personal touch. Maths bingo, anagrams and trivia quizzes have proved popular.

As well as this academic element, Hotham Mission is also offering its usual emotional support. We are always available to talk with the children during these unusual times, to check if they are still speaking with their friends or if they have worries they want to open up about. We provide a safe space.

Nyala, the mother of one of our children, expressed her thanks to our homework club. "We got the activities for the girls from your club. Thanks so much. I really appreciate what you do for the little ones," she said.

Even more pleasing is that the children enjoy what we offer. Young Marco was thrilled by the fizzing tablet and swirling colours in his science experiment. "Making lava lamps was so cool. You could see the bubbles going up and down. So amazing!" he said.

Neysa Charlton is youth programs coordinator at Hotham Mission.



Neysa Charlton organises remote learning.

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell

The pandemic's second lockdown was hard for all of us. But some North Melbourne residents had a uniquely distressing experience.

I'm talking about the 'hard' lockdown of local public housing towers. Let me reflect on what was highlighted by that lockdown. First, it showed how incredible our community is.

When the hard lockdown began in July, it was clear that there was no real plan for getting essential services to people inside the towers. I was flooded with calls and emails from residents concerned about how they were going to get basics like food, medicine and nappies.

One woman I spoke to was extremely worried about her frail, diabetic grandma who usually had carers come to cook for her each day. The carers were locked out, and this woman's family had no way to get her food or urgently required medicine.

A young mother had a newborn baby in intensive care and wasn't allowed out to see her or to deliver expressed breastmilk. We were able to fast-track her test and she was allowed visits with her baby. We also worked with a mum who couldn't get access to clean insulin needles for her diabetic six-year-old and had to reuse needles.

In this distressing situation, my team and I worked around the clock to connect people with services they needed. Local community members also jumped in immediately to get food and nappies and to translate information to those in need. Our local Australian Muslim Social Services Agency collected donated food and supplies and delivered them.

What happened at the public housing towers highlights the difficulties that residents have long faced. While the pandemic obviously couldn't have been



Ellen Sandell helps with food distribution.

predicted, there's no question that public housing residents have been let down by governments for decades.

As the local MP, I hear daily from people who are living in cramped, overcrowded apartments, who can't get basic maintenance done, and who have been waiting many years on public housing waiting lists.

In fact, more than 100,000 people are on waiting lists in Victoria. There's a huge demand for a safe place to call home. I know because you've told me – in phone calls, emails, surveys and in person.

As we start to look at how to rebuild after this pandemic, housing must be a top priority. We must invest in repairing and building more public housing. Not only is this a critical measure but it will create many desperately needed long-term jobs.

Ellen Sandell is the state MP for Melbourne.

Want to know more?

If there's any way I can help you at this tough time, please get in touch at office@ellensandell.com

Laurie shared his childhood memories

Felicity Jack

Laurie Shipp was a well-known North Melbourne identity who in 2011 completed his written reminiscences. He died in April this year, aged 90.

Laurie was born in 1929 in the caretaker's apartment above the Errol Street post office where his father was senior postman and caretaker. Laurie described the three-bedroom unit, reached by climbing 34 stairs, as "palatial by the standards of the day".

He appears to have enjoyed a childhood with few constraints. He

was able to access the roof of the building through a high window in the unit passageway that left him free to roam the roofs of the buildings between Queensberry and Raglan streets.

When Laurie climbed to the top of the clock tower, he had to negotiate steep stairs and ladders in the dimly lit, dusty structure through a series of levels. He aimed to time his climb to avoid the deafening chime of the striking clock.

The windows of the family apartment gave a sweeping view from Mount Macedon across to Fisherman's Bend and included

Flemington Racecourse. Although only five in 1934, Laurie recalled having an excellent view of Scott and Black, in their brilliant red aircraft, winning the England-Australia MacRobertson Trophy Air Race that celebrated Victoria's centenary.

Laurie was a friend of Jock McPherson, caretaker of the adjacent town hall. He used the large hall to successfully try out his first model aeroplane, a small wire-and-fabric construction driven by a rubber band. He kept a keen interest in planes. During World War II, he spent hours on the roof watching the activities at the Fishermans Bend government aircraft factory where American

planes were being assembled and tested before their operation in the Pacific.

Laurie played football for North Melbourne from 1949 to 1951. He later played with Yallourn in the Latrobe Valley where he worked for years as an engineer.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.

Want to know more?

Find Laurie Shipp's 2011 reminiscences and other local publications on the Hotham History website www.hothamhistory.org.au. The Project is always keen to attract new members.



Laurie Shipp aged about 17.

Melbourne City Council Election**Key dates: Ballots posted to registered voters – 6-8 October; voting closes – 23 October**

Melbourne City Council's place in our world

Meg De Young

Melbourne City Council is the local government body responsible for the municipality of Melbourne. The Council consists of a Lord Mayor, a Deputy Lord Mayor and nine Councillors.

The Chief Executive Officer liaises with the offices of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillors, City of Melbourne executives, Victorian Government and community and corporate stakeholders to see that objectives are being met. The City of Melbourne municipality covers 14 suburbs, including the CBD. The municipality is around 37 km² and shares its borders with seven other councils.

The council delivers the four-year Council Plan, which sets out what the Council will achieve during its four-year term to further the community vision and the Future Melbourne 2026 Plan, together with the Annual Plan and Budget, which describes the Council's key objectives and activities for each 12-month period.

In the lead up to Victorian State and Federal elections, the Council will put forward to political parties a wide variety of questions which prioritise areas that are affecting the City of Melbourne. These responses are sought before elections and those received are posted online for the community to review and consider how political parties propose to tackle priority issues for Melbourne.

Local councils handle community needs, such as waste collection, public recreation facilities, town planning, local roads, building regulations and public health.

The News and the Centre have assembled this 4-page feature to provide voters with information that may help them in the Melbourne City Council election being held during October. This information is particularly important this year, when COVID-19 restrictions make traditional electioneering, such as public meetings, impossible.

MCC provides pre-school, youth support and senior citizens facilities and programs, library services and meeting rooms for local groups. It also has a strong role in advocacy with other levels of government and authorities that provide infrastructure and services, such as schools, hospitals and public transport.

North Melbourne resident and former City councillor, Lorna Hannan OAM, points out that the City of Melbourne is both a local government and the government of a capital city. "That makes it different from all other local governments. Its voting system is also different to other local governments. In Melbourne, councillors are elected across the whole of the municipality, rather than the 'wards' or geographic divisions common in other councils."

Lorna believes the Council's policies should directly benefit the residents. "City residents should expect that the city they live in is kept healthy, clean and well organised. Residents should have certain rights in matters directly affecting their health and environment. It is important that councillors offer plans to monitor this aspect of city life through the Urban Forest Strategy which promotes various measures to 'green' the city environment."

Centre Board member, Margaret Wood OAM, was a

three-term President/Mayor at Melton City Council. "The state makes certain directions, such as capping the percentage increase for rates, Margaret said.

"The Council determines its budget according to what it sees as the community needs. Councillors are elected every four years and the majority of councils are divided into wards with proportional representation."

Margaret talked about local governments' responsibilities. "Council is responsible for providing a wide variety of services and infrastructure such as local roads, and bridges footpaths and cycleways, street lighting, waste collection, food safety administering the *Food Act 1984*, recreation facilities and citizenship ceremonies.

"Among the many important activities, the Council is responsible for is Emergency Management and Planning. Council needs to identify risks in the municipality and devise treatment and mitigation plans."

When asked are there any misconceptions with what residents think local government can or can't do, Margaret responded:

"People think that council can make decisions about planning schemes which are really drawn up by State Government but council administers the red tape.

"Also, Council is not responsible for main roads, only local roads."

Some people believe Councils should stick to 'roads, rates and rubbish', but as Margaret asked: "If it did what would you be prepared to give up?"

Anthony Denehey

In line with the Victorian Electoral Commission's COVID Safety Strategy, a postal vote is the ONLY way to vote in the 2020 Melbourne City Council Elections. The voting period begins on 6 October and you must post your completed ballot before 6pm, 23 October.

Do I have to vote in a council election?

In Victoria, voting in council elections is compulsory for all residents on the Australian or Victorian Electoral Roll. You may face a fine of \$83 if you fail to vote. If you are over 70 years of age voting is not compulsory.

The council elections you vote in relates directly to the council you reside in.

Ratepayers, such as owner/occupiers within the City Of Melbourne and corporations who operate in affiliation with these owner/occupiers, are placed on the Chief Executive Officer's List and are also eligible to vote alongside residents on the Victorian Electoral Commission List.

In case of joint ownership, ratepayers and corporations are able to nominate a maximum of two representatives per commercial venture. However, as no individual voter is permitted to vote twice in the same election, eligibility

How to make your vote count

based on residency is prioritised over commercial eligibility.

Remember, it is compulsory for ALL registered voters within Melbourne City Council, including those on the Melbourne Chief Executive Officer's List, to vote in the Melbourne City Council Election.

How do I vote?

The Victorian Electoral Commission will mail out ballot packs for eligible voters between 6 and 8 October. Contents of the pack include: Two Ballot Papers (one Blue, one Pink), an envelope for the Ballot, information about the nominated candidates and a reply-paid envelope for postage of your completed ballot. If it is not in the mail by 6pm, 23 October, your vote will not be counted.

In the City of Melbourne, two elections are run side by side – The Leadership Team Ballot (Pink Form) to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Councillor Ballot (Blue Form) to elect nine Councillors.

The (Pink) Leadership Team Ballot requires numbering your preferred Leadership Team as No. 1, subsequently filling in all remaining boxes in order of preference until every box is filled.

The (Blue) Councillor Ballot follows a preferential voting system. Voters either fill in one box above the line, or every box below the line. Not both! If you want complete control of your preference votes, you will need to vote below the line. Starting with no. 1, list the candidates in order of preference until every box is filled.

If you choose to fill above the line in the (Blue) Councillor Ballot, you are choosing to vote for a 'group ticket' and your preferences will be pre-chosen by your preferred candidate. These groups are pre-registered and made available on the VEC website, where you can see where your preference votes might land when choosing to vote above the line.

Have your say

To make your vote count, take some time to research the candidates, then follow carefully the instructions on the ballot.

For more information, look at the Victorian Electoral Commission website: www.vec.vic.gov.au

Melbourne City Council Election

All candidates for Melbourne City Council and for the Leadership Team (Mayor and Deputy Mayor) were approached by the News to provide information about the candidate's postcode, party affiliation and "up to three leading issues or problems facing residents of North and West Melbourne and what actions you will propose that Council take to address them" (with a 150-word limit). These pages contain information that was provided by our press deadline, in the ballot order drawn by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Labor For Melbourne

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Philip Reed – resident in: 3002; political party membership: Labor
Wesa Chau – 3004; Labor

Council Candidates:

Davydd Griffiths – resident in: 3031; political party membership: Labor
Mary Delahunty – 3185; Labor
Hamdi Ali – 3053; Labor

Official party affiliation:

Issues: Ensuring local shopping strips like Errol, Victoria and Spencer streets are supported to rebuild post the COVID-19 lockdown, as well as to provide jobs for locals, especially younger people in the hospitality sector.

The Labor for Melbourne policy document at www.melbournelabor.com.au/policy details a wide range of initiatives that a Labor-led council would implement to renew jobs in our community, and enable better access to training programs for locals seeking work.

The City of Melbourne's housing strategy expired in 2018. This needs to be overhauled and updated. A Labor-led council would use planning controls to ensure an appropriate supply of affordable rentals and services in the inner city including aged care properties and facilities that meet the needs of our culturally diverse community.

A Labor-led council would also nurture and grow Melbourne's vital arts scene to ensure that our city retains its creative heart post-COVID-19.

More information: jarrodwayneallen@gmail.com; www.melbournelabor.com.au

Back to Business

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Jennifer Yang
Sandra Gee

Council Candidates:

Elizabeth Mary Doidge
Charles Pick
Moti Visa
Bedri Sainovski

Issues:

Answers not provided
More information: contact@back-to-business.com.au

Team Arron Wood

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Arron Richard Wood – resident in: 3031; political party membership: None
Lisa Teh – 3068; None

Council Candidates:

Jason Chang – resident in: 3079; political party membership: None
Peter Clarke – 3095; Liberal
Beverley Frances Pinder – 3182; None
Abdirahman I. Ali – 3051; None
Beverley Honig – 3161; None

Official party affiliation:

Issues: Arron is a long-time Kensington resident and business owner in North and West Melbourne; Abdi Ali is a resident of the North Melbourne Public Housing Towers. All candidates own businesses in the city. We will:

- Renew the North Melbourne Community Centre so it better caters for residents, supporting the implementation of education and employment programs for residents in public housing.
- Deliver new open space like the already delivered Hawke and Adderley Park; we want more open space in North and West Melbourne, including delivery of Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan.
- Protect residential amenity, Arron secured the sound wall for railway place residents when faced with impact of the regional rail link.
- Respect for residents rights against inappropriate over-development.
- Better support for small business in shopping strips such as Errol, Victoria and Spencer streets and we'll guard against rat running generated by the Westgate Tunnel, which Arron opposed.

More information: contact@teamarronwood.com.au; www.teamarronwood.com.au/

Your Melbourne Team Get It Done

Council Candidates:

Mary K. Poulakis – resident in: 3058; political party membership: None
Fiona Sweetman – 3004; None

Official party affiliation:

Issues: The residents of North and West Melbourne and residents throughout the municipality make up the fabric of their city and contribute to the overall liveability and ongoing prosperity in those precincts.

Balance of representation and a trusted voice and access to elected representatives at Council will allow the issues of transport and traffic use, open and safe public spaces and a real plan with the right infrastructure and facilities for a growing community for future generations to be addressed with relevance and real consultation. The key to success or implementation through all of this is consultation and the ability to have balanced conversations with stakeholders, be that residential or business.

More information: rozshaw20@gmail.com; thevalueofourism@gmail.com

Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment/Corruption

Council Candidates:

Richard Belcher – resident in: 3003; political party membership: Sustainable Australia Party
Bettina Terry – 3141; Sustainable Australia Party

Official party affiliation:

Issues:

Three key issues:
Protect our environment – reform planning laws to protect green space
Stop overdevelopment – return real planning power to local communities through proper engagement

Stop corruption – put the needs of local communities before property developers and major political parties.

More information: www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/victoria_local_2020

Team Hakim – Local Independent

Council Candidates:

Jamal Hakim – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None
Safaa Hakim – 3008; None

Official party affiliation:

Issues: Safety: When we immigrated to Australia, it was important to us that we found a community where we felt safe, and we know this experience is shared by many in this part of Melbourne. We're passionate about ensuring this side of our CBD is a thriving community that is physically, emotionally, culturally and environmentally safe for everyone, and we want to broaden the city's definition of safety so that all plans and developments address this in a comprehensive way.

Congestion: The new stations being put in will be great for our neighbourhoods, but we need to ensure that our suburbs don't just become thoroughfares or overrun by developments. We plan to advocate for this neighbourhood to protect its cultural identity and ensure the community continues to have access to the lifestyle factors which are the reasons for living here.

More information: campaign@teamhakim.co; www.teamhakim.co

Team Sally Capp

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Sally Capp – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None
Nicholas Reece – 3068; Labor

Council Candidates:

Kevin Louey – resident in: 3181; political party membership: None
Roshena Campbell – 3065; Liberal
Mark David McMillan – 3011; None
Tania Davidge – 3184; None
James Young – 3145; None
Tina Kuek – 3006; Labor

Official party affiliation:

Issues: North and West Melbourne are among the fastest-growing parts of our city, and the City of Melbourne needs to ensure that facilities and services keep pace with community growth and needs. That's why Sally Capp's team will deliver on three leading issues for these communities. If elected, Sally Capp and her team will generate more jobs for all, including pathways to employment for people from diverse cultural backgrounds, international students and rough sleepers. Sally and her team will deliver more community infrastructure, including progressing the Kensington Community Centre redevelopment and ensuring the Arden urban renewal precinct in North Melbourne has new community facilities and open spaces to cater for the uplift in residents and workers. Sally's team is also committed to providing more green and open spaces, like the Greenline, which will provide new public spaces and better cycling and walking connections into the city.

More information: info@teamcapp.com; sallycapp.com

Animal Justice Party

Council Candidates:

Rabin Bangaar – resident in: 3051; political party membership: not provided
Rod Whitfield – resident in: 3053; political party membership: not provided

Official party affiliation:

Issues: Low income/high unemployment: Melbourne is blessed to be so multicultural. Additional funds to provide upskilling and training of people is critical for those that may have difficulty finding decent work or have low paid jobs because of language barriers. Housing affordability: Housing prices in the area are constantly skyrocketing as are rates. Not only should we be incentivising any development to be environmentally friendly and sustainably built, we need to ensure that houses are made affordable for those who need it most.

Limited parklands/green space: A significant lack of green space or wildlife corridors are present. Funding for community gardens to foster community connections, dog parks, and to provide more trees and safe areas for local wildlife is an important step in our reconciling with how we interact with the natural world.

More information: info@ajpvic.org.au; www.ajpvic.org.au

Melbourne City Council Election

Artemis Pattichi – Independent Local Voice

Council Candidates:

- Artemis Pattichi – resident in: 3006; political party membership: None
- Adriana Mendieta Nino – resident in: not provided; political party membership: not provided

Official party affiliation:

- None
- Issues:** Three leading issues I'd address for North and West Melburnians:
- Planning
 - Sustainability – Transport and Green Spaces
 - Sense of Community.

As an independent resident with community and sustainability work experience, I've seen how improving these areas can make our urban neighbourhoods more inclusive, liveable, with better access to jobs and opportunities. Actions:

- Improve council's planning consultation with communities and residents associations.
- Evaluate developments' long-term impact on your neighbourhood's livability and workability.
- Plan and invest in community spaces, responding to the distinct character and needs of each neighbourhood.
- Increase activated green spaces so you can interact with nature, improving mental and physical health.
- Improve West Melbourne's walkability while maintaining its historic character, e.g. green walking spaces, pedestrian and cycling paths, Spencer St green tram line.

I aim to support North and West Melbourne's dynamic character and communities, improve livability, inclusivity and diversity, sustainability, connectivity and vitality for your much-loved suburbs.

More information: ap4council@gmail.com; www.facebook.com/ArtemisPattichi4Council/

Liberal Democrats

Council Candidates:

- Paul Silverberg – resident in: 3006; political party membership: Liberal Democrats
- Faith Newman – resident in: 3006; political party membership: Liberal Democrats

Official party affiliation:

Liberal Democrats

Issues: Liberate Melbourne – Freedom & Prosperity. The challenges facing Melbourne are greater than at any other point in recent memory – so the 2020 election is unlike any other. The unjustifiably harsh lockdown of the city has caused immense damage to its economy, its people and our reputation. This election gives you a chance to right these wrongs, by electing people who will re-open Melbourne and restore its reputation as a most liveable city once again. North and West Melbourne have specific issues that need to be addressed that our team has identified:

1. Landlords are being heavily affected by the dip in the rental market with two-thirds of residents being renters. We will work with renters and landlord associations to help them carry the burden through instruments such as voting 'no' on rate increases / rate deferrals, especially as the state struggles to reopen the economy.
2. On-street parking is incredibly expensive for residents; we will work with stakeholders to increase affordability

More information: paulsilverberg@yahoo.com.au; contact@LDP.org.au

Residents First

Council Candidates:

- Janette Corcoran – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None
- Mary Masters – 3003; None
- Samantha Tran – 3006; None

Official party affiliation:

None

Issues: The major issue is that we don't have true representation on council, resulting in unmet needs. We've been overlooked by a council aligned to political parties, property developers or big business. Council focuses on Melbourne city, but we need attention on our suburbs: we need safer streets, more community services, and support for neighbourhoods and business across the municipality. Council must rebuild local communities in order to rebuild our economy: make our streets, our neighbourhood shopping strips and our city safe and welcoming for residents, visitors, and for workers to return to their offices. We need community-led consultation and funds for initiatives to help communities re-emerge from isolation. This starts with residential representation on council to ensure the needs of all residents are considered in council decisions. Mary Masters is a long-time resident of West Melbourne. Vote 1 Residents First to make residential living a council priority.

More information: contactus@residentsfirst.com.au; residentsfirst.com.au

Melbourne – We All Matter

Council Candidates:

- Sainab Sheikh – resident in: 3031; political party membership: None
- Fatuma Ali – 3031; None

Official party affiliation:

None

Issues: Local businesses and small business operators in North-West Melbourne precinct have been ignored by council to date with all their efforts focused on big ticket major projects. Well "we all matter" and some actions we will take are:

1. Provision of new programs that provide you with new skills to have the training required for the jobs of the future.
2. Provision of affordable childcare to give you the best opportunity especially to single parents to get into the workforce.
3. Cutting red tape to an absolute minimum so that small business can use their creativity to maximise their opportunities and we will help them achieve their goals, rather than put hurdles in the way. We particularly want to activate streets such as Errol Street, Victoria Street and Macaulay Road especially when we come out of COVID-19 restrictions so we can generate business and fill empty shops.

More information: page@ghp.biz

Innovate Melbourne – Startup the City

Council Candidates:

- Andrew Rowse – resident in: 3051; political party membership: None
- John Daniell – 3006; None

Official party affiliation:

None

Issues: As a resident of North Melbourne and member of the startup eco system, I see the Arden Development as an exceptional opportunity that can springboard the local community from the impacts of COVID-19, through supporting startups and SMEs. The designation of an 'Innovation Precinct' is a momentous opportunity for the community, but benefits will only be felt if the execution and links to Melbourne's growing startup and venture capital eco system are maintained. It is this endeavour, in achieving the success of the proposed innovation, economic and social precinct, that we must not abandon and I believe North Melbourne residents deserve to have confidence in the intent and execution of proposed plans. We cannot afford to have misaligned developments that do not serve the community, nor promote opportunity. This is our chance to ensure over the next 4 years, we safeguard opportunity and a prosperous future for our neighbourhood.

More information: innovatemelbourne@gmail.com

Morgan-Watts Team

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

- Gary Morgan – resident in: 3002; political party membership: None
- Mary-Lou Howie – 3003; None

Council Candidates:

- Jackie Watts – resident in: 3053; political party membership: Labor
- Michael Kennedy – 3000; Liberal
- Haya Aldaghlis – 3051; None
- Dashi Zhang – 3008; Liberal

Official party affiliation:

None

Issues: The community of North and West Melbourne faces yet another election with one of the world's worst gerrymanders in place. It is deliberately designed to reduce the voting power of residents and small business people like us. The flaws in the system are extensive and cannot be covered in this 150-word article. The current system serves the big end of town and results in poor representation at Council. This gerrymander has resulted in many poor decisions, Queen Victoria Market degeneration, the debacle over the safe injecting room, the weak financial position of the Council, the inappropriate development/unsustainable construction and the failure to consider the need for vital infrastructure in a growing city like open space, child care/education facilities and people-friendly public areas/streets. Post-pandemic, Council must re-assess existing strategies and policies to deal with the new normal. This election should deliver Councillors who can achieve successful results, not more failures.

More information: jackiewatts.com.au/morgan-watts-melbourne-2020-team/

Bring Back Melbourne

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

- Nick Russian – resident in: not provided; political party membership: None
- Michael Burge – 3124; Liberal

Council Candidates:

- Phillip Le Liu – resident in: 3000; political party membership: Liberal
- Serena Lu Jiang – 3006; Liberal
- Lauren Sherson – 3206; Liberal
- Darin Schade – 3002; Liberal

Official party affiliation:

None

Issues: Feasibility study of linking Docklands and Fisherman Bend, North and West Melbourne together through roads and other connections. No rate increase for the next 4 years. No penalties for late payment and an extra 30% discount for those who pay on time. A new 'Your Rates, Your Choice' program where residents can have the option of choosing where 50% of your rates can be invested and used. A digital 'Thank you Voucher' of \$300 credit for residents that can only be spent with participating small business within the City and a free mental health care package for all residents curated by council based on needs. Every resident will have an option of a 'Get to know your city' lesson funded by council to learn about the history of Melbourne.

More information: philip@businessresidentsstudents.melbourne; businessresidentsstudents.melbourne

The Greens

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

- Apsara Sabaratnam – resident in: 3000; political party membership: The Greens
- Roxane Ingleton – resident in: 3051; political party membership: The Greens

Council Candidates:

- Rohan Leppert – resident in: 3031; political party membership: The Greens
- Olivia Ball – 3053; The Greens
- Emily Corcoran – 3053; The Greens
- David Jeffery – 3031; The Greens
- Nakita Thomson – 3006; The Greens
- Charlotte George – 3002; The Greens

Official party affiliation:

The Greens

Issues: Our full plan for North and West Melbourne is at www.melbournecitygreens.com. North and West Melbourne are growing quickly, but not equitably. We will focus on the housing crisis by building public, social and emergency housing, especially in 'Arden', and changing the planning rules to require more affordable homes to be built. We want young people, essential workers and families to be able to afford to live and prosper in our inner suburbs. We will fight for renters' and public housing tenants' rights. We will tackle climate change by accelerating sustainable building design in the planning system, while conserving our precious built heritage, and delivering new parks including on Queensberry and Sutton streets. We will support our local economies through a recession by changing

Melbourne City Council Election

our rating system, to allow for much lower rates on cafes, restaurants and places people gather, while doubling them on gambling premises and providing relief for residents.

More information: rohan.leppert@vic.greens.org.au; melbournecitygreens.com/election-2020/

Victorian Socialists

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Kath Larkin – resident in: 3053; political party membership: Victorian Socialists
Daniel Nair Dadich – 3031; Victorian Socialists

Council Candidates:

Christopher di Pasquale – resident in: 3053; political party membership: Victorian Socialists
Jesse Lambourn – 3000; Victorian Socialists

Official party affiliation: Victorian Socialists

Issues: 1. Council is run for business interests. Businesses get two votes in the elections, while hundreds of thousands of workers are marginalised. The Lord Mayor is the former head of the property council and takes home more than \$200,000. We will campaign to abolish the business vote and only take a worker's wage – giving the rest to community campaigns.

2. We are in a housing crisis. Public Housing is being left to rot or sold off, and the rental market is unaffordable. We will fight for rent controls, improved and expanded public housing – by 30,000 housing units in three years – and a voice for public housing residents on Council.

3. Privatisation has destroyed our communities, and been revealed as a killer during this pandemic. We will stand up against the reckless pursuit of profit, and campaign to reverse the privatisation of aged care and other services.

More information: kath.larkin@victoriansocialists.org.au; www.victoriansocialists.org.au/melbourne-city

It Will Be Okay Melbourne

Council Candidates:

Joseph Burke – resident in: 3078; political party membership: None
Michael Mach – 3006; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: The leading issues facing residents of North and West Melbourne relate to lockdown.

Facemasks and the lockdown: The imposition of mandatory facemasks is insulting and intimidating to residents, whether or not they are effective. Local residents shouldn't be fined just because they left their facemask at home.

Public transport and the lockdown: We recognise that a lot of people in this area are reliant on public transport, and that they don't drive because historically the public transport has been really good. But, the post-COVID-19 world changes this. This will mean that council should have outreach service delivery so that residents don't have to travel to town hall to get things done.

Happiness and the lockdown: It's terrible what we have all been through, but it's important to remember that it's just temporary. Happiness will return. It will be okay Melbourne.

More information: councillor@machassociates.com.au; council@jbcrimlaw.com.au

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Scott Robson – resident in: 3051; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: I stand as a purely independent common-sense Melbournian. I am not limited by a single issue, political party, or ideology. Importantly, I believe people are intelligent and capable of taking personal responsibility for their own decisions about the risks and opportunities they take. I will encourage prosperity and life-quality, and protect against fear and control. Supporting the vulnerable and enabling the capable. Born in Melbourne, graduated Masters of Business Administration, AIB, and Bachelor Science, Monash University. My guiding principles are: 1. Question everything. 2. Choose common sense over regulation. 3. Council projects should be aesthetic and practical. 4. Think like a scientist rather than have faith in 'science'. 5. People belong to groups; groups are not people. 6. We are all connected. 7. It all happens with a smile. Together, let's make Melbourne the world's most liveable city again.

More information: Robson.scott888@yahoo.com

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Luke Downing – resident in: 3051; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues:

1. The extraordinary collapse of public amenity in North and West Melbourne over the past several years is extraordinary. I have never seen anything like it in my life. We know how to conduct ourselves in our community – public amenities must be increased. It will only benefit us all.

2. The encroachment of high density residential developments in what has always been a highly residential, but open, well spaced and natural environment.

3. The treatment of traders at Queen Victoria Market is an absolute travesty. This abomination of a transformation that has emerged from City of Melbourne over the past five years has no understanding of the significance, and economic stability, that the Market and its traders provide not merely to North and West Melbourne residents, but to people throughout northern Melbourne. There's a good reason we enjoy and frequent the Market – it's part of our fabric. And it is not expensive – a valuable asset to our food security and general community wellbeing.

More information: luke.s.downing@gmail.com

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Philip Jonathan Bateman – resident in: 3002; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: I seek your vote and see this role as my civic duty to support our city. I am particularly interested in multicultural engagement, renewable energy investments, pursuing circular economy principles and redesigning our inputs to eliminate waste, activating municipal spaces to improve social interaction, whilst improving access to all kinds of health care. Having worked with small to medium business my whole life, I am keen to see them again thrive, whilst driving for greater tax compliance from multinational organisations. Rekindling our theatre, music and events are a top priority, though I have no wish to endanger anyone for a COVID-19 resurgence through rapid reopening. I see drug usage as a social, not criminal issue, and I do not encourage alcohol consumption or gambling. I believe the way to direct our society together, is by making choices based on merit and not ideology. Find me at linkedin.com/in/philipbateman

More information: pbcityofmel@gmail.com

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Andrew Ward – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Public Housing decline – I was upset to see the treatment of the tower residents during the COVID-19 postcode lockdowns. Public housing has been in decline over the past 10 years, disturbingly when the need has been increasing. In 2009 there were 65,064 dwellings available; in 2019 that number shrunk to 64,428, a decline of 636 dwellings or about 1%. I will push council to reverse this trend and provide a roadmap to meet the current demands and improve amenity. Small Business support – provide access to rates relief, an extension to the current grant program, and a City funded App-based Voucher system called 'City Cash' to support all industries. Increase funding for community health and wellbeing. Improve and invest in facilities, services and social spaces for Melbourne's youth and seniors. I would like to see another 'Venny' facility with attached skate park to be built in North Melbourne.

More information: adward70@gmail.com

Team Zorin

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Wayne Tseng – resident in: 3000; political party membership: None
Gricol Yang – 3000; None

Official party affiliation: No

Issues: Team Zorin brings inspirations and innovations to Melbourne recovery. We advocate 'fit for purpose' policies and don't drive on the Left or Right ideology. You will find policies that address the needs of all Melbournians at Zorin.com.au. Team Zorin will invite all Melbournians to participate in the governing of the city through the introduction of a digital democracy platform. Melbournians through their phones can post issues, report failures, submit solutions, hold virtual committees, rate the performance of your councillors and vote on council decisions (no direct vote yet). Melbourne is so precious to be a test lab for half-baked policies. We cannot have another failure. Melbournians know Melbourne best. Team Zorin will begin the process of planning and governing the city as a collective. Vote for Us Vote for Yourself. Are you ready to begin?

More information: zorin.com.au

What is the role of a Councillor?

Cr Cathy Oke, Melbourne City Council 2008-2020

This is the first Council election since 2004 that I will not be contesting as a candidate, so I appreciate this opportunity to reflect on the important role of Councillors within our municipality. It was community institutions, like the *North & West Melbourne News* (and my parents Kay and Rob), that instilled my respect for this level of government, the tier closest to the people. I grew up with bundles of the *News* in the hallway of our house. It was through the articles in this paper, and the people who volunteered to distribute it to the neighbourhood, that I learned the importance of politicians engaging in local issues like saving local swimming pools or protecting Royal Park. It was in watching those local campaigns as a teenager that I had a glimpse of the important but often difficult decisions that Councillors need to make, to balance the needs of the whole community – within limited resources and often with limited control.

Councillors are elected by ratepayers, and in the City of Melbourne this includes residents, businesses and those who pay rates but don't live here. Unlike other municipalities, Councillors aren't assigned to Wards and don't have to live here – rather we take an Oath of Office, committing to carry out the role to the best of our ability for the whole municipality – East Melbourne to Kensington, Southbank to Carlton, and the Melbourne CBD. In a normal non-COVID-19 day, more than one million people travel to The City of Melbourne for work or to visit. So the City of Melbourne Act also requires taking all residents, businesses and visitors into consideration.

A week in the life of a Councillor includes one formal evening meeting of Council or Future Melbourne Committee (three Tuesdays a month), a day of briefings and multiple other committees or meetings with constituents in the evenings and much of the weekend. But, with the long hours, you get to meet some amazing people doing amazing things, and contribute to policies for better communities.

Being born and bred in North Melbourne, and having lived in Carlton and now Kensington, provided me a perspective of the local issues, voices, and opportunities from people just as passionate about our neighbourhoods as me; although it has of course not always been easy to navigate opposing concerns among friends and neighbours! Despite this tension, I strongly believe that being a local is a key attribute of a good Councillor, because a key Councillor role is to provide links between the community and Council; something best undertaken by those with lived experience. It is important in this level of government, closest to the community, that you understand how Council decisions affect those who live and work here on a daily basis.

Kerr's role revealed in right royal rumpus

Maurice Gaul

Local resident Professor Jenny Hocking is a respected and widely published historian, especially lauded for her magisterial two-volume biography of Gough Whitlam.

She is also a national treasure. For years she worked tirelessly for the public release of the Palace Letters, the 211 exchanges between Governor-General Sir John Kerr and the Queen. They reveal how Kerr planned and received royal advice on his 1975 sacking of the Whitlam government.

"The Dismissal was a momentous event in our history. The Governor-General removed from office, without warning, an elected government that had the confidence of the Representatives. Hours later, when the house voted no confidence in Malcolm Fraser, he refused to resign. That was simply intolerable in a parliamentary democracy," Jenny says.

Until three months ago, the exchanges of 45 years ago between Kerr and the Queen had been held in the National Archives under the Queen's embargo.

In 2016, attempting to have the letters released, Jenny took the archives to the Federal Court but lost the case and a later appeal. However, in May this year, the High Court ruled in her favour. It rejected the National Archives' claim the letters were personal between Kerr and the Queen, instead ruling they were Commonwealth records. The court's decision paved the way for the archives to release the letters in full.

"The 6-1 decision was emphatic. For the first time, a reigning monarch's desire to keep correspondence hidden had been overturned. My pro bono legal team were marvellous and their work means that Australians now can know their own history," Jenny says.

The court's ruling forced the lifting of the archaic royal embargo on our own historical records. For Jenny, it was a moment to celebrate. "Finally, a national humiliation had ended. No longer could the Queen withhold the truth of her discussions with Kerr that led to that cataclysmic day."

Jenny explains that Kerr made his decision by himself but was strongly influenced by his exchanges with the Queen's secretary.

"Kerr was an insecure man who wanted the Palace's approbation and was overweening in his



Professor Jenny Hocking's book *The Palace Letters* will be released in November.

deference. As a proud Australian and a republican, it's just embarrassing to read these letters."

It's beyond dispute that the Queen's private secretary's letters effectively came from the monarch herself. "After the dismissal, Kerr said he had never involved the Queen. But in fact the information that came from her secretary is from the Queen. Kerr could only write to her through her private secretary. That's how it works," Jenny says.

The bitter reality of that turbulent time was the Queen in London knew more about our political crisis than our elected prime minister in Canberra. "The Queen knew Kerr was considering sacking the government at the very time he had chosen not to speak to Prime Minister Whitlam about his strategy regarding the blockage of supply."

Jenny sums up how Kerr broke all conventions. "In a constitutional monarchy, a governor-general must remain politically neutral and act on the government's advice. Kerr didn't do that. He was getting advice from the Palace on the very matters he was bound to discuss with the prime minister," she explains.

The release of the Palace Letters has reignited some of the visceral anger of that era, and the Guardian's Katharine Murphy recently told the ABC's *Insiders* that she was on the verge of going "full Irish".

Many other Australians are similarly irate as we learn the truth about 1975. Jenny remains hopeful that the revelations in the letters, plus the knowledge that the Queen was able to embargo them from us for decades, will see us move towards a republic.

"It's a national humiliation that we can't choose someone from among

us to be our own head of state.

We have to wonder why we have such an anachronistic notion of privilege, accepting the birthright of one family, in a democratic and egalitarian nation like Australia.

"We shouldn't be in a position where someone like me has to take Federal Court action to get access to our own archival national records because the Queen has told us that we couldn't look at them," she says.

In his doomed election campaign in the weeks after the dismissal, Whitlam urged voters to "maintain the rage". Too few did, and Labor was crushed.

However, it's the blistering words of the just-dismissed Whitlam on the steps of parliament, "Well may we say God save the Queen, because nothing will save the Governor-General", that have rung down the years.

Kerr remains a bumptious, top-hatted figure of ridicule in public memory, a view fuelled by his drunken antics at the 1977 Melbourne Cup.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Want to know more?

The Palace Letters will be published in November by Scribe. Pre-orders are now available.



Lauren proves a caring presence

John H. Smith

Reverend Lauren Mosso knows all too well the threat COVID-19 poses to community health and wellbeing.

In April, her brother in Maryland, US, was hospitalised with the virus, and her sister-in-law also became infected. Fortunately, both have fully recovered.

Lauren lives in North Melbourne with husband Mark Duckworth and their three children. She sings with Errol's Angels choir but, in her role as Epworth Richmond's senior chaplain and pastoral care coordinator, life is far from a song as she experiences daily the effects of the virus.

An ordained Uniting Church minister, Lauren's vocation led her to specialise in pastoral care. She now brings a faith-based presence to the hospital's Richmond and Freemasons acute care campuses, where she co-ordinates a religiously diverse and multi-skilled pastoral care team.

Epworth began in 1920 as an outreach of the Methodist Church, in response to the Spanish flu pandemic. Ironically, its centenary is being celebrated as it copes with COVID-19.

"I love helping all our team to identify their gifts and encouraging them to stretch and grow, both personally and in their work. Together, we provide pastoral care and support to the patients, their families and the hospital staff," Lauren says.

"This involves being a non-anxious presence on the ward. It might involve having a chat,

connecting people with each other, or sitting with a family or a staff person to debrief after a critical incident such as a sudden death."

Sometimes the moment of contact is a lot less confronting. "A quiet chat can make all the difference. It can mean caring for someone, perhaps by just allowing space for a bit of black humour to surface and to be released," she says.

All of Melbourne is finding the lockdown challenging.

"At Epworth, we are now even more aware of how interconnected we are as a community," Lauren says.

"The effect of severely restricted visitor numbers is huge. The wards are quiet and can be lonely places for patients and so difficult for their families who can't visit. And all front-line health workers are deeply anxious in this second wave."

For Lauren, it's the loss of personal connection that is most painful. "It's so hard wearing a mask and a face shield while offering pastoral care to people who might have to rely on lipreading to understand."

While the daily crises are endlessly challenging, Lauren ensures hospital staff have chances to debrief. Even in the current stressful situation, she helps others unwind and find joy in the moment.

"Recently we gathered in the chapel to sing a song composed especially to farewell a colleague. And we occasionally frock up to spread comfort and joy on the wards," she says.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.



Lauren and her bunny friends enjoyed Easter at Epworth.



Michael and Kyri at Roasting Warehouse.



Shaun at Wood Pharmacy.



Linh at Andrew Harris Optometry.

Local shops provide a welcome break from social isolation

On the day before Melbourne went into stage four lockdown, photographer Meg De Young visited some of the local shops that have been so important in keeping our community alive. They have provided much appreciated personal contact for us all.



Chris at North Melbourne Books.



Sue and Sophia at City North Physiotherapy.

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Biral and Parul Singh at Ferguson Plarre.



Steve and Vishal at the Commonwealth Bank.



Luke and Emily at Sublime.



Ashlee and Cory at Parkhill Cellars.



Con and Raj at IGA.



Sushi Noodle Town's Jenny, Yong and Teresa.



W.B. Simpson: Silvia Lonigro, Richard Simpson, Deborah Adams, Syd Sherrin.



Peter and Jenni at Paw Principality.

Madeleine Scully

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club, nestled in the pretty Flagstaff Gardens, has been bowled over by COVID-19.

In many ways, 2020 has been our most challenging year since we moved into our beautiful new building in 2009. Club members have been unable to gather in the clubrooms since we held our 'Farewell to the Bowlo ... for now' function back in March.

The greens have for many weeks lain unused but certainly not unloved due to the care of our excellent greenkeeper, Peter

Bowled over by virus

Barron. Some months back, when stage three restrictions were lifted, members keen to get back on the greens were able to use the online booking system and to comply with all the COVID-safe rules.

When winter pennant competition was cancelled, we made plans for an in-house tournament and were excited with the prospect of re-opening the clubrooms. We were running a limited bowls program until the

tough stage four restrictions arrived and we had to put all our plans on ice.

The club has used the time to do some work on our facilities and our systems. The lounge has been fitted out with new chairs and new tabletops, ready to be enjoyed when functions resume. Less visible are the new systems being bedded down, which will make life easier for members' accounts and bookings.

Like so many other organisations,

we have been making use of technology to stay connected with members. Our annual meeting in July was the first held via Zoom and the best attended in memory. The board has also been using Zoom for monthly meetings since March.

The club celebrated its 154th birthday back in August. However, we couldn't keep up our now decade-long tradition of an annual party in our new clubhouse. That night it was sadly empty and silent. Instead, we all shared a celebration over Zoom, complete with cakes, candles and glasses raised to toast the occasion.

Members are staying in touch

through regular Friday evening Zoom sessions, newsletters and email updates. Some also report occasional personal encounters while out walking, though recognising our masked-up fellow bowlers can be challenging.

We mustn't forget how fortunate we are to be part of a 154-year-old club that has risen to many challenges over its history. The project to write that history is nearing completion, and we hope to soon hold the book's launch in our own clubrooms.

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

Docklands Pop Up boosts community links



Shimi with her daughter Aria.

Stacey Halls

The Docklands Pop Up Neighbourhood House is a two-year project of the Centre funded by the City of Melbourne and designed to empower the community to develop connections via activities, information sessions and events. Meet Pop Up volunteer Shimi Kannoly.

Shimi, how long have you lived in Docklands?

We moved to Docklands last December. I feel it was our best decision to move here as we have everything nearby. We can enjoy beautiful sunsets as we walk around Central Pier or we might get lucky and see a double rainbow at Ron Barassi Park.

Where are you from?

I was born in Kerala, in the south of India, but I was brought up in Bombay. After I married, I moved to Bangalore. We always wanted to move to some place where life would be more peaceful. In 2013, we came to Australia and decided to stay here forever.

How did you hear about Pop Up?

District Docklands is one of our favourite places to hang out. I passed the Pop Up Neighbourhood House, got curious, and one day I walked in and talked to the then coordinator Carol. She said they needed more volunteers. I had just left my job and wanted to engage myself in something that made me happy.

What do you like about it?

Getting to know about and understand different cultures. Previously, my circle involved my husband's friends, but now I have friends of my own. When I go out for a walk I meet at least one person with whom I can share a smile and talk about our wellbeing and share our emotions.

Which is your favourite Pop Up activity?

I enjoy them all. I loved the customer service training and Carol was a great mentor. I introduced my daughter, Aria, to our friendly walks and she likes meeting all the

volunteers. I enjoyed the challenge of learning knitting and making masks. I loved the cooking lesson and I made yummy ANZAC biscuits.

What have you enjoyed during lockdown?

I mightn't be very good at it but I'm trying stitching and I've managed to make some masks. Cooking is like a therapy for me and I've loved trying new recipes. I'm a trained Indian classical dancer and I'm trying to learn a new dance form. I've also found lockdown to be a good time to help Aria learn to ride her bike.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Many women come here with their partners and struggle to find a job. I was desperate to work, did so for six months, but allowed myself to be exploited. Trust me, it's not worth it. You might earn a bit of money but you can get scarred for life. I prefer to be a volunteer, to help the community and to spread love.

Stacey Halls is community development coordinator at The Centre.

Sweet treats on Errol Street

Nigel Pereira

In early May, Siavash Kaveh opened the doors of Hotham Juice & Gelati, his cute little ice-cream shop in Errol Street in North Melbourne.

Persian-born Siavash has transformed the interior of the 140-year-old building, previously a Baker's Delight, into a very cool ice-cream parlour. Walk in and you'll love the ambience of this niche business that has successfully weathered this lockdown winter.



Siavash Kaveh at his Hotham Gelati. Photograph: Meg De Young

To your left is a pictorial timeline of the suburb's rich history, taking us all the way back to 1884. And to your right is an eye-

catching, colourful wall covered in inspirational and feel-good quotes.

Siavash's creative menu includes 24 tempting gelati flavours. And,

as you stand at the counter and check out the backboard, you'll be spoilt for choice with the dozens of smoothies and juices on offer. If a 'banana peanut butter smoothie' doesn't hit the spot, you can fire up with a 'fibre engine' juice.

Prior to opening in May, there were many challenges to overcome. "I had to get all the required permits in order and I completed all the renovations myself," he says with quiet pride.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has knocked all local businesses around, Siavash has worked hard at fostering customer reach to the shop's door. "I started the shop because it was my dream. Now I get locally sourced produce from the Queen Vic market. I want to be a local and support locals," he says.

Siavash's work ethic is striking. He makes fresh gelati daily, as well as handling all the juicing and barista

duties required. "Gelati comes from juices, they all come from fruits. They're all a family," he says.

It's hard work, all done without financial support from the government, but Siavash has no regrets. Despite the tough times, he doesn't see closing down as an option. "The locals support me and they buy lots of gelati," he says.

Siavash lives above the shop and is acutely aware of the crushing scene along Errol Street as businesses close down around him. "It breaks my heart, it's so sad," he laments.

However, summer is on the way and the times will get better. Keep your eye on this little gem of a shop. Whatever you do, don't miss Siavash's 'saffron and rosewater' gelati.

Nigel Pereira is a new contributor to the News.

Music teacher strikes the right note in tough times

Joe Misuraca

Imogen Cygler teaches piano at the Living School of Music, tucked away on Little Baillie Street in North Melbourne.

She has taught there for just on a year and, before 2020's two lockdowns, took 10 students each week. Now, stage four restrictions made her resort to teaching them online. "In fact, I've found it to be productive and I like being able to check up on them virtually," she says.

Imogen's teaching via videoconferencing has yielded another unexpected benefit for her young students. "This approach means they've got no choice other than to read music, and this has really develops their skills at piano," she says.

For Imogen, there's no secret about being a good and empathetic piano



Imogen Cygler hard at work.

teacher. "I believe it's someone who listens to students and what they need, and who comes to understand what sort of teaching works for them."

While Imogen has loved classical music since she was a child, she

changed her musical focus nearing the completion of her Year 12 music studies.

"I decided then that I wanted to play my own music. I realised I wanted to experiment with my own ideas and a lot of that was driven by

contemporary music practice," she says.

Imogen is now doing her master's in composition at the Victorian College of the Arts. Her honours thesis was on her other musical inspiration, Scandinavian art song. She investigated the sound of that genre and is now looking, as part of her master's, at how Scandinavian music has influenced her identity as a composer.

She recently received the City of Melbourne's quick-response COVID-19 arts development grant. She won it for her composition of a new work, a joint effort with dancer Arabella Frahn-Starkie and filmmaker Meg Duncan.

"The initial creative development was to generate material for a work to be presented, we hope, in Melbourne at some later point. It's for a large ensemble of 13 performers consisting

of eight musicians and five dancers," Imogen says.

Her blossoming performance career has been knocked around by COVID-19. Before it struck, she had four gigs a week around Melbourne but she now can't imagine when that work will return.

"I'm unsure if audiences will appreciate live music again after this crisis, but I just hope things will get better."

Despite all the widespread current gloom, Imogen has taken advantage of being stuck in lockdown. "It's given me the time to hone my craft and to work on my studio skills rather than my performance skills. It's also part of my master's studies.

"The times are tough, but the forced shift in focus at this time is so valuable," she says.

Joe Misuraca is a new contributor to the News.

Church a community of people, not a building

Claire Yeoh

Geoff Pound, pastor of West Melbourne Baptist Church, remains cheerful about the pandemic lockdown.

"I think it has reminded all of us that the church is not a building but rather is a community of people," he says.

Geoff is strikingly upbeat as he outlines how his church has managed to stay

connected with worshippers during these uncertain times.

"The pandemic has encouraged our congregants to be more purposeful about checking in with each other via phone calls and Zoom meetings," he explains.

The church community has responded positively to the lockdown.

"We find our people are sharing with each other how they are feeling and how they have been coping or, sometimes, not coping. As a result, we've probably got closer as a community through doing that."

On normal pre-pandemic Sundays, the Baptist community gathered in a multi-purpose room in their 'vertical-village' Hawke and King Apartment complex.

"Our congregation had moved here, after over 150 years in a traditional church building, when we decided to be more community-centred," Geoff says.

However, COVID-19 restrictions forced the temporary closure of the programs the church had developed to serve the local community.

"We've had to put on ice our work with food

distribution, our health and wellness activities, and our playgroups and homework clubs," he says sadly.

As a result, Geoff and his fellow workers have been considering alternative ways to support the community. With anxiety levels on the rise and many grieving as a result of the global pandemic, the church is actively addressing pastoral care support and is equipping congregants to better support their friends and family.

However challenging these dark days might be, Geoff remains optimistic and says he can see the lockdown's silver lining. He emphasises that the church has been able to do things that in normal times are often left to the bottom of the list.

"We're actively reviewing and improving our operations, and we're taking the time to adapt and think ahead. The church building might be closed, but the church is still very much active," he says.

Claire Yeoh is a new contributor to the News.



Geoff Pound, the man behind the mask.

Get involved through The Centre

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

Take a walk with a purpose

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

If you are interested, please email admin@centre.org.au

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BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chris Saliba



COVID-19: The Pandemic that Never Should Have Happened, and How to Stop the Next One
Debora Mackenzie
(Bridge Street Press, RRP: \$32.99)

Debora Mackenzie has been a *New Scientist* journalist for 36 years. Having followed viruses and pandemics for decades, she was approached to write a 'crash' book on the subject of COVID-19. The result is a punchy and arresting short history of zoonotic pathogens – diseases that have jumped from animals to humans. The scientific community has been on high alert since SARS emerged from China. Meanwhile, the rest of us went about our business blissfully unaware.

It is almost certain we got COVID-19 from bats. As human populations expand and move into areas rich in wildlife, the risk of transmission increases. Indeed, the history of agriculture is the history of zoonotic disease.

How do we avert further catastrophe? Essentially, money is needed for research and resources. Intergovernmental co-operation is also essential. In a globalised world, a pandemic is everyone's problem. Importantly, the US and China need to co-operate and pool their scientific knowledge.

Mackenzie maintains that, with better planning, this pandemic could have been stopped in its tracks. It would have cost money, but as the global economy nosedives, prevention would have been cheaper than cure.



The Stray Cats of Homs
Eva Nour
(Doubleday, RRP: \$29.99)

Eva Nour is a Swedish journalist who writes under a pseudonym. In 2015 she met 'Sami', a Syrian asylum seeker, while working in Paris. The two became friends and later, more seriously involved. Nour persisted in asking Sami questions about the Syrian civil war that started in 2011, encouraging him to open up about his experiences. The result is the remarkable *The Stray Cats of Homs*, a novelisation of Sami's story.

The novel begins with Sami's childhood. He grows up with three siblings and loving parents. Soon enough, the brutal nature of Bashar al-Assad's police state starts impinging on Sami's life. He learns to be careful of what to say and to whom. In 2011, several non-violent protests against the Assad regime take place and are brutally repressed. When civil war breaks out, many human rights abuses take place that are impossible to countenance. Surely the rest of the world won't let such violent injustices happen?

Skillfully constructed to make for engaging reading, *The Stray Cats of Homs* shows how the Syrian civil war has devastated countless lives. A humbling story delivered with grace and humanity.

Chris Saliba is co-owner of North Melbourne Books, 546 Queensberry Street. He writes regular reviews for the News. North Melbourne Books has remained open to serve local readers. Phone 9041 4216; email northmelbournebooks@gmail.com; or visit northmelbournebooks.weebly.com



Bibbit Jumps
Bei Lynn
(Gecko Press, RRP: \$16.99)

Bibbit is a frog that loves to jump. He has a sister, no longer a tadpole, whom he calls Little Frog. The two go on a picnic and find a banana tree. They pick the juiciest banana and share it with their other frog friends. Bibbit and Little Frog don't only have friends in the frog world, they are also friendly with rabbits, squirrels, birds – even cats and dogs.

They get involved in many adventures in the wild, but soon Little Frog wants to go to the city. Bibbit is not so sure – the city makes him nervous – but eventually he follows her lead. Together they navigate the city's busy streets, find a lift in a big building, and go to the top floor for a big surprise.

Illustrator and writer Bei Lynn's quirky story of frogs, tadpoles and other forest creatures is an utter delight from start to finish. It is full of surprises and funny incidents (the scene with the balancing tadpoles is an absolute hoot), and it features lots of beautiful line and watercolour illustrations. *Bibbit Jumps* will charm emerging readers – and adults too.

For ages 7-8 years.



Performer *Hannah Camilleri*.

Hannah's show jumps from Club Voltaire onto the web

Annette McQuarrie

Club Voltaire is an intimate theatre space in North Melbourne's Raglan Street that hosts our city's emerging and established artists across theatre, music, dance and comedy.

Hannah Camilleri's 2020 Melbourne Comedy Festival show had been slotted in at the quirky Voltaire, which had played host to her sell-out 2018 Fringe Festival show, *Big Snot*.

Then COVID-19 brought the curtain down on Hannah's one-woman show. However, she had one more ace up her sleeve – a good trick for a comedienne who isn't a magician.

She applied for and won a City of Melbourne arts grant, enabling her to produce a web comedy series, *Little Shits*, based on a play she had performed at Club Voltaire. In a race against time, six short scenes were filmed before Melbourne went into lockdown. Editing was finalised behind closed doors and the web series premiered in August.

Little Shits introduces us to four young, self-obsessed

20-somethings. There's Nina (played by Hannah), Fran (David Quirk), Ruth (Nat Harris) and Henry (Jordan Prosser). Three live in a shared household and one is applying to join.

Hannah explains how she settled on the name of her show. "There's one character in each scene that's acting like a little shit, someone who has no regard for the others, hence the title," she laughs.

She is upfront that she has based the characters on some past flatmates. "Of course, I have! But all names and job descriptions have been altered to protect the innocent – and to prevent a lawsuit."

The series of six short episodes, with its deadpan delivery, clever dialogue and delightfully awkward scenarios between housemates, will strike a chord with anyone who has lived in a share house.

Annette McQuarrie writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?

Watch Hannah Camilleri's web series, *Little Shits*, at youtu.be/MFTBHwnmIhc

ELLEN SANDELL

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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

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FROM THE CHAIR Karl Hessian



Many thanks to many people

This year's report is a reminder that there were nine months of more or less usual operations that preceded the final distorting three, even if it doesn't feel like that.

The final quarter, in which so much cherished activity and community engagement was abruptly suspended, looms over everything and puts all else in the shade.

There are really only two things to be said. The first and most important is to sincerely thank all the staff, volunteers, contractors and everybody else who assists in the running of The Centre. This year you have been subjected to extraordinary stresses, uncertainties and disappointments. In March you quickly accepted our changed reality and dealt with it. You have continually kept

probing to tweak or develop new ways of working and you have adapted well and with grace. I am grateful to each of you.

Second, I need to acknowledge the financial support provided by all levels of Government. This has taken two forms: a relaxation of delivery requirements for existing grants and further cash. Each has been very much appreciated and has ensured that we could retain all our staff and remain viable. In large part due to this support we have generated a surplus. This is a humbling position to be in. As soon as possible this surplus will be reinvested back into our community and spent for the benefit of all.

Thank you to everybody in North and West Melbourne for your continuing support.

FROM THE DIRECTOR Tom Seddon



Centre is a place for everyone

The Centre is North and West Melbourne's neighbourhood house in Errol St, North Melbourne and the publisher of the *North & West Melbourne News*. Instead of a thick annual report on the year to 30 June 2020, distributed to and read by few, we have this year decided to strip it back to basics and distribute it via this issue of the *News*.

Neighbourhood houses are for everyone. Anyone can join The Centre, and it's free. We offer a range of programs and anyone can suggest new ones. Even better, become a Centre volunteer and help us make your idea happen.

COVID-19's arrival in Australia at the end of February made 2019/20 a year of two very different parts. The first eight months of the year ran as scheduled. But come March – as limitations on events and 'social distancing' came in, and schools began to close – we cancelled the 2020 Spanish Language Fiesta.

Soon after that The Centre itself was required to close along with our Pop Up Neighbourhood House in Docklands, only opened in December. Like so many others, Centre staff learnt to work from home and to conduct meetings by video. Board meetings, too, moved online.

Financially, The Centre like many other institutions faced a sudden drop in income as programs suddenly stopped. State and federal programs provided support to keep The Centre afloat as restrictions continue even now. For the year as a whole, the association reported

income of \$556,079 and expenses of \$504,317 leaving a surplus of \$51,742. After two consecutive annual shortfalls, planning for and achieving a surplus even in these strange times was a necessity.

During the year, Community Development Coordinator Carolynne Venn and Events Coordinator Tatiana Echeverri moved on to new challenges, leaving behind important legacies: Carolynne drove the successful establishment of our Docklands Pop Up Neighbourhood House and Tatiana founded our popular annual Spanish Language Fiesta. We welcomed incoming Community Development Coordinator Stacey Halls and former student intern-turned Community Development Officer Jason Butcher.

As well as Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, The Centre receives operational funding from the City of Melbourne, and we value the close working relationship we have at Town Hall with Tallia, Melanie, Ariel and Siobhan.

As ever, The Centre owes a big thank you to our Spring Fling volunteers; the folks who write, produce and deliver the *News*; homework club tutors; our staff and office volunteers; and board members. Also to everyone who is part of a Centre program, from exercise classes to Errol's Angels Community Choir to those who stay mentally sharp in an IT class.

Centre Staff, Contractors and Volunteer Program Leads in 2019/20

Laurence Angwin, Home Away from Homework Club Supervisor

Craig Barry, CFO/CIO

Anne Burgi, *North & West Melbourne News* Production Manager

Jason Butcher, Community Development Officer (from 1/20)

Louise Cindric, IT Instructor

Maryanne Clements, Errol's Angels Choir Leader

Tatiana Echeverri, Events Coordinator (to 12/19)

Maurice Gaul, *North & West Melbourne News* Editor

Stacey Halls, Community Development Coordinator (from 6/20)

Ragn Hannah, Operations & Business Coordinator

Ashlea Karosas, Home Away from Homework Club Supervisor

Frances McMillan, Foundation Skills Coordinator

Yulay Perez, SLF 2020 Coordinator

Tom Seddon, Centre Director

Carolynne Venn, Community Development Coordinator (to 3/20)

Mitsalal Zufi, cleaner

Centre Board members

Karl Hessian, Chair

Lorna Hannan OAM, Deputy Chair (elected Oct 2019)

Kay Oke OAM, Secretary (elected Oct 2019)

Kathleen McPherson, Treasurer

Bill Liddy

Ben O'Connor

Kate Ritchie (appointed Feb 2020)

Margaret Wood AM

Michael Halls and Malcolm Peacock AM (retired at the Oct 2019 AGM)

Report to the community 2019/20

MAJOR EVENTS**Spring Fling**

The Centre has organised North Melbourne's major community street festival for decades. Falling government assistance, rising costs and a long-term drop in market stall hirers made Spring Fling for several years now by far the largest drain on Centre finances.

We announced in mid-2019 that a festival that closed major roads and a tramline was now simply too expensive. Spring Fling had evolved from its first year in the basement of the North Melbourne Town Hall in the mid-1970s, and it would need to evolve again.

Around 4,000 locals turned up on Saturday 19 October for a great day (until it rained) of activities in the laneways off Errol Street and also the North Melbourne Library, the Legion Hall and the Lithuanian Club. Not everyone agreed with taking the festival off Errol Street, and they let us know it! While Spring Fling cannot be held in 2020, we are looking forward to 2021.

Thanks to Events Coordinator Tatiana Echeverri and her team of volunteer supervisors as well as about 60 volunteers on the day, as well as sponsors Victorian Multi-cultural Commission, City of Melbourne, Alexkarbon, Costco and Flexicar.

Spanish Language Fiesta

The SLF has fast become North Melbourne's 'must do' laneway festival since its start in 2016 as the Centre then student intern Tatiana Echeverri's master's project.

In April 2019 some 2,500 people jammed George Johnson Lane and Little Errol St and we had big plans for 2020 under new event coordinator Yulay Perez. Instead, SLF 2020 was an early casualty of COVID-19 restrictions and organisers spent a weekend pasting the word 'cancelled' over the fiesta advertisement in 6,500 copies of the *News*.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****Docklands Pop Up**

The Centre obtained funding for two years (since extended by three months) from July 2019 to take the neighbourhood house concept to Docklands. Initial groundwork was done by Carolynne Venn and interns Ivano Abram and Jason Butcher, leading to the generous provision of a shop space at The District Docklands shopping centre in November.

People found their way to the Pop Up as soon as the doors opened, which is fortunate since within a few months the doors closed again because of the pandemic and have remained so ever since. In that brief window, Carolynne & co made the Pop Up a regular hive of activity with weekly visitor services class on Thursdays, frequent all-welcome morning teas, chair yoga, Christmas tree decoration workshops in December, and preparations for Bollywood-inspired activities for Cultural Diversity Week (our first cancelled activity as COVID-19 started to bite).

Still, a core group of by-now Pop Up regulars had formed and as lockdowns were mandated, the Pop Up went on-line, and grew! Online activities started with regular WhatsApp catch-ups, grew into regular walks in twos, then larger groups when allowed (alas, not for long) and recently expanded to include online cooking workshops.



**Pop Up
Neighbourhood
House
@
Docklands**

A project of **the centre**

The News

Now in its 42nd year, the *North & West Melbourne News* is written, produced and delivered quarterly by dozens of volunteers. It is led by editor Maurice Gaul and design and production head Anne Burgi, with advertising and local notices managed by Janet Graham. This team has been in place since the autumn 2019 issue.

The *News* focuses on local stories and interests; it's a paper by, for and about North and West Melbourne. In 2019/20 we also focused on getting it delivered to more new buildings where mailboxes are often behind security doors.

With a current print run of 6,500 (up from 5,500 18 months ago), the *News* reaches thousands of local mailboxes and is also distributed from The Centre, Docklands Pop Up, North Melbourne Library, NMLL, and local shops and cafes.



Christmas at Docklands.

Bus trips and morning teas

For years, The Centre has offered day trips to places of interest around Victoria and, prior to the trips being suspended, Craig and Megan took groups to Ballarat's Tramway and Avenue of Honour, J Ward at Ararat, Castlemaine's Royal Theatre (for *Rocketman*) on one trip, Buda Historic Home & Garden on another, and finally Woodlands Homestead and the Living Legends retired racehorses in Greenvale.

We also hold monthly social morning teas where sometimes the conversation is general and other times there's a topic, such as International Women's Day or the City of Melbourne's new Active Seniors proposals.

Both of these activities were organised by operations coordinator Ragn Hannah until suspended in March, after which she led The Centre's efforts to stay in touch with Centre patrons during lockdowns."

Pilates

The Centre in conjunction with City North Physiotherapy offers a wide range of movement and exercise classes for all ages and abilities. Until suspended in March, classes were held at the Legion Hall and Meat Market, and we were soon to add the Pop Up. Instead, classes went online and that's where they continue to be held.



Bundling up the News for the dedicated band of local distributors who deliver the paper to local residents and businesses.

**Errol's Angels**

Errol's Angels Community Choir dates back to 2002. Until suspended under COVID-19 restrictions, the Angels practised weekly under choir leader Maryanne Clements at the North Melbourne Maternal and Child Health Centre. Performances during the year included two visits to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Docklands Pop Up, Gardiner Reserve (twice), the Souffle Sisters annual concert in Brunswick and Carols in Errol Street.

After in-person practices could no longer be held, they moved on-line and now Maryanne runs them jointly with members of two other choirs she leads.

Boomerang Bags

For two years The Centre has hosted a Boomerang Bags group: volunteers who convert pre-used fabric and donated off-cuts into shopping bags and aprons.

In late autumn, volunteers from community centres across the west and southwest of Melbourne – including members of our Boomerang Bags group (especially sewer Deana Eddington) – took up the call to sew thousands of gowns and masks for Western Health.

VP Day & Anzac Day

Each year The Centre with the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen & Women commemorate VP Day and Anzac Day with a public ceremony at the North Melbourne Cenotaph. Unfortunately, public health restrictions have prevented such public events, beginning with Anzac Day this year.

Report to the community 2019/20

EDUCATION**Adult Education**

The Centre is a registered Learn Local provider of pre-accredited adult education courses. During 2019/20 our Digital Literacy classes were busiest and in January 2020 we started our first group digital literacy course at VincentCare's newly opened Ozanam House. We also tried out new Introduction to Accounting & Bookkeeping and Introduction to Customer Service courses.

We also offer one-on-one IT training both at The Centre and on-site at the Salvation Army's Flagstaff Accommodation.

While some one-on-one IT sessions were able to resume in June, they and our other classes have otherwise all been suspended since March due to COVID-19, although tutor Louise Cindric stays in touch and supports our students during this time.

Thank you to Louise and IT class volunteer Shu Yea Law, also Centre CFO Craig Barry for taking the accounting classes and our former Community Development Coordinator Carolynne Venn for customer service.

Workout

Workout is The Centre's program for residents of West Melbourne's Judy Lazarus prison transition centre (JLTC). This six-week program combines digital literacy and

job search with other practical aspects of returning to society: the first thing we do is get everyone a decent coffee and then sign them up for library cards and email addresses.

Workout was running well when COVID-19 hit. The restrictions were a serious blow to inmates as JLTC doesn't have the amenities of other prisons for engagement and recreation. They became depressed and despondent. Lou Cindric and Frances McMillan worked with JLTC staff to obtain permission to bring the program inside JLTC during the lockdown, which also involved purchasing or loaning Centre IT equipment to allow access to wi-fi.

Responding to a request for more engagement, the Workout 2 Community Connections project enabled the men to enjoy constructing and packaging 50 high-quality Leggo and Meccano toys that were sent to children going into foster care (through the Berry Street children's charity). This was funded by individual community members who believed in its value to both the men and the disadvantaged children.

When stage four lockdowns were imposed in August Louise, Frances and JLTC were all ready and able to deliver the program online.

The Centre thanks all the community members who donated to the toy project and to the staff at JLTC and North Melbourne Library and to Faces and Places Café.

Home Away From Homework Club

Homework clubs started 2019/20 with a new club at North Melbourne Language & Learning (joining our clubs at North Melbourne Library, The Centre and Altona North) thanks to the support of the RE Ross Trust. As 2020 approached, we prepared to start a fifth club at the Docklands Library.

But then came March and the challenges presented by COVID-19. Many suggested that homework clubs should go online (and some did) but that would not work for our style of club, or many of our students and their families. Our schools also advised against this, feeling children had enough to do and uncertainty about the cyber safety aspect of communicating with children on line.

This did not mean we abandoned our

students. Project books with fun learning activities were created and sent to every student in the program and each family was contacted by phone and letter. We also stayed in touch with families of our students who lived through the hard lockdown of North Melbourne's community housing towers in July and continue to stay in touch today.

There was a window in June when restrictions eased but the libraries could not accommodate us with social distancing rules. Miraculously, the West Melbourne Baptist Church offered the use of its large community hall. This worked very well for the North Melbourne groups but was short-lived as we were unable to reopen for term 3.

Thanks to the homework club team, without whom nothing in our club is possible.

There are five session coordinators (Laurence Angwin, Ashlea Karosas, Hannah Merrigan, Jack Yang and Amali Wijayawardhane), a group of 20 volunteer tutors and a volunteer who maintains the waiting lists.

Program Coordinator Frances McMillan calls them her "dream team" and says, "We all thoroughly enjoy our time together working with the students and watching them grow and develop as learners and as people".

Also, thanks very much to the Errol Street IGA, which helped cover the costs of food.



*Left: The monthly bus trips included a visit to Ballarat.
Above: Fun at Spring Fling 2019.
Right: Errol's Angels in full voice at Christmas.*

**Around The Centre office**

Melbourne City Council kindly repainted our reception and training areas during winter 2019 and we bought a new reception desk, sofa, tables and chairs to make the area not only more professional, but also more attractive and welcoming.

Joining Operations & Business Coordinator Ragn Hannah at the front desk were volunteers Karen Kirsop, Gary Dowling, Olga Migalatieva, Reme Sanchez-Romero, Shu Yea Law, Hoang Nguyen and Eila Yarnell.

The newly refreshed downstairs areas were the official reason for our 2019 December wind-up open house evening.

Errol Street came late to the NBN party, but that upgrade to Centre connectivity is happening now,

along with an upgrade to cloud-based computing. New computers have replaced our oldest machines so that every workstation and laptop is ready for the new operating system. While we are anxious to get back to The Centre, these upgrades will make working remotely a lot easier and more efficient as well. We will also master the capabilities of our new printer, so we can produce our own posters and banners for the front window, which will also get a video display.

Centre interns in 2019/20: Regina Pang and Jason Ng from Hong Kong Baptist University (pictured at right); Jenny Zhu from Melbourne University; and from Victoria University and Polytechnic there were Ivano Abram, Jason Butcher, and Thilini Vithanage.



Report to the community 2019/20

Centre benefits from new grant sources

Kath McPherson, Centre Treasurer

Despite the challenges this year, The Centre has returned as surplus of \$51,762. You can see from the summary of recent years' results in the table at right that this has been driven by a 7.1% growth in income. This largely due to work done prior to this year sourcing new grant income.

Funding from the City of Melbourne to establish the Pop Up Neighbourhood House in Docklands was a major contributor to this growth along with some COVID-19 support funding from both federal and state governments. This growth has been despite a significant reduction in income due to the suspension of activities because of COVID-19.

The Centre has not seen a significant downturn in income overall because of COVID-19, largely because The Centre has a well-diversified income portfolio. The Centre is not overly reliant on any one income source and this considerably reduces the risk of running into difficulties during challenging economic conditions.

Helped also by Job Keeper funding for some staff, The Centre has been able to retain staff and contractors since our doors closed six months ago. While many of The Centre's

The Centre – Summary Financial Data

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income	556,079	518,988	497,509	518,152	522,839	468,903	431,295	351,192
Expenditure	504,317	564,688	536,880	507,697	472,605	408,677	466,419	482,760
Surplus /(Deficit)	51,762	(45,700)	(39,371)	10,455	50,234	60,226	(35,124)	(131,568)
Assets	205,938	157,640	199,082	262,112	271,805	237,387	195,331	139,036
Liabilities	92,177	95,641	91,383	115,043	135,191	151,007	154,126	63,450
Net Assets / Equity	113,761	61,999	107,699	147,069	136,614	86,380	32,873	75,586

regular activities are postponed or cancelled, staff have been engaged in ensuring that our regular clients have been supported during this difficult time and adapting our ways of working so that it can operate safely and effectively when The Centre and the Docklands Pop Up reopen.

Centre expenditure was down on previous years because there were significant programs and activities that we have had to defer or cancel.

As stated the result of all this has meant The Centre reporting a surplus of \$51,762. Rarely does the work that we do neatly line up with financial years so it is not uncommon for The

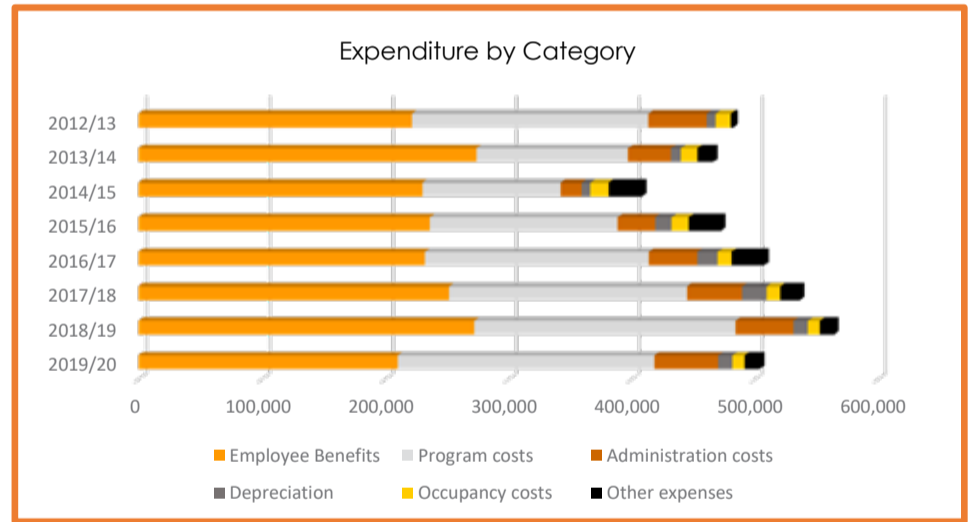
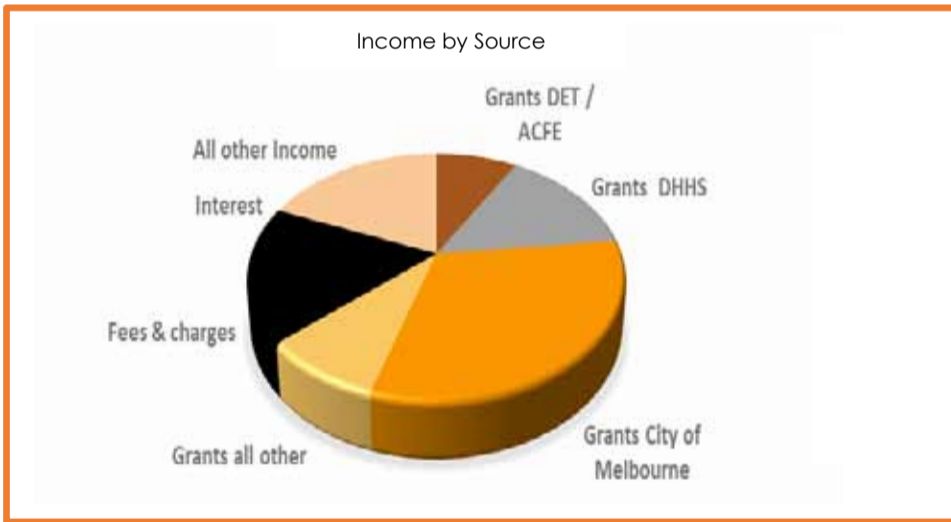
Centre to report a deficit as it has done for the last two years.

As you can see from the Summary Financial Data table, a deficit in one or two years will be followed by a significant surplus the next year, just as is the case this year. It is important to mention that at all times over the last two years The Centre has remained solvent. With cash and liquid assets totalling nearly \$170,000 at 30 June this year, The Centre will certainly remain so for a considerable time to come.

With the situation still uncertain regarding returning to normal operation, we are planning to remain in significant surplus for

the six months to 31 December, to ensure at least a breakeven result for the year to 30 June 2021.

The full set of audited financial statements is available on our website. Our auditor again reported no issues with The Centre's finances and reporting this year. I would like to thank the board for their diligence and support in overseeing the accounts and treasury of The Centre. The day-to-day management of The Centre's finances and reporting is exemplary and sincere thanks to our CFO Craig Barry and our Director Tom Seddon for ensuring this high standard is maintained.

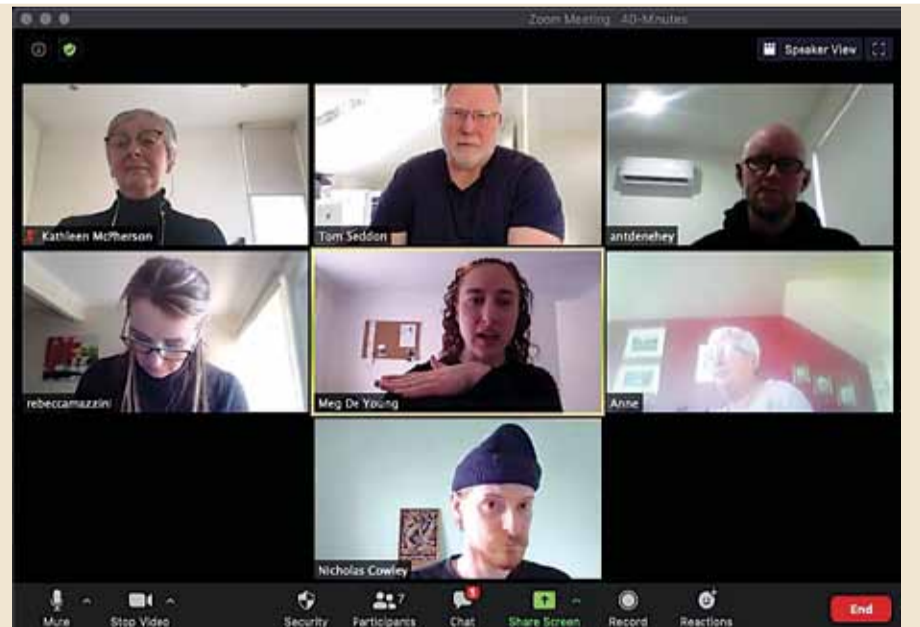


COVID changes the way we live

The arrival of the COVID-19 virus in Australia in early 2020 changed life for everyone in many ways that may have been unthinkable beforehand. Six months later there's still no saying when things will get back to 'normal'.

The Centre's goal is community development. In other times, that means organising or facilitating activities large and small that engage local residents, and playing a part in keeping the community informed about matters that affect the growth and development of North and West Melbourne, and now Docklands.

Since closing the Centre and the Docklands Pop Up and suspending most activities in March, we have focussed on communication: relaying important information (or where to find it) via social media, staying personally in touch with dozens and dozens of Centre and Pop Up users, playing supporting roles where we were able to contribute to the work of government and relief organisations, and also finding where our programs could move online or otherwise address their purpose.



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



Spring Fling will be back in 2021

The Centre is sorry to have to announce that there will not be a Spring Fling Street Festival in 2020. This is unlikely to come as a surprise, but Spring Fling will be back – perhaps not bigger, but definitely better than ever – in October 2021.

We want it to be a community event, and how better to get there than with more community involvement? So if you want to be involved in some way next year, whether that's organising the festival, helping on the day, or lending us your marketing or promotional skills, email me at:

director@centre.org.au.

Spring Fling is hardly the only casualty of the continuing restrictions needed to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. For instance,

our morning teas and monthly bus trips seem almost a distant memory, and I know that many people found the second wave of restrictions harder to cope with than the first.

Hang in there, and reach out for help if you need it. Many different organisations and programs are offering everything from someone to talk with to emergency financial assistance.

Don't know where to look? Contact The Centre for advice: admin@centre.org.au.

I hope you enjoy this second mid-pandemic issue of the *North & West Melbourne News* – complete with special sections on the City of Melbourne elections and The Centre's 2020 annual report – and join me in thanking all the volunteers who have made it possible.

FROM THE DIRECTOR Tom Seddon



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 42nd 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 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.

Editor: Maurice Gaul

Production: Anne Burgi

Proofreading: Margaret Langdon

Advertising: Janet Graham

Writers: Michelle Brett, Elise Cara, Shannon Colee, Maurice Gaul, Stephen Hatcher, Anna Huynh, Very Impressive, Nancy Lane, Suzie Luddon, Annette McQuarrie, Laura Misale, Joe Misuraca, Thea Oakes, Nicole Pereira, Nigel Pereira, Flora Sciarra, John H. Smith, Claire Yeoh

Publisher: Tom Seddon

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5 Jones Road, Morwell 3844

the centre
connecting community in
north & west melbourne inc.

Intern team

The *News* team was greatly assisted in the planning, production and distribution of this issue—including our local election feature—by Anthony Denehey, Meg De Young, Rebecca Mazzini and Nicholas Cowley, who joined us as part of their community service studies at Melbourne Polytechnic.

Work with the *North and West Melbourne News!*

The *North and 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 our social media network? Getting the *News* to people is just as important as writing it.

We need volunteers to assist with distribution, so if you're someone who likes a good walk this might be the job for you.

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

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

Copy deadline for Summer 2020–21 issue:

Friday 6 November 2020

Publication date:
Friday 4 December

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

Exercise online!

The Centre's exercise program is now online, coordinated by City North Physio. You'll need Zoom, which can be downloaded from the App Store or your browser.

TUESDAY 5.30pm – Intermediate, **6.30pm** – Beginners/Intermediate
WEDNESDAY 9.00am – General Pilates, **10.30am** – Older Adults Active Exercise

THURSDAY 6.00pm – Beginners/Intermediate, **7.00pm** – Intermediate
FRIDAY 12.30pm – Older Adults Active Exercise

Class price is \$15/\$12 concession (block of 10 classes for \$140/\$120 concession)

**For more information, contact 03 9328 3733 or
via the web on www.citynorthphysio.com.au**

Introduction to Accounting and Basic Bookkeeping

Interested in bookkeeping? Want to better understand your business accounting software? We can help! You will learn:

- The foundations of double entry bookkeeping and accounting.
- How to develop a chart of accounts and ledger.
- Posting accounting entries.
- Produce common reports, e.g. Trial Balance, Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet.
- How to apply these in Xero, one of the most popular accounting apps.

Online classes Fridays 10.00am – 1.00pm, 10 Oct – 28 Nov

Fee: \$75/\$55 conc (eligibility conditions apply)

**Call The Centre – 03 9328 1126 – or email admin@centre.org.au
for more information or to register your interest**

Advertisement sizes and rates for 2020

Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1732.50	\$1457.50
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$841.50	\$731.50
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$610.50	\$533.50
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$451.00	\$390.50
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$225.50	\$198.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$121.00	\$104.50
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$104.50	\$88.00

• Prices inclusive of GST

- Book a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount, total amount payable at time of booking.
- All previous introductory offers, transitional rates and discounts ceased with publication of Summer 2019–2020 issue.
- Prices are for supplied artwork (high-resolution PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.
- The *News* reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.
- Email Advertising.NWMN@outlook.com for info and bookings.



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Artists take to the streets



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Nancy Lane

Street art in North and West Melbourne has provided a delightful diversion for locals embarking on COVID-19 walks.

Many of the works are by street artists who have become well-known, both nationally and internationally. These images are just a small selection of the outdoor art you can discover on your local walks.

Explore the back streets, laneways and car parks and you'll discover an amazing range of murals and street art. As graffiti on a brick wall in the laneway behind Elm Street proclaims: "Art elevates the mind".

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.



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1. Errol Place: DeNiro, by Cam Scale. Cam started his career in early 2000, painting large portraits and figures in aerosol, oil and acrylic. www.camscale.com.au; allthoshapes.com/scale_graffiti_street-art

2. Carpark behind Town Hall Hotel: By TuYuloveme, a street artist from Yogyakarta, Indonesia, who has visited Melbourne. allthoshapes.com/tuyuloveme_graffiti_street-art

3. Webbs Lane: By Aeon Fly, a Melbourne local who paints aeon-styled fonts and mustachioed characters wearing Hulk Hogan style sunnies.

allthoshapes.com/aeon_graffiti_street-art
4. Victoria Court carpark: David Spade, Wack and more, by Lush Sux, best known for murals drawing on pop culture and internet memes. allthoshapes.com/lush_graffiti_street-art; www.onlymelbourne.com.au/lushsux; knowyourmeme.com/memes/people/lushsux
5. Little Provost Street: Prince by Ahora Creo, who paints mostly in portrait style in abandoned places. allthoshapes.com/ahora_street-art_graffiti
6. Strang Lane: Eris Quod Sum (Latin for 'You

will be what I am) by Kaff-eine, who is committed to art as a means of taking social action, both in Australia and internationally. www.kaff-eine.com; www.cheeseagle.com; allthoshapes.com/kaff-eine_graffiti_street-art

7. 630 Queensberry Street: By Jacqui McKinnon, who has been creating street, window and pavement art since 2008. jacquimckinnon.weebly.com

8. Queensberry Street between Dryburgh and Stawell: By Rashe, a street artist from Paris, who specialises in 'fluid dynamics and free-form

colour chaos'. allthoshapes.com/rashe_graffiti_street-art; globalstreetart.com/rashe

9. Laurens Street: Melbourne train mural by Sofles, commissioned as part of the Metro Tunnel project. Sofles is a Brisbane-based street artist with more than 340,000 Instagram followers. www.instagram.com/sofles; allthoshapes.com/sofles_graffiti_street-art; www.spraydaily.com/t/sofles

10. Railway Place between Roslyn and Stanley: By Finton Magee, a Sydney-based social realist painter who has had recent solo exhibitions

in Los Angeles and Paris. fintanmagee.com
11. Howard Street at Courtney: By Ghostpatrol (David Booth), a Melbourne-based street artist and muralist who travels the world. His website features non-stop action. david-booth.com; www.instagram.com/ghostpatrol; allthoshapes.com/ghostpatrol_street-art
12. Courtney Street at Wrecklyn. By Vexta, a self-taught artist from Sydney who interprets the world through a 'psychedelic kaleidoscope'. www.vexta.com.au; allthoshapes.com/vexta_graffiti_street-art