

43<sup>rd</sup> year

# NW MN

## NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

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

[www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au)

## Colourful welcome to Arts House

Lucy Crossett

Arts House has opened its doors for 2022 with an expansive installation by Rafaella McDonald adorning the walls of the foyer in our home in North Melbourne Town Hall.

Come in and have a look. Be swept up by this large-scale installation rendered in striking colour and an irresistible style.

An imaginary collective of bodies made up of countless feet and hands will draw you into a dizzying dance that will lift your heels from the ground.

Rafaella's expansive artwork *Crowd Stance* uses bold colour, intuitive mark making and abstracted, cartoon-like outlines of the body in various moments of action.

These individual snapshots play within and against the whole, playfully mimicking the exchanges of energy and thought that occur when people gather.

"In making *Crowd Stance*, a sense of 'lifting off' took over; I remember having an urge to dance as I made the work, the energy of the colour and mark making transferred to my body," Rafaella says.

In their practice, Rafaella works playfully across traditional and non-traditional materials such as paint, resin, ceramic, sugar, natural dye pigments and commercial dye pigments.

They work with the idea that materials and matter have their own agencies, which results in expressive and dynamic works.

Evoking a sense of the epic and the



intimate, *Crowd Stance* explores the ways people experience themselves, both within and distinct from the crowd.

"There is a material tussle in painting, where you play with loss of control. This also can manifest in public or in a crowd dancing, where you become a part of a larger sum of people," Rafaella says.

Lucy Crossett is the business support officer at Arts House.

### Want to know more?

*Crowd Stance* is free to view. It will take over Arts House's foyer until Sunday 12 June. Open 11 am – 4 pm, Monday to Friday. Visit Arts House at North Melbourne Town Hall, 521 Queensberry Street. Check [www.artshouse.com.au](http://www.artshouse.com.au) for more details on the 2022 program.

**Rafaella McDonald's *Crowd Stance* artwork on display at Arts House.**

Photograph: Anne Moffatt

Since 1958, the Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Cathedral has stood proudly on North Melbourne's Canning Street hill. Its prominent dome, illuminated at night, is an eternal beacon of hope. The News stands with the clergy and local congregation as they endure Ukraine's agony. Our thoughts are with the heroic men and women of Ukraine who so bravely defend their homeland against a criminal invader.

## Amelie aced her ATAR

Evelyn Thompson

Amelie Milazzi's spectacular ATAR of 97.95 was the best score of the 2021 Year 12 cohort at St Aloysius College in North Melbourne.

She recalls her shock and excitement when she got the news in December. "I saw the score and then I just burst into tears," she says.

Amelie found that Year 12 had its highs and lows. Online learning lasted a full term but her taste of it in Year 11 had prepared her well.

"It was challenging not being able to see my Year 12 teachers and ask upfront questions, but friends and I studied together via group FaceTime," she says.

Like all her classmates, Amelie regrets missing many of the social highlights of her final school year.

"We didn't have the chance to study in person with our friends during the year and we didn't get a valedictory dinner at the end. But we still got our formal and I'm really grateful for that."

She says the biggest challenge was finding a balance and knowing when she had done enough work each night. "I made sure I found time to relax and to watch a movie with the family."

Amelie feels a strong connection with her Italian parents' culture. "In Year 10 I did an exchange in Italy



Amelie relaxes after a hectic Year 12.

for three weeks and had 10 days in Milan with a host family," she says.

She plans to study Italian at La Trobe and be part of the university's semester exchange in Italy. "I really want to speak to my grandparents in their own language," she says.

Amelie is about to start a double degree in commerce and health sciences. She is excited to finally be at university but admits to the usual nerves of a first-year student.

"I'm a bit scared to be starting uni. Just meeting new people and stuff like that. But I'll be fine after the first day," she says.

Amelie urges new Year 12 students to enjoy the experience. "Do your best, but don't let it overcome you. Don't quit your sport, don't quit your job. You can always work around it."

Evelyn Thompson is a new contributor to the News.



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FIESTA

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GEORGE JOHNSON LANE, NORTH MELBOURNE

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# Rotary fires up its barbecue for community events

Neville Page

The North Melbourne Rotary Club has lots of things on the go in 2022. We're continuing to have our regular branch meetings and we always manage to dig up excellent guest speakers. But not many will top media personality Shawn Cosgrove's performance at last year's Christmas meeting when he delivered a memorably entertaining and amusing talk. At that final meeting for 2021 the club hosted 15 newly arrived Afghan refugees as our guests for the night. It was a significant occasion and members have since kept in touch with some of them, including taking them on outings to help them settle in.

We're proud to say that our branch has become famous for our barbecues. It is the funds we raise from these occasions that allow us to do most of the support we provide the community. Last Christmas, we sizzled the sausages and seared the steaks at a community picnic in the Hawke and Curzon Street Reserve. Popular local member Ted Dziadkiewicz took to the stage and sang along with the day's entertainers, the Homebrew Verandah Singers. Just a few days later we did it all again when we provided volunteers to run a fund-raiser barbecue for AMES Australia, provider of humanitarian settlement, education, training and employment services to refugees, asylum seekers and

newly arrived migrants. As we move into 2022, our dance card is full of barbecues. First up is the big Moomba barbecue we do for the City of Melbourne. The Metro Tunnel team has also asked us to do two barbecues. The federal election will be in May and the state election in November. We'll be firing up the barbecue for both events and we'll turn over lots of Democracy sausages – unless, of course, there's a snag in our plans.

Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.

Top: Rotary's Ted Dziadkiewicz (green top) in full voice with the Homebrew Verandah Singers.

Bottom: Rotary members serve up a sizzling barbecue at last December's community picnic.



# Talking Neighbourhoods

## Hello local legends,

The City of Melbourne want to shine a light on the unique strengths, needs and outlooks of each pocket of the municipality. As the Neighbourhoods Partner for North and West Melbourne, I have the awesome task of chatting to residents, business owners, students and visitors about your priorities for the area. I'd love to hear about your experiences of this special spot, and your ideas for its future. This ongoing project is about celebrating and deepening our connection to place, as well as to each other. To begin this journey, I'm collecting some baseline data through March and April that will help build an online hub of facts, stats, stories, and action initiatives. By completing a survey, stopping for a conversation, or organising a group activity, you can help plan for local improvements and strengthen relationships. I strongly encourage everyone to get involved by visiting [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods).

I also hope to see many of you at **West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre on 15 March** for a special Council meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee. There will be a meet and greet with councillors and refreshments provided from 5 pm. The meeting will commence at 6 pm. Register your attendance or submit a written question/statement in advance. The event will also be livestreamed and recorded for those who can't attend. Looking forward to connecting with you,

**Tallia Gilarry,**  
City of Melbourne  
Neighbourhoods Partner  
[tallia.gilarry@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:tallia.gilarry@melbourne.vic.gov.au)



## Neighbourly experiences and local prizes to be won!

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**PARTICIPATE NORTH MELBOURNE**

**PARTICIPATE WEST MELBOURNE**

# Neil's plays now take centre stage

Joe Misuraca

Neil Cole has packed in an incredible amount into his 64 years. Life is now a little quieter as he recovers from a quadruple bypass. A former lawyer, Melbourne City councillor and Victorian shadow attorney-general, Neil left the political arena many years ago. "Politics is a different game. It's all about self – self-career and self-purpose – which are necessary but unfortunately this has downsides," he says. Neil's life has taken a more creative bent and he is now a prominent playwright. He enjoys the potential in what he calls his "new vocation", "I've been able to explore lots of different issues and ideas and I rarely write a play that's frivolous or meaningless." While Neil believes that his writing offers an opportunity to talk about issues, he is disarmingly candid about the creative experience. "There's a real buzz in writing a play. But I'm not an avant garde

playwright, I'm not like that. I love the typical introduction, middle and end," he says. He is proud of his five plays about the Holocaust. "I worked on them with the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Elsternwick. They were very important for me to write and to have performed. I believe that we must have an awareness of the Holocaust," he says. Neil's one-woman show, *Ned Kelly's Mother*, has played at the Melbourne Theatre Company's showrooms. "Ellen Kelly was jailed but was a model prisoner. After release, she was asked to intervene and stop riots. And she became a midwife and delivered a thousand babies," he says. Neil hopes to take the play to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August then later to Ireland. "It's a very Irish piece and Ellen was Irish, of course. So we think it might do well if it went to Ireland. That's our pipe dream." It has been a challenge to gather a team to create what Neil terms "independent theatre." "I met the woman who is now my costume designer at a laundromat in North Melbourne, and now we couldn't live without her." Neil talks enthusiastically about his next play, *Shawry*, inspired by Magpie premiership skipper Tony Shaw. "It's not just about a footballer. There are two characters, one's a woman who's a spectator. Shaw's brother took his own life, but the play's very funny – I think." He is happy that his long battles with mental illness are well behind him. "I'm happy to talk about it but I went off lithium medication after 27 years and I now don't see my psychiatrist often. If I have any issues, I just text message her," he says. For Neil, life is now much happier and he enjoys walking his dog, Edwina. "People prone to loneliness should be out supporting others. I'd rather talk about my plays."



Local playwright Neil Cole.

Joe Misuraca writes regularly for the News.



# Teacher learning the ropes

Georgie Preston

First-year teacher Matthew Hamilton started at Simonds Catholic College in February. As he walked in the door on his first day, he felt for a moment he was a student himself when greeted by his old PE teacher Peter Riordan, now principal at Simonds. “I couldn’t believe it when he called out ‘Hammo!’ that first morning,” Matthew says. The two had crossed paths at De La Salle College in Malvern. “I always had a pretty good relationship with Pete, so it’s nice to have him as a boss now. But first name is a bit strange. I actually called him Mr Riordan that first morning.” Matthew is enjoying life as a full-time Year 7-8 teacher but admits that he is still learning the ropes. Like all beginning teachers, he is working out the frantic nature of school life. “The boys have lots of questions and we deal with lots of things. It’s great to be on a shared journey with them,” he says. At secondary school, Matthew never saw English teaching as a likely path. “I was a pretty reluctant reader and I only realised in Years

11 and 12 that books can be interesting. At uni I was drawn to PE teaching, but I’ve ended up in the right spot.” He is enthusiastic about Simonds’ English curriculum. He’s especially keen on the Reading Equals Power program in which 30 minutes after recess is dedicated to silent reading, with books specifically selected to fit each student’s reading abilities and needs. Matthew knows that boys can be reluctant readers. “It’s easy to not want to read and to think it’s uncool,” he says. He is confident they can become enthusiastic readers. “The trick is to show them that there are books that will suit them, that they will find interesting and perhaps even get fired up about.” Just six weeks into his teaching career, Matthew is sure that he has made the right choice. He grins as he says that the ducks had lined up from the start. “Back in February, in the very first week, my house, Knox, won the athletics carnival. It’s a nice view from the top!”

*Georgie Preston is a new contributor to the News.*



Matthew Hamilton takes a reading class. Photograph: Fernando Maquedano



Spanish Language Fiesta coordinator Yulay Perez outside The Centre. Photograph: Fernando Maquedano

# Yulay plans for a great Fiesta

Flora Sciarra

Yulay Perez will have a lot on her plate later this month. She is the events manager for The Centre’s Spanish Language Fiesta on Saturday 26 March. For six hours, fiesta-goers will be able to choose from a tasty menu of all things Spanish, including dance, music, poetry and language classes. Yulay grew up in Venezuela and came here in late 2009. “At home I had seen videos and photos of Australia, and it looked incredible, so beautiful and calm. I wanted new opportunities and the peace of mind of living in a safe country,” she says. She lived in Adelaide for six years, then in 2016 came to Melbourne where she gained her qualifications in journalism and events management. Along the way, she has also worked as a waitress, a

housekeeper and an insurance claims officer. Yulay is a young woman of many talents. She is a make-up artist, a professional dancer specialising in Latin styles such as Samba and she teaches Zumba. She admits that teaching dance is her true love. “Dancing in a musical has always been another dream.” She is also passionate about empowering women of her own background who are now living in Australia and may be feeling unsupported in the community. “Two years ago, I created a community called Reconectate (Reconnect) to connect with Latin women in Australia. We share inspiring stories of women who have overcome challenges and achieved their goals, and we offer workshops to help their professional and personal growth.” Yulay wants to help marginalised Latin women. “I would like to study

coaching to help those who want to reinvent themselves but who aren’t sure how to,” she says. Even with her hands full as she organises the Spanish Language Fiesta, she has other big plans. “I am forming my own events company with the intention of bringing Latin acts to Australia.” She says she wouldn’t return to Venezuela to live but hopes to visit to see family and friends. “I’d like to show my son the beauty of my home country: its warm beaches, the Angel Falls, the language, the food and the solidarity of the Venezuelan people.” Retirement may be a long way off, but Yulay has it all planned out. “I want to live on an island in the Caribbean and own a small hotel and sell Latin food.”

*Flora Sciarra writes regularly for the News.*

**Spanish Language Fiesta liftout program – pages 13-16**

## Community Comment

Georgie Preston asked four people to name the best thing they’ve ever picked up in the street



**Hans, courier, North Melbourne**  
Probably the beautiful back-porch couch I found. My housemates and I used it for years. Either that or the Birkenstocks I found in a bin.



**Erin, student, North Melbourne**  
I found this sweet little dresser for dolls lying near some overflowing skip. So cute! I cleaned it and it now sits on top of my own dresser.



**Evangela, artist, Flemington**  
I once picked up an ornamental teaspoon that had a beautiful image of a flower on it. It was so pretty and it made my day a little better.



**Michael, artist, North Melbourne**  
One night I found a key, sort of hiding near a leaf. I tried it in a few locks but the only one it worked in was my own front door. Spooky!



# Winner’s flag will fly high

The competition to design a flag for North and West Melbourne came to an exciting conclusion. The community had their say and so did the experts.

The judging panel members were: Tristan Layton, founder of Vexillologists of Melbourne University; Lorraine Siska, Hotham History Project; and Eddie Butler-Bowden, manager of City of Melbourne’s art and heritage collection.

The judges unanimously chose Pat Connolly as the winner. The panel said:

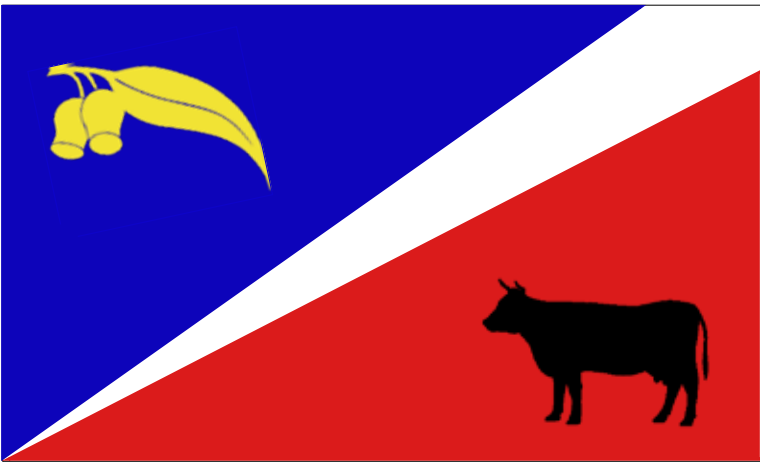
We were deeply impressed by this flag’s ability to capture the spirit of North and West Melbourne in a simple, elegant and memorable manner. The distinctive blue and white of North Melbourne, interwoven with the red and white of the historic West Melbourne VFA club (1878-1908), captures the essence of our community and is well complemented by the manna gum and cow motifs that reference the region’s Indigenous and early European history. This flag’s ability to represent the area with such simplicity ensures that it will stand the test of time.

The winning young designer was Catherine Cheng. The panel said:

This flag was one of many great designs submitted by our younger residents. The panel was very impressed by the intricate latticework and tiled design that masterfully symbolises Errol Street and our community’s architectural heritage. The shinbone steak is also a fantastic nod to the area’s meat-trading history, with a clever reference to our historic AFL team. Very tasteful!

The popular vote winner was Jasmine Grima.

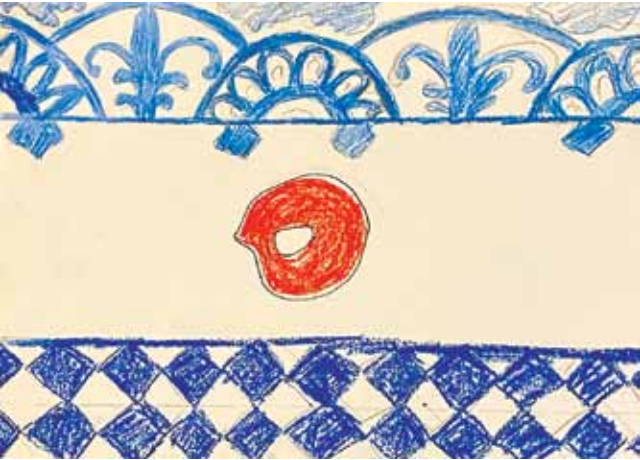
The Centre and North & West Melbourne Precinct Association conducted a public vote on submitted designs. We received 650 votes, with 198 votes going to Jasmine’s bright and colourful design and 76 votes to Nigel



Pat Connolly’s winning design, which will be raised on 23 April as part of The Centre’s Come & Try Day.

Quinlan’s design.  
All winners will receive a gift card from North & West Melbourne Precinct Association to spend at local shops. Check out the designers’ flag designs at [pollunit.com/polls/vkf7k0uzawgfjmw81e1luq](http://pollunit.com/polls/vkf7k0uzawgfjmw81e1luq)

Pat Connolly’s winning flag will be raised in a special ceremony on Saturday 23 April at 10 am in the reserve on the corner of Victoria and Hawke streets, as part of The Centre’s Come & Try Day. All are welcome to attend.



Winning young designer: Catherine Cheng.



Popular vote winner: Jasmine Grima.

# Bowlers happy to be back on the greens

Ann Leonard

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club, tucked away in West Melbourne’s pretty Flagstaff Gardens, held its annual club championships over the summer.

An enthusiastic gallery saw Gerard Reed defeat Laurie Garmston in the men’s singles, Sophia Jing outpoint Melissa Banks in the women’s singles and Darren Casely edge out John Cassat in the open novice singles.

Gerard is a bowling veteran, having taken the sport up 35 years ago, while Sophia is a relative rookie with just three years under her belt. Newcomer Darren joined our club just over a year ago.

Gerard and Sophia will progress to the regional champion of champions singles in the first week of April. We wish them luck.

All three singles winners, as well as the victors of our triples, mixed pairs and open pairs championships, will receive their trophies at our presentation day on 27 March.

Many club activities are continuing. Our Wednesday intra-club games are a great way to mingle with fellow bowlers and to enjoy the sport in a pleasant social



Gerard Reed (left) and Laurie Garmston enjoy an ale after the men’s singles.

setting. We also have our popular night bowling sessions.

Coaches are on hand to welcome new members and will guide you through the basics of bowling or hone your skills.

If you’re thinking of giving bowls a roll, come and join us. As well as helping you learn the sport, we offer the chance of team competition in one of our pennant teams.

The club has teams in Bowls Victoria pennant competitions on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we have other teams at various skills levels. You’ll find one that’s just right for you.

Off the green, we offer lots of opportunities to socialise. We have monthly dinners, wine tastings, trips to the country, and music afternoons. So come on down!

Ann Leonard is secretary of City of Melbourne Bowls Club.

**Want to know more?**  
Come down on Wednesdays at 5.30 pm for a chance to meet members, sign up and learn how to bowl. For membership enquiries, check [www.citybowls.org](http://www.citybowls.org)



Sophia Jing (left) and Melissa Banks check the scores after the women’s singles.



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# Fighting back with sweet treats to tempt us all

Lizzy Footner

Many local businesses were knocked around by lockdown, but Hotham Juice & Gelati in Errol Street is still doing it particularly hard. Siavash Kaveh's cute little shop offers a range of gelati, sorbet, ice-cream, fresh juice, smoothies and coffee with all offerings made fresh in store. It was a battle from the start. He spent freely on equipment and refurbishment, then opened as COVID struck. "We were committed and had to open. Then because we were open for less than 12 months, we got no help from the government." Things were so difficult Siavash had to close the doors. "I shut down because of yet another lockdown, it was

winter and the street was dead," he says. He had no option other than returning to his former business. "I went back to bathroom renovations, made some money and decided to open the shop again." It was only the community's goodwill that encouraged him to re-open. "I got lots of messages from locals and the schoolkids love the gelato and I said, no, we can't close the ice cream. It was good for a bit then more lockdowns came," he says. "Now, it's really quiet, even worse than lockdown." Siavash explains locals' shopping habits have changed. "When there was a limited walking zone, people would come here. But now they can move around, they go to shopping centres or



Siavash Kaveh offers tasty treats at Hotham Juice & Gelati.  
Photograph: Fernando Maquedano

on holidays. It's even quieter here than the CBD." The disappearance of overseas students and backpackers has hit him hard. "All those young people, they haven't come back. And three big banks, ANZ, Westpac and NAB, have all gone. Even after school, we hardly see any kids around." Siavash is feeling despondent over the struggle to stay afloat. Over the entire COVID period, he

got no Jobkeeper payments, government rent relief or hospitality grants. "We have six people working here, making gelato and everything else, and I can't pay the rent. We don't know what's going to happen," he says. A long-time local, Siavash bought the empty Bakers Delight shop and did all the renovations himself to turn it into a classy gelato and juice shop. It's heartbreaking to see this hard-working man going through such a struggle. "It's not just my business. All the businesses around here are very quiet. We need festivals or something to attract people from other suburbs. It seems they don't know where we are," he says. Siavash feels that the council is not really supporting traders. "They waste money on those concrete planter boxes but people aren't giraffes, they don't come out for the trees. It would be better to advertise this area. Everyone knows Lygon Street, but without advertising no-one knows us." He wonders if the local strip can handle the downturn. "There used to be hundreds around at night but now it's so dead. If this continues, there's no way we can survive," he says. The only bright spot is the range of gorgeous colours of Siavash's ice cream. Go in and buy one. If his business fails, we will all be poorer for it.

Lizzy Footner writes regularly for the News.

Constance Brazenor

William (Bill) Brazenor was 73 when he passed away in July last year after a long battle with prostate cancer. Bill was a resident of North Melbourne for 45 years. He moved into the Hotham Hill area in 1975 with his wife, Constance, and they raised their five children – Clare, Richard, Adele, David and Patrick. Bill was an engineering graduate of the University of Melbourne and went on to have a fulfilling career in this field. Notably, he was a director at John Mullen and

## Vale William Brazenor

10.5.1948 – 23.7.2021

Partners for 32 years and was the principal engineer of many major projects around Victoria. They included the world famous Synchrotron and the Electron Microscope Building at Monash University, redevelopments of the Malthouse theatre and of the Austin and Mercy hospital in Heidelberg, school redevelopments and design throughout Melbourne, regional hospitals and, closer to home, the Victorian

Archives Centre on Shiel Street. In later years Bill also worked for the Spencer Group as a consultant. He really enjoyed the camaraderie of building sites and his expertise was highly valued. He worked until ill health forced him to retire. From the late 1980s to 2010 he had a long and enjoyable involvement with the Melbourne University Hockey Club. He managed the junior teams for 15



William Brazenor was a long-time North Melbourne resident.

years, coordinated junior association fixtures and umpired for many years.

Most of the junior players came from Errol Street Primary, Kensington Primary and University High. He is warmly remembered for these times by many families in the neighbourhood. In retirement, Bill and Constance enjoyed many cycling adventures throughout Europe, including biking over 10,000 kilometres with their tent and camping gear. Two highlights included cycling the length of England from Land's End to John o' Groats and riding along the Rhine river from Andermatt in Switzerland to Hoek Van Holland in Holland. Bill had an active interest in all things engineering and architecture. He was on the residents' committee for the Abbotsford and Molesworth street housing renewal, and he assisted with research work for the Hotham History Project. Bill is fondly remembered by his many friends in the North Melbourne community. He was very generous with his time and had a great sense of humour. He is survived by wife Constance, his five children and their partners and five wonderful grandchildren.

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Locals enjoyed an early summer picnic in the park outside the West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre. Photographs: Fernando Maqedano

# Out and about around town for a summer picnic and SalamFest



Errol Street came alive to music, dancing and arts of the Muslim world in early February as part of SalamFest. Photographs: Alex Gyles and Anne Burgi



# Biblical tale comes to life in Curzon Street

John H. Smith

All locals will know the bronze sculpture outside the Uniting Church in Curzon Street.

The work by Anna Meszaros is titled *Midwifery and mission: contradicting the darkness to bring forth life*. It marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation.

The sculpture depicts a Biblical tale of five women who in 1300 BCE resisted the Egyptian pharaoh’s oppressive, death-dealing regime and allowed life to flourish in their community.

Their good work saved the life of the baby Moses, a future great leader. His story comes to us from many sources, the most well known being the Book of Exodus.

The women in the sculpture, from the left, are two Hebrew midwives, Shiprah (Beauty) and Puah (Splendour); Moses’ sister Miriam; his mother, Jochebed, with her baby; and Pharaoh’s daughter.

The rock the midwives are holding back symbolises the oppression of the pharaoh’s regime. The water represents life that continues to flow, even in dark times.

Miriam is keeping the water flowing while watching over Moses as Jochebed places him in the water to keep him safe. The hands of the pharaoh’s daughter reach out to guide the water to freedom.

In the story, the family of the Hebrew

patriarch Jacob migrated to Egypt to escape famine. Despite many years of prosperity, growth and peaceful co-existence with the Egyptians, a new pharaoh saw the Hebrews as a threat.

They continued to flourish, despite hard labour and enduring great suffering. Then even harsher restrictions were imposed, including an order to kill all male children at birth.

The two midwives refused. When challenged by the pharaoh, they said: “Hebrew women, give birth quickly before we have time to help with the birth.”

When Jochebed gave birth to Moses, she hid him during the day in a waterproof basket among the reeds in the river, where he was watched over by his sister Miriam.

One day the pharaoh’s daughter came to the river to bathe and discovered the baby crying. She knew he was a Hebrew and wanted to keep him but needed the help of a nurse.

Baby Moses’ artful sister Miriam stepped up and offered to find a nurse to assist. Of course, she chose Jochebed for the role.

Moses made the best of his upbringing in the pharaoh’s family. He learned to play politics, advocated for his oppressed community and ultimately freed them from slavery.

The transcendent moment in his life came when the burning bush urged him to lead his people to freedom. This revelation is created



Anna Meszaros’ sculpture outside the Uniting Church in Curzon Street. Photograph: Fernando Maquedano

in the beautiful Rose window inside the church.

The Meszaros sculpture celebrates the feminine compassion and resistance that, despite the presence of death-dealing oppression, allowed life to flourish in a dark place.

It brings to light the story of the five feisty females in the Biblical story. It pays tribute to the often hidden but central role women play in faith communities and in the life of the world.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News. He was the minister of the Congregation of Mark the Evangelist from 2000 to 2013.

### Little Moses

Away by the river so clear  
The ladies were winding their way  
And Pharaoh’s little daughter stepped  
down to the water  
To bathe in the cool of the day.  
Before it was dark, she opened the ark  
And found the sweet infant was there.

And away by the water so blue  
She carried the beautiful child  
To his own tender mother, his sister and brother  
Little Moses looked happy and smiled.  
She called him her own, her beautiful son  
And sent for a nurse that was near.  
– **Traditional** (Sung by Joan Baez.)

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I've just seen the ad for Star Trek: Discovery (season 4). It looks FANTASTIC. But how come I haven't even seen season one? Oh, yes, that's right. I don't have any of that evil pay.tv.stuff. What a hideous world we're living in. Even having a smartphone is not for me – it would be far too distracting for my reading, sewing and general creativity time for my liking. So any paying for TV at all would just be wrong.

★ ★ ★

There are better things in life, things we really should do. Here are some for you to try. Create chaos and destruction. Ride upon the storm of night. Prevent the dying of the light. Run naked at least once in your life. Eat every single pie in sight. Deceive death until you die. If wild people you meet, keep them in a jar. And every other night, just look up at the stars to be reminded how truly insignificant you are.

★ ★ ★

## VERY IMPRESSIVE

There are so many perfect examples of there being one rule for some and another rule for others.

Hillsong 'church' has avoided prosecution for dancing and singing at a youth event. Novak Djokovic had his visa cancelled but, next morning, he got to meet with immigration minister Alex Hawke. Also, why are cabbage moths called moths, when clearly they are out in daylight? I've just sent a message to the two mothers of my daughter Indigo Alia. A response would be fantastic.

★ ★ ★

I wrote about the hideous humidity we had in January. Then I said I wanted them to know that WonderDog Nunga and I hope to fly to New Zealand, Covidery permitting, in March. Many people to see. I want to put



a business proposal to my father for a car museum including his wondrous collection of cars and possibly adopting Lewis, a gorgeous cat. This will depend on how much he and Nunga love each other. He's white and has David Bowie eyes.

★ ★ ★

I also wrote to New Zealand's quarantine officials. I said I didn't know how to put my

complaint. I was polite though my anger was at Chernobyl level. I'd been trying for a quarantine room but something kept going wrong. I got into the queue, just 1300 in front of me and 4,000 rooms to be released. My turn came. The page took forever. I'm not a robot but couldn't make the final confirmation. I couldn't make a Yes on any dates.

★ ★ ★

I just had to get to New Zealand. I needed to see a dearest father figure before he died of extremely aggressive motor neurone disease. But he's dead now. So clearly the algorithm had decided for me that there was no longer a rush. An even more recent reason to travel is my mother has somehow managed to break both her arms, a week apart. Clearly that's an acceptable reason to rush home. I asked the officials why their system hates me.

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

# The day Dad flew a rebel flag and sang in rebel chorus

Queen Elizabeth's 1954 royal tour stopped Australia in its tracks. When she disembarked from the royal barge in Sydney, one million people blocked city streets to greet their young sovereign.

The 27-year-old, who had been crowned just eight months earlier, and husband Prince Phillip crisscrossed the country for eight hectic weeks. Amazingly, six million (of our then nine million) turned out to gaze at her with awe.

In the fawning daily newspaper coverage, she was invariably tagged as 'radiant'. Children were encouraged to cut out photos of her and paste them in royal scrapbooks.

It was a very different era. Prime Minister Bob Menzies and his mates grovelled before her. Hysterical crowds were thrilled that our Queen deigned to walk among us. At least 70,000 returned men from both world wars filled the MCG to give a

## TOBIN'S TALES Gavan Tobin

hearty welcome. But not everyone was so delighted.

It was a time of a bitter sectarian divide. Job ads often noted "Catholics need not apply". In the VFL (now AFL), North Melbourne, Richmond and Collingwood were Catholic clubs; Melbourne and Essendon were Protestant clubs; where Catholics rarely got a game.

After school, children from Catholic and state primary schools exchanged taunts in the street about 'Catholic frogs' and 'Proddy dogs'. Fights often ensued. These religious and political antagonisms ran deep.

The Irish 'Micks' had seen their own 'royal' visit in 1948 when the Irish Catholic leader Eamon de Valera visited our shores. Irish

Australians flocked to Essendon airport (two decades before Tulla) to see 'Dev' arrive. My dad, Phonse, and my Irish-born grandfather, Thomas, were there.

When Dad, a North Melbourne official, heard Dev was keen to see a football game, he arranged a ticket to Arden Street the next Saturday. A massive crowd turned up to cheer the revered Irishman.

In the rooms post-game, 85-year-old Thomas knelt and wept with joy as he kissed Dev's hand in a humble act of fealty to Irish 'royalty'.

Now, back to the 1954 royal visit. As a young child, I was in the office of our family funeral business, overlooking Flemington Road, as the Royals drove by in an open car.

And something happened that I'll never forget.

The young Queen was smiling as usual, then, for a moment, her face turned steely and cold. Her regal wave ceased and she looked seriously pissed off. The reason is part of Tobin family legend.

My dad, on the flat roof above the office, had cheekily flown the Irish flag of rebellion as a tribute to the brave Irish boys of the 1798 anti-British Wexford uprising. It seems Betty Windsor had spotted the flag among a sea of Union Jacks and was not well pleased.

The rebel flag's whereabouts are unknown. It was lost when the family business moved to its present Boundary Road site in 1969.

A pity. My grandchildren could have waved it on the day we become a republic.

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

# Don't fall prey to phone scammers' tricks and tactics

My neighbour Pearl recently told me she had been receiving many spam text messages and calls. She asked why these scams had become so popular and how she can protect herself.

Phone scams are on the rise in Australia. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated, their technology is improving and the huge amount of data held on our mobile phones has become a tempting target for them.

A common tactic is disguising the calling number to make it look like a local number. This is because they know we tend to trust local numbers more than international numbers. Sometimes they also pretend to be from a trusted brand like Telstra or the Australian Tax Office.

These tactics are called 'spoofing' and are popular because scammers have more

## SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pakjic

success than when they use international numbers or reference unknown businesses.

Pearl was actually talking about the 'Flubot' scam, which became endemic last year when scammers realised they could exploit the surge in online shopping and parcel deliveries that had been driven by the pandemic.

The scam works by sending a text message to your phone pretending to be from a legitimate source such as a parcel delivery firm. The message has a link that asks you to click to find out further details about your delivery.

When you click the link you're taken to

a fake website, set up by the scammers, where you're asked to click on another link. If you do, a malware (short for malicious software) will automatically download to your mobile phone.

The malware infects your phone and is able to steal sensitive information such as your logins and passwords for online banking and then send it to scammers, all without your knowledge.

I advised Pearl not to be fooled by any calls or messages from sources she doesn't recognise or wasn't expecting to hear from. I said if she continues to receive scam text messages, she shouldn't click on

any links. She should block the caller and permanently delete the message.

I also told her not to reply to the messages because it just confirms to scammers that the phone number is active. Finally, I advised her to secure her phone in case she does fall victim to one of these scams.

Anyone can do this by setting a six-digit PIN rather than a four-digit PIN to unlock your phone and by contacting your bank to seek advice on how to secure your mobile device. More information is available on the [www.cyber.gov.au](http://www.cyber.gov.au) website.

### Want to know more?

Got a cybersecurity question? Write to [nebojs4@gmail.com](mailto:nebojs4@gmail.com) and you may feature in the next issue. Nebojsa Pakjic lives locally and is an information security professional. He will share his cybersecurity knowledge in the News.



# Actors learn the art of their craft

Rashi Jain

Have you ever wondered what goes on in an actor's mind while they're performing on screen or stage, trying to make you believe in something that's not real?

Sue Ross has run her acting school Screen Actors Australia in Abbotsford Street for 25 years. She knows that understanding an actor's mindset is essential for her students.

Sue spent several years in Los Angeles gaining the knowledge and film acting techniques that she now shares with the young people in her classes.

The school takes students on an annual trip to Los Angeles for intensive work at the famous Stella Adler School of Acting and gives them an opportunity to explore the cinema landscape and get a sense of life in Hollywood.

Stacy Clausen is one of Screen Actors Australia's many successful graduates since starting there four years ago at just 12. He has starred



It's lights, camera, action at Screen Actors Australia.

in big 2021 projects like the ABC's *Fires* and Netflix's *True Spirit* and is currently shooting the ABC's *Crazy Fun Park*.

Current student Fiona Bolinger is developing her scriptwriting skills. "I'm loving the experience and the challenge and I want to start attending auditions soon," she says.

Fiona speaks highly of Sue's tuition and encouragement. "She is the best teacher I've ever had. She pays attention to each of us individually and gives great feedback. I have grown so much since I met her."

Laura Curtin has just joined the Screen Actors family and is excited

by the possibilities. "I'm enjoying the training, I'm making friends at the school and I really want to hit the big screen," she says.

Sue has introduced evening and weekend sessions at Abbotsford Street. "North Melbourne is a great suburb, very creative and lots of fun. We're accessible, so close to the city, and the area has the right vibe for us," she says.

She loves her work in helping young actors achieve their dreams. "It's exciting to see students forming bonds and building their artistic potential."

Rashi Jain writes regularly for the News.

## Anzac Day Ceremony

Sunday 24 April, 2 pm

North and West Melbourne Cenotaph  
Corner Hawke and Victoria streets

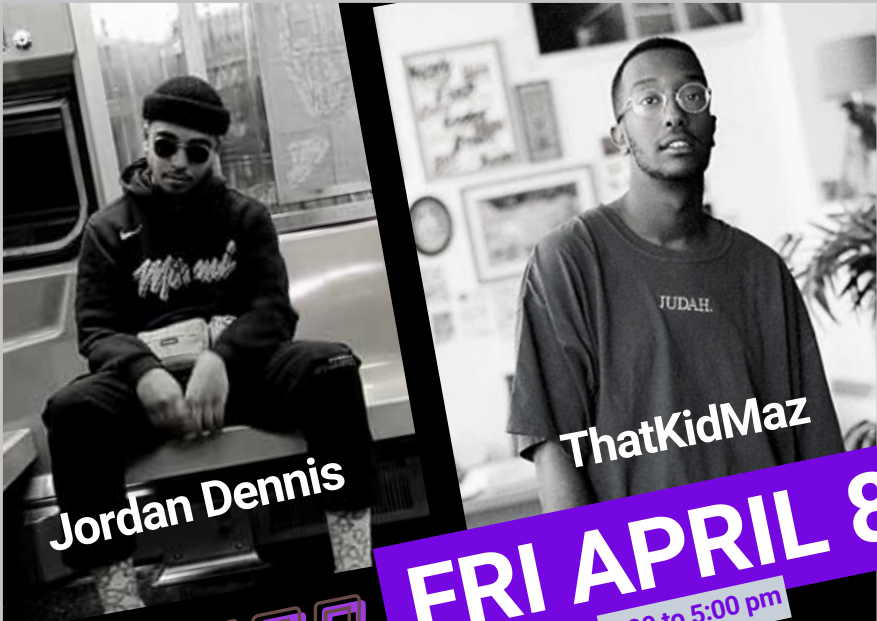
Ceremony includes Flag Ceremony, Wreath Laying, One Minute's Sacred Silence. The guest speaker will be City of Melbourne Councillor Davydd Griffiths.

Refreshments will follow at The Legion Club Hall in George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library).



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

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Jordan Dennis

ThatKidMaz

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COMMUNITY CENTRE

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Juno on her favourite Royal Park bench.

# Humans reap the benefits of a canine connection

Anne Burgi

Back in 2019, six months before we all jumped off the COVID cliff, a strange thing happened ... random strangers started talking to me.

Young people, old people, people pushing prams, groups of teenagers ... in the street, outside shops, in the park. They smiled, paused and chatted.

A few weeks ago, that all stopped. Why? For those precious 2½ years, I had a dog with me. Now, it's just me, and the loss of my four-legged best mate is compounded by the loss of those casual interactions around the neighbourhood.

The glorious *Muster Dogs* (on

ABC TV or iView) talks about the 'bluetooth connection' between a working dog and its owner. But the wireless connection is far broader.

Dogs provide a safe link between strangers. "What's the dog's name?" "Can I pat the dog?" "What breed is she?" Easy opening gambits. Sometimes that was all there was, but sometimes it led to a longer chat across all sorts of topics.

It's harder to start such a conversation without a canine companion. Those teenagers who told me about their own pets – or in one case about why they were scared of all dogs – would be puzzled by a middle-aged stranger talking to them out of the blue.

Juno was a mature-aged Koolie

when she arrived in my life. She quickly trained me.

A 5-6 km walk in Royal Park each day was mandatory, supplemented by an early morning walk to check that the neighbourhood was in good order and a late night stroll before bed. She was a lady of definite – and clearly stated – opinion. She recognised that I provided food and controlled our activities, and so was the alpha of our little pack. But she also believed that a dog's entitled to a preference or two.

A special treat was delivering the News. She loved the opportunity to explore new parts of North and West Melbourne, stopping to say hello to people in their yards

or check out a patch of greenery around a tree.

Then there were exercise classes at the Legion. She enjoyed the camaraderie of the class and watched us flinging arms and legs round in what must have been a perplexing use of energy that could have been used on a long walk.

At Arden Street Oval, she roped passing people into her often intricate ball games, nosing the red ball up to them then stepping back, inviting them to kick it away for her to round up and bring back to them.

I miss her and her ability to connect me to the world.

Anne Burgi is the News production editor.

# Ed's path to a new home coloured by his love of art

Geoff Pound

Author and artist Ed Zhao is a relative newcomer to West Melbourne.

Ed was born in China in 1981 and grew up in Beijing. He moved to England where he went to secondary school then studied economics at university. In 2018 he migrated with his wife, Apeksha, and two children to Australia.

Ed and Apeksha are looking forward to officially becoming Australians later this year.

"Emotionally, there's nothing like citizenship to cement a bond to a new home," he says.

As part of his citizenship journey, Ed is undertaking a personal project entitled *Becoming Australian*.

"I want to hear from people, different in background and outlook, who will give their impressions of what it means to them to be Australian. Their answers need only be heartfelt and reflective of their personal journeys," he says.

His plan is to combine these stories with visual art to convey

what being Australian means to different people.

By day, Ed enjoys his work as a transport economist for Ernst & Young, providing economic appraisals, financial analyses and planning strategies for new roads and public transport.

By night, he puts numbers and rational thinking to one side and indulges his passion for painting and graphic art that he displays on digital media. He hopes to get engaged on art jobs that will support our local community in North and West Melbourne.

"This could be drawing a poster for a community event or a menu for a café, designing a wallpaper or mural for a hall, library or office reception, or creating an illustration for a children's storybook," he explains.

"For community and charities, I work for free. For commercial organisations, I charge. Any profit is directed to charities such as refugee support groups or the Buddhist Centre in Bendigo. I want my artwork to be useful and to contribute to society."



Ed Zhao is excited about taking up Australian citizenship later this year.

His interest in art started early. "My passion for the arts started even before my memories started. In fact, my earliest memories include myself drawing," he says.

At primary school he followed guides for drawing animals. In his teens, he taught himself figurative drawing techniques from books on human anatomy.

"In terms of Eastern influences, my first teachers were my grandparents, decent painters and calligraphers in their own right. They used only black ink to depict the thousands of colours and lights and shades," he says.

"I haven't practised explicit Chinese styles. I'm more focused on developing a local style applicable

for our community. I'm now a big fan of children's art, partly because of parenthood and a sense of fun, and partly because I'm hoping that will develop my style."

Ed's picture and story book for children, *The Story of Holi*, illustrates this evolution of style. In it he presents a fun take on the Hindu story of Krishna throwing coloured water and powder over people to make them realise we are more than the colour of our skin.

He loves writing about his native China. His most recent book, *The Princeling*, tells of an Englishman who lives there, and it highlights the diversity of that amazing country.

In it, Ed addresses the contrasts between his real-life experience and Westerners' perceptions of China.

Geoff Pound is minister of the West Melbourne Baptist Church.

## Want to know more?

To find out more about Ed Zhao, to sample his art and his writing or to tell him your story, go to his website: [www.edzhao.com](http://www.edzhao.com)



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**Dr Bee Meng (Bambie) Lee**

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# Thai student Ben flies in to renew local ties



Ben Srinophakun enjoyed revisiting North Melbourne landmarks.

Nancy Lane

Nawat Srinophakun (Ben) is one of the first international students to come to Australia following the easing of COVID travel restrictions.

Although the 26-year-old is planning to study auto mechanics in Brisbane, he decided to spend his first three weeks here in North Melbourne.

He had been here briefly when he was 14, on a family trip to visit friends of his mother. Also, by chance, one of his high school friends had recently moved here to begin doctoral studies at the University of Melbourne.

Ben's first stop after Tullamarine was the Miami Hotel on Hawke Street, where he stayed while he took his RAT test. Luckily, he had brought a packet of 20 from Thailand, so he didn't have to go searching for one.

He enjoyed having his own room and en suite and sharing the kitchen space.

"It was like a share house, but on a bigger scale. There were utensils, pots and pans, everything you need for cooking," he says.

His friend helped him set up the basics of living in Australia: a new phone number, a Myki card and the Services Victoria COVID check-in app. Friends of his mother took him on a tour of the local area.

Ben could still recall some North

Melbourne landmarks from his first visit in 2010. His favourite is the famous fountain in front of the post office in Errol Street.

He is impressed that cars stop at the pedestrian crossings, rather than people having to dodge cars as in Bangkok. He also praises the North Melbourne footpaths. "You don't have to keep focusing on your feet when you are walking like you do at home," he says.

Ben enjoys the North Melbourne Recreation Centre pool. "They organise the lanes really nice, with different speeds for swimmers," he says.

There is another contrast to the heavily chlorinated swimming pools he knew in Thailand. "The water in the pool here is much more delicious," he grins.

He notes that food is less expensive in Thailand but that the pork at Woolies seems cheap. He also likes the range of pre-packaged food on the shelves. "This is really good for a lazy person like me, and

the taste is not bad," he says.

The highlight for this budding auto mechanic was the Nick Theodossi Prestige Cars dealership in Arden Street. "The price for luxury cars is really good here. At home it would be two or three times more expensive," Ben says.

However, he doubts he could convince his mother that she would save a lot of money if she bought him a Porsche.

Ben had previously completed a mechanical engineering degree in Thailand and worked as an air conditioning sales engineer, where he met sales targets and won several awards. "Although I was good at my job, it's not my style," he says.

He is excited to be studying in a TAFE college in Brisbane. "I really love working on cars. And for one course, there are two benefits: automotive knowledge and improving my English."

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News

## Something to share?

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# HOLI AT DOCKLANDS 2022

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**New Quay (near Bolte Bridge)**  
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**Free community festival**  
**Colours - Music - Dancing -**  
**Food - Fun activities**

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# ‘Selfies’ wow students at start of the year

Erin Jenkins

St Michael’s Primary was thrilled to welcome students back to our Brougham Street school. We kicked off the year with a WOW (Week of Wellbeing), full of exciting activities designed to promote children’s wellbeing and to give them the opportunity to gather together, to set goals and to build positive relationships. Some aspects of the week had to be adjusted due to COVID’s lingering influence. We were unable to roll out our popular

whole-school Zumba sessions or to welcome the parents and carers in for a cuppa. However, the week turned into a true celebration. Students enjoyed reading *Beautiful Oops!*, a story that shows making mistakes is not a failure but can be turned into something positive and uplifting. Children used the book to create their own stories. “I used to get frustrated when I made mistakes, but now I know it’s okay and I can learn from it,” Joshua from Grade 4 said. Other students enjoyed doing

artwork. Visual arts teacher Luisa Vivarelli was delighted with the enthusiasm of her P-2 artists who used van Gogh’s self portraits to create their own selfies. “We’re going to display them in the school’s front entrance where families and visitors can see the children’s work,” Luisa said. One novel activity was building a marshmallow and spaghetti tower. “In this team-building exercise, children negotiated their roles in the group and worked collaboratively,” Grade 2 teacher Fiona Dunne said.

Not all WOW activities took place at the school. Grade 3-4 students travelled to Royal Park for a taste of the great outdoors and had a great time climbing trees, building forts and kicking footies and soccer balls. Pranav, in Grade 6, said this was the highlight of his week. “I loved going to Royal Park and being in nature. We had space to run around and build things. It made me happy.”

Erin Jenkins is wellbeing and learning diversity leader at St Michael’s.



Lots of fun building forts in Royal Park.  
Students’ artwork was inspired by van Gogh’s self-portraits.

## the song of the rose (Bill Hannan)

my mother met my father  
out where the saltbush grows  
he asked her to be his lover  
and she sang the song of the rose

the song of the rose is a sad song  
of beauty alone on the plains  
where the dry grasses bow and whisper  
in the silence before the rains

they consumed their love that day  
out where the saltbush grows  
then left the plains for the city  
but always remembered the rose

she sang of the last rose of summer  
of endearing young charms growing old  
did so much melancholy I wonder  
betray sorrows unsung and untold

sometimes her soul went back alone  
to the lands where the saltbush grows  
where questions dissolved into dust  
and darkened the glow of the rose

yet each time she would come back  
to us  
up to her very last days  
and she always marked her return  
by planting her favourite rose

I was with her as she lay dead  
holding a flower from the nurses  
it seemed that she knew she was  
back on the plains with her roses

to honour our golden wedding  
we planted a yellow rose  
thinking it would stand for  
the fortune of love as it grows

and I thought of that day long gone  
out where the saltbush grows  
when my parents vowed to be lovers  
and heard the song of the rose

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



Illustration: Ed Zhao

### FROM THE ARCHIVES Michelle Brett

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

**Law smokes out boys who pinched a pipe (1885)**  
Three lads – James Payne, James McGill and John Brown – were charged with larceny of a pipe from Bridget Doyle’s shop in Hamilton Street, West Melbourne. The court remanded the boys for a week and ordered they be kept separate and fed on bread and water. Their parents were ordered to pay Mrs Doyle for the pipe.

**The Salvos at fault for frightening a horse (1886)**  
Richard Catt was charged with lacking proper control over his horse and cart in Queensberry Street. It seemed his horse was alarmed by the noise and blue lights of the Salvation Army and bolted down Errol Street, injuring several people. The bench ruled the Army had created a disturbance. The case was dismissed.

**Late night gardening puts Billy right in it (1886)**  
William Dawson faced court for allowing a nuisance to exist on his premises contrary to the Health Act. The defendant had apparently been burying ‘night soil’ in his garden. His neighbours complained to the police about the horrible stench. The bench fined Dawson and ordered him to clear out his garden at once.

**Annoying the faithful gets George in strife (1886)**  
George Plunkett was charged by Constable Murphy with the offence of being a public nuisance. The policeman said that at 8.30 on Sunday evening the prisoner was creating a disturbance in the busiest part of Errol Street and annoying people coming home from church. Plunkett was fined 20 shillings for his misbehaviour.

**Under the weather and in the wrong place (1887)**  
Patrick Piggott was charged with being illegally on the premises of Margaret Jones. She stated Piggott tried to force her window open with a knife and threatened her. Police found him lying drunk on the verandah. He was given a month in jail. Sergeant Corbett said he was a disgrace to North Melbourne.

**Arthur chops Jane up in dispute over axe (1882)**  
Jane Adams and Arthur Thur were involved in a dispute over an axe worth sixpence. Adams and her sons swore she had owned the axe for six years. Thur disputed this and said he had owned it for two. The bench decided to dismiss the case and returned the axe to Thur who carried it out of court in triumph.

*Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.*





SPANISH  
LANGUAGE  
FESTIVAL

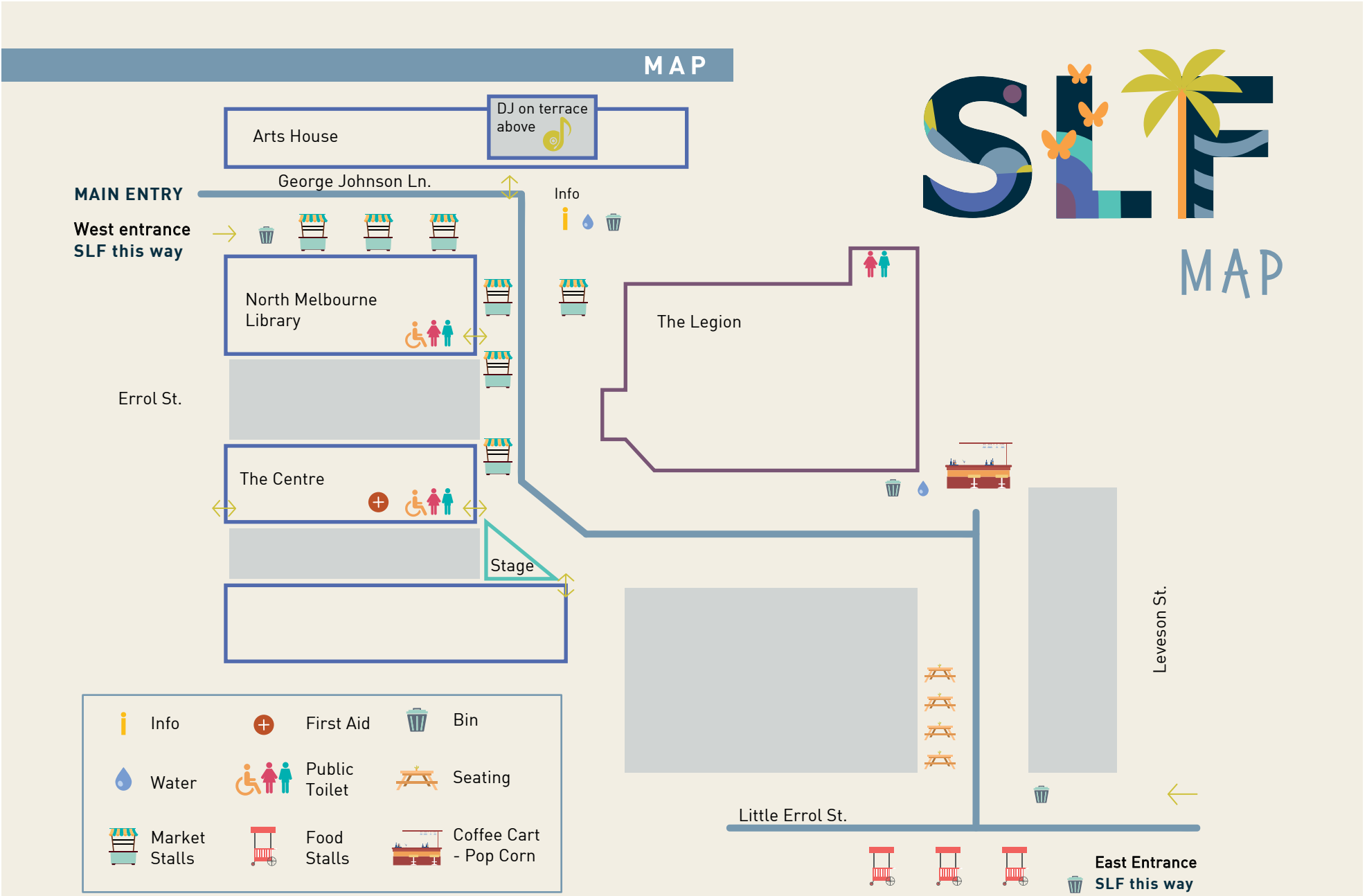
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## PROGRAM

### George Johnson Lane

11:00 am	Dance activation Zumba · Party With Latinas
11:30am	Pio Pio Pio · Latin folk music and songs for kids
12:00pm	Opening · Speech from Director and City of Melbourne
12:10pm	Bachata · Salsa Foundation
12:45pm	Puppetry Tango Dance · Elena y Gustavo
1:00pm	Afro Latin Vibes · David Smile
1:30pm	Mexican dance · Mexbourne
2:00pm	Flamenco Show · Senes Flamenco
2:30pm	Raffle · Farolito
2:45pm	Taxi Colectivo Latin Band
3:30pm	Carnival · Mosaik Experiences

### North Melbourne Library - Kids Corner

11:00am-11:30am	Storytelling in Spanish · Purpose Books
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Spanish Class for Kids · La Ventana Spanish School

### North Melbourne Library

11:30am-12:00pm	Spanish Class for Adults · Farolito Spanish School
12:00pm-12:30pm	Poetry Performance in Spanish · A Voz Limpia
2:00pm	Theatre show · Natalia Nazir

## ALL DAY FIESTA

**SATURDAY · 26 · MARCH - 11 A.M.- 4 P.M.**

**DJ Guaro:**  
Keep the party going with choice tracks from across Latin America and Spain.

**Food Stalls:**  
A variety of food stalls, providing the best taste of Latin America and Spain in Melbourne.

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

**Facepainting:**  
Add more colour to your day. Get your face painted and display your new artwork proudly at the Fiesta.

**Art and Craft:**  
Learn more about traditional Latin American and Spanish culture by making your very own figurine.

**Errol St:**  
Pop up performances and roving bicycle DJ.

**Information:**  
Learn more about what is on offer in your local community. Enrol in a course or activity, learn about COVIDSafe behaviours, and contribute to neighbourhood planning

[spanishlanguagefiesta.org.au](https://spanishlanguagefiesta.org.au)  
@spanishlanguagefiesta





PERFORMANCE

- 1. Party With Latinas Dance Activation - 11:00am**  
Get in touch with your inner Latino and shake your booty. Learn the basic steps of famous danceforms from Latin America and Spain.  
@partywithlatinas
- 2. Pio Pio Pio - 11:30am**  
Latin folk music and songs for kids - Pio Pio Pio is the sound chickens make in Spanish. Drawing on the fantastically vibrant and soulful rhythms, instruments and folk songs of Latin America, Pio Pio Pio invites little ones (and adults) to have fun and learn.  
@piopiopiomusic
- 3. Salsa Foundation - 12:10pm**  
What is Bachata? Bachata is the hottest Latin Dance style in the world right now! It's hugely popular at the Latin Parties, socials, dance schools, and all over social media! The Salsa Foundation will teach you the basics and fundamentals to get you started! And the best part? It's easy to learn the basics!  
www.thesalsafoundation.com.au
- 4. Puppetry Tango Dance - 12:45am**  
There have been many great duets over time. But none quite like "Elena and Gustavo". Elena is a maestro performer in tango dance. And Gustavo, her dancing partner, is, well, a life-sized puppet. Together they form one of the most intriguing dance couples you may ever witness in your life. It's tango dance puppetry at its best.  
www.elena-canta-tango.com/
- 5. David Smile - 1:00pm**  
Afro Latin Vibes!  
A mixture of movement unveiling the shared vibes between Reggaeton, Afro-Fusion, Dancehall and Salsa.  
@david.smile.dance
- 6. Mexbourne - 1:30pm**  
Mexican folkloric dance reflects the country's Indigenous, African and European history – an intoxicating mix.
- 7. Senes Flamenco - 2:00pm**  
Ole! Flamenco Show and Workshop Experience.  
The passion and drama of Spain's most famous art form in a live flamenco show from Senes Flamenco.  
www.senesflamenco.com

- 8. Taxi Colectivo - 2:45pm**  
Latin Band  
From Salsa to Boogaloo be ready to shake your body. Taxi Colectivo is a 6 piece live band specialized in Latin music. They play a wide selection of Cuban rhythms perfect for dancers of all ages. The most popular genres among their followers are salsa, son and cha cha cha.  
@taxicolectivo
- 9. Mosaik Experience - 3:30pm**  
Colombian Carnival!  
Barranquilla's carnival is the biggest celebration of folklore in all Colombia and one of the world's largest carnivals, with more than a hundred years of tradition. Colombians and visitors alike party in the streets in a colorful celebration of Colombian culture.  
@mosaikexperiences
- 10. Spanish Class for Adults - 11:30am**  
Hola! Join our friends from Farolito Spanish Language School in this fun and interactive workshop. Perfect for beginners.  
www.farolitospanish.com.au
- 11. Theatre Show - 2:00pm**  
Enjoy a delightful monologue in Spanish with Natalia Nazir.
- 12. Storytelling in Spanish - 11:00am**  
Specially for the kids, this session is more than simply listening to stories. There is dancing and singing too - all in Spanish!  
@purposebooks
- 13. Spanish Classes for Kids - 2:00pm**  
Learn Spanish using a fun and easy play-based approach, sure to spark a keen interest in learning a foreign language. For toddlers and their parents.  
www.laventanaspanishschool.com
- 14. Poetry in Spanish - 12:00pm**  
Come and hear original poetry in Spanish, read by poets, storytellers and writers of all persuasions with A Voz Limpia.  
www.avozlimpia.com



**Message from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne**

Melbourne is coming back to life with a roar and we're delighted to support the Spanish Language Fiesta as it kicks up its heels in North Melbourne. The fiesta fills George Johnson Lane with the sounds, sights and aromas of Spanish and Latin American culture, inviting locals and visitors to enjoy dance and music amid a lively atmosphere.

Taking place during Cultural Diversity Week, the fiesta is an exuberant celebration of multicultural Melbourne. The City of Melbourne is always pleased to get behind free family entertainment so do make time for children's storytelling and exploring Spanish language books at North Melbourne library.

Community festivals are so important to our neighbourhoods, and now we can once more invite people back to the city to enjoy events in a COVID-safe way. I congratulate the organisers and wish all involved a marvellous Melbourne day.

Sally Capp,  
Lord Mayor



### Road Closure Notification - Spanish Language Fiesta 2022 - Saturday 26 March 2022

The Centre is holding the annual Spanish Language Fiesta in George Johnson Lane, North Melbourne on Saturday 26 March 2022. Programmed activities will be held from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Set up will begin at 7am and pack down will conclude at 7pm.

Expected Attendance: 2000 (375 at any one time)

#### Brief Description & Purpose:

The Spanish Language Fiesta to be held in North Melbourne on Saturday 26 March identifies and celebrates the vast community of Spanish speaking people living in Melbourne.

Our fiesta honours this tradition by bringing music, dance, art and literature to the cultural hub of North Melbourne. A number of community organisations will partner to deliver a program of activities focused on educating about the rich, colourful history of Hispanic countries and the significance of language in cultural celebrations.

#### Expected Disruptions;

The following streets and locations will be affected:

- George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street will be completely closed to vehicles between the hours of 7am – 7pm on Saturday 26 March 2022.
- No public transport will be affected by the event or road closures.
- There will be no impact to Errol Street, Leveson Street, Queensberry Street or Victoria Street as a result of the event.

Route 57 Tram: The route will run unaffected through North Melbourne on the regular Saturday timetable.

Roadblocks will be installed at 7:30am on Saturday 26 March and removed at 6pm on the same day.

Car parking along Errol St, Leveson St and Queensberry St is available on the day of the event with most spaces metered between 7:30am – 12:30pm. After this time, parking in these spaces is free for the remainder of the day.

Access will be reopened to residents within the precinct after 7:00pm on Saturday 26 March or when it is safe to do so.

For further enquiries about the traffic management of this event please contact:

Yulay Perez at The Centre on 03 9328 1126  
or the City of Melbourne Event Operations Coordinator  
Ashleigh O'Gara on 0479 178 437

Thanks for your understanding and supporting the Spanish Language Fiesta in North Melbourne.  
We look forward to celebrating with you.

Kind Regards,

Yulay Perez  
Event Coordinator – Spanish Language Fiesta 2022  
03 9328 1126 perezyl@centre.org.au

### COVID Safety

This event is run in line with State Government COVID Safety guidelines. Whilst these can change, at time of printing, the following requirements are in place.

All patrons must register using a QR code upon entry to the festival zone

All patrons over 18 years of age will be required to show vaccination certification (double dose) or a valid medical exemption

Anyone displaying COVID-like symptoms, or anyone who has had a positive COVID diagnosis in the previous seven days cannot attend the event

Social distancing will be encouraged where practical

Hand sanitiser will be freely available

Department of Health will be onsite offering complimentary RATs, vaccinations and COVID Safe advice.



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY:

**the centre**  
connecting community in  
north & west melbourne inc.

SPONSORS



EVENT FRIENDS

- North Melbourne Library · Homework Club ·
- The Legion · A Voz Limpia · Purpose Books ·
- Farolito Spanish Language School ·
- La Ventana Spanish Language School ·

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**Andrea Vela** · Social Media Coordinator  
**Alejandra Gomez** · Video Production  
**Carolina Echeverri** · Graphic Designer

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
**TO OUR AMAZING TEAM!**



# Trip home to Malawi sparks lifesaving campaign

Laura Misale

Herbison Singo was born in Malawi, one of the world's poorest nations. Half the 19 million population live below the poverty line, with a quarter in extreme poverty.

Herbison's early years were desperately hard. "As a young boy in a family of six, five boys and a girl, it was survival of the fittest. Getting resources was a challenge," he says.

The family relied on the help of community members to provide him with clothes and he walked long distances each day to get to school. "I worked hard because my mother knew the importance of education," he says.

After graduating, he became head of physiotherapy at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, where his



Malawians receiving bags of maize to make nsima, their staple food.

wife, Alice, was an in-charge nurse of the intensive care unit. "I had met her at my cousin's wedding and it was love at first sight," Herbison smiles.

They moved to Australia in 2013 so Alice could further her studies in

public health. "We came here with the aim of changing our lives as well as changing the lives of others," he says.

In late 2019, Alice returned to Malawi, taking their twin boys, then just three months old. "She went

to show the boys to our parents, planning to stay for six months, but soon COVID hit," Herbison says.

While Alice was researching in Malawi for her PhD in public health, she phoned Herbison in distress. "She'd been affected by the many starving locals begging for help. She asked me if there was anything we could do."

Anine Cummins, a friend of Herbison, suggested a Go Fund Me account to provide food to starving villagers. "We worked with a local who found seven families on the verge of collapsing because they had nothing to eat," he says.

A recent recruit to North Melbourne Rotary, Herbison raised more than \$1,100 from club members' donations and the Go Fund Me appeal.

The money headed to needy

families in Malawi. "We provided bags of maize to make nsima, kind of a thick mash potato and a staple food in Malawi," Herbison says.

His next aim is to provide local families with ongoing support. "The funds we collect will go towards supporting the families so their children can go to school."

Alice and the boys were finally able to come home last month and Herbison is both delighted and relieved.

"Two long years they were away and now we're a family again."

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.

**Want to know more?**

Herbison's Go Fund Me page 'Help Herbison Save Lives' is open online.

# Irish migrant becomes a 'valuable resident' of Hotham

North Melbourne's Carroll Street runs between Erskine and Canning streets. It was named after local councillor James Carroll (1819-1895) who came to Victoria from Ireland with his English wife, Mary Newby, in the early 1850s.

Carroll started out as a humble poundkeeper when

## RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

they first lived at Liverpool Stables in Carlton near the steam-mills in 1856, but his life was to have many more twists.

He sold and delivered firewood in partnership, then served on a committee investigating misappropriation of a

government grant. James and Mary were then living near the corner of Leveson and Byron streets in Hotham (later North Melbourne).

In 1860, after residents urged him to stand, he was elected to Hotham Council. "I conceive it to be the duty of all those having time at their disposal, and a desire

to promote the general (wellbeing), to lend a helping hand towards inaugurating our infant municipality," he said.

By 1866 Carroll had become lord mayor of Hotham and began two decades of service to the community. In 1873 he was elected as a local JP.

However, not all locals saw him favourably. The publican of the Sunnyside Hotel, on the corner of Arden and Curzon streets, sued him for failing to pay for room hire during an election.

Nor was his personal life without tragedy. His daughter Maria had died in 1862, aged just 12, and was followed in 1875 by 16-year-old Sarah Ann. Then, in 1878, Mary Carroll died aged 53. All were victims of that era's raging epidemics.

In 1882 he set in motion a building fund for the later St

Mary Star of the Sea church on Victoria Street. However, he also attracted criticism for allowing Irish revolutionaries to use Hotham Town Hall.

In the late 1880s Carroll lived out his golden years in a new home at 13 Fitzgibbon Street, Parkville, where he died in 1895. A tribute in the North Melbourne Police Court noted that as a long-serving councillor and JP, he had been a valuable resident of North Melbourne.

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

**Want to know more?**

For more about the people who once lived on Carroll Street, go to [melbournestreets.com.au/carroll-street](http://melbournestreets.com.au/carroll-street). If you know more about our local streets and would like to share your stories or old photos, contact [Melbournestreets1@gmail.com](mailto:Melbournestreets1@gmail.com).



View of Carroll Street. Photograph: Stephen Hatcher

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# Laneway letters gave locals a lift

Alexandra Kent

Were you one of the lucky locals who picked up a mysterious brown paper envelope in one of North Melbourne’s laneways late last year? Several keen readers have asked the *News* to investigate the mystery. And we’re pleased to report that the intriguing puzzle has been solved!

The envelopes were part of an artistic project conducted by contemporary jewellery and object maker Claire McArdle. She left a total of 171 ‘Pick Me Up’ envelopes throughout inner-suburban streets and laneways, including North and West Melbourne. The envelopes were a central element of ‘Walk’, Claire’s performative walking exploration of artistic tool use, which is part of her PhD in fine art, gold and silversmithing.

Perhaps you spotted her in the early hours of the morning, wearing a red boilersuit, threading pieces of jewellery and slipping them into the envelopes.

Claire’s walk through our streets and lanes was an artistic performance and part of her academic project. She carried, in a toolkit, discs of aluminium that had been rolled down to the perfect thickness, a wax linen cord, a piece of backing paper, and another piece of cardboard

describing the performance. As she walked, she put the backing cardboard and aluminium discs through rollers around her neck, threaded them with cord and attached them to the other piece of cardboard. Claire slipped the jewellery into the pre-prepared envelopes painted with the words ‘Pick Me Up’ – an intentional double meaning, to entice people to peek into them and also to give their day a lift. Then she left them in

unexpected spots for people to find. She says she hoped the surprise gift would brighten local residents’ days. “I wanted them to either wear the pieces of jewellery, hang them in their homes or pass them on as a gift.” For Claire, the envelopes captured a moment in time. “It was exciting to finish my project in lockdown and to be part of a creative artistic performance on the streets.”

Alexandra Kent writes regularly for the *News*.



One of the mysterious envelopes left in local streets by artist Claire McArdle.

## KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

Here are 30 names of cafes, shops or businesses in North and West Melbourne.

Contours Travel	The Centre	Los Andes Gifts	Aesop	Shoe Repairs
Ample	Equilibrium	Milk & Honey	Eros Hair	Limerick Castle
Comic’s Lounge	Airs & Graces	Czech Club	Fandango	Wonky Trolley
Chef Panda	Salt	Meticulous	Paw Principality	Three Crowns
Radical Yes	One Star	River Nile	Star of the Sea	French Quarter
Beatrix	Overs	Drunken Poet	Casa Verde	Radius Health

Can you link them to the clues? (They’re either cryptic, obscure or simply silly.)

1. I run in two colours, one blue, one white

2. I’m worse at my verse when I’m pissed

3. I was a Channel 7 princess in the 1950s

4. I enrol lots of Brighton’s toffy Mick girls

5. I deliver 90 a day when put to the test

6. I sound like a sole load of old cobblers

7. I’m a place where a pet is in power

8. I fail and fall apart, wrote W. B. Yeats

9. I play chess to the final move, mate

10. I’m a house covered in lush greenery

11. I’m more than able to tell you a fable

12. I’m certain to raise your blood pressure

13. I’m waiting for you in Woolies and Coles

14. I’m a pedantic checker, always perfect

15. I’m full of nonsense and love to dance

16. I enjoy a cheeky five-line Irish poem

17. I feel better now from my centre point
18. I’m too modest to put on any of these

19. I’ll take you to see the lie of the land

20. I’m presently high in South America

21. I’m the land where we all dream to be

22. I’m a boastful state where it’s all bigger

23. I was worth 150 cents in coins pre-1966

24. I made up the story of Peter Rabbit

25. I hear the extremists are all in favour

26. I’m the touristy spot in New Orleans

27. I’m told by Mr Manners I’ve had enough

28. I won’t lose my stability and balance

29. I’d love to be trim with a snip and a clip

30. I furnish a funster with a sofa so soft

Maurice Gaul is editor of the *News*.  
See page 27 for the answers



Piano teacher Angus Killick playing an 80-year-old Bechstein at Piano Warehouse. Photograph: Zoe Sheridan

# Keys to a musical world

Zoe Sheridan

For local musician and piano teacher Angus Killick, music has been a life-long obsession. He started playing at the age of six on his family piano in Bendigo, then moved to Melbourne to study music.

For the last six years he has been part of a 1980s band, *Stand and Deliver*. “I was desperate for cash and responded to a Facebook ad saying they needed a young keyboard player who can play ‘80s,” he says.

Angus turned up for his audition at Revolver Upstairs in Chapel Street, played the first four bars of *Video Killed the Radio Star* and he was in. He was just as fortunate when he landed his first teaching gig.

“My old principal had a birthday party for his daughter at the rollerskating rink where I worked. While all the kids were skating, I asked if I could set up a music program at his primary school and he agreed,” he says.

Angus’ favourite music haunt is Australian Piano Warehouse in Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne, a piano paradise that boasts a huge range of new and second-hand grand, upright and digital pianos.

Angus and Piano Warehouse sales consultant Alistair Macauley enthusiastically discuss some of the showroom’s treasures. “My background is in piano tuning. We call ourselves the pitstop crew of piano playing,” Alistair says.

Angus explains that each piano has its own individual personality. He says an 80-year-old Bechstein grand piano has depth and character, while a Brodmann is described as perfection. “I don’t even have to play a second note and it’s still interesting.”

He loves all styles of music. “I like playing classical because it’s challenging, but jazz is my favourite. You get to express yourself. This year, I hope to start a local jazz trio,” he says.

As Angus and Alistair wax lyrical about the beautifully presented pianos, senior sales consultant and qualified musician Mark King joins the group. He fills in the history of the 50-year-old Australian-owned family business.

“Musician Dale Cleves bought a farm in Mt Gambier about 1900 and converted a huge barn into a dance floor. Decades later, it hosted Generations in Jazz, the largest jazz festival in the southern hemisphere,” he says.

“Cleves’ son started a music store in Mt Gambier. Eight years ago the family opened a warehouse in South Melbourne, purely as an experiment. It went nuts and now, with 11 stores, we’re the largest retailer in the country.”

The Piano Warehouse sells to everyone, including beginners, professionals and institutions. “Occasionally we get a curious backpacker, but most customers are locals,” Mark says.

He admits the store was knocked about by COVID. “We used to have everything on display but now almost every piano that comes in is pre-sold. We closed during lockdown but we’d come in and do web sales. The demand was huge.”

However, for piano teacher Angus, COVID had a bright side. “I found that people were more interested than ever to learn to play. Teaching is my passion and whenever I move house, I collect students from the area. My youngest is six and my eldest is in her 50s,” he says.

He loves teaching the older students. “They have such a rich taste. It’s exciting that they have a strong connection to music and want to bring that out through piano.”

Angus’s message to aspiring pianists is simple. “Don’t start in 10 years. Just start now!”

Zoe Sheridan writes regularly for the *News*.



# A new future for food needed

John H. Smith

COVID made victims of us all. As the pandemic raged, empty supermarket shelves revealed how vulnerable we are.

Agricultural journalist Gabrielle Chan's book *Why you should give a F\*ck about Farming* is a call to arms that connects strongly with the threat we felt.

Gabrielle recently offered the final seminar of The Future of Food series organised by the Institute of Postcolonial Studies in Curzon Street.

A supporting panel included IPCS patron and Mildura restaurateur Stefano de Pieri, *Iron Chef* commentator and food writer Richard Cornish, and RMIT professor of human geography Lauren Rickards.

Gabrielle warned we should care about farming because we all have a stake in the future.

"If you eat food or wear clothes, you depend on farming, and the decisions you make influence farming," she said.

She outlined how farmers are challenged by the big questions of our time: climate change, ecological destruction, water shortages and corporate power.

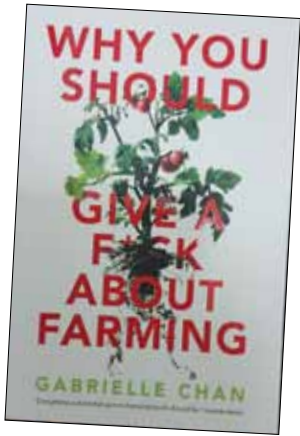
"Parliament should elevate a food portfolio to the status of defence. Then food and farming would have the protection it once enjoyed," she said.

Farmer and rural advocate Peter Mailler identified the roots of the crisis.

"Most people see farming through the lens of Barnaby Joyce. He resists the kind of change that is needed. The National Party has transitioned from representing the highest goals to the lowest in the country," he said.

Stefano likened the complex issues to a "spaghetti mess".

"*Master Chef* comes from fantasyland, but food is the one thing we all put in our mouths. City people are affected by production, but they don't vote for the National Party."



Gabrielle Chan's book discussed at The Future of Food series.

IPCS director Melinda Hinkson explained that Australia has delegated food to forces outside our control and has become an attractive destination for investment in land, where the priorities are profits, not food production for local and regional security.

"The elephant in the room is neoliberal economics," she said.

Richard stressed the need for integration. "Our nose, tongue and brain must work together so that we understand about the food we eat," he said.

However, it seems that progress is possible. "What is needed is already being felt through greater awareness of the relationship between Indigenous culture and farming," Lauren said.

Peter noted that the landscape is a finite resource. "Agriculture involves stewardship of the land. To achieve this, we have to reimagine our future to create a vibrant, resilient rural community in Australia."

Gabrielle Chan made clear there is hope for change and we can play a part in a new future for food.

"As the marriage equality debate showed, positive political reform can come from outside parliament."

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

**Want to know more?**  
To find out more about the IPCS and its activities, go to [ipcs.org.au](https://ipcs.org.au)



Sing NoW choristers at the Errol Street Reserve last December.

Rosie Greenfield

Sing NoW community choir wound up 2021 by singing in the park. What a hoot!

It gave us an opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Jane York, our leader for much of last year, and to meet face-to-face as a group for one of the few times in 2021.

We gathered under the fig tree in Errol Street Reserve for a picnic cocktail hour with nibbles and drinks. After a year of the virtual world of Zoom, it was so good to catch up.

But it was about more than catching up. There was some serious singing to be done and we launched into our 'selfie gig' – the two-part concert we did for our own enjoyment.

In the first part, Jane led us in the songs we had learned mostly online. After some warm-ups, and with just a few nerves, we launched into our harmonies.

The first, written by Jane, was *There is music when we are together*. Then came *Peaceful Dreams*, written by Mavis Staple, and *We got all the*

# Joyful singers take to the park

*love*, written by H. Yeomans. We surprised ourselves with the result!

In the concert's second part, new choir leader Susie Kelly took us through an eclectic mix of Christmas songs, ranging from a medieval chorus through a 'mash-up' of many Yuletide pop songs.

Near the end of our repertoire, we were joined by some curious on-lookers who had earlier heard us from their verandahs. Once they found us we kept singing to make their visit worthwhile.

What a way to end 2021! With all the restrictions of lockdown, social

distancing and mask wearing, we had so missed the joys of group singing.

Now, for 2022. To ensure we start with a bang, we have rested the choir for term one. Then we'll burst out of the blocks for term two on 28 April. Just five days earlier, we'll be part of The Centre's Come & Try Day and we hope to see you there.

Sing NoW is a community singing group run as a program from The Centre. There are no auditions so whether your voice is high, low or somewhere in the middle, we'll welcome you into the choir.

The only requirement is that you enjoy singing. Just come and experience the joy of singing with others. Leader Susie creates an encouraging and inclusive environment for all.

Rosie Greenfield is a member of Sing NoW.

**Want to know more?**  
If you are interested in joining us, please contact The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne at [centre.org.au](https://centre.org.au) or call 9328 1126.

# ELLEN SANDELL

## GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.  
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637  
[office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com)

146 Peel Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne.



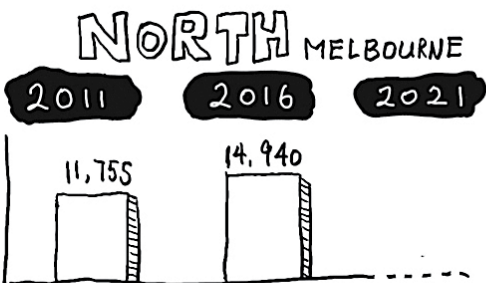


HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?  
HERE ARE SOME FACTS FROM THE PAST TWO CENSUSES  
REMEMBER WHEN YOU FILLED THE CENSUS SURVEY FORMS DURING LOCKDOWN?  
THE RESULTS FROM THE 2021 CENSUS ARE DUE OUT SOON  
GUESS HOW THE NUMBERS WILL CHANGE. WRITE YOUR ANSWERS DOWN.

COLOUR IN !



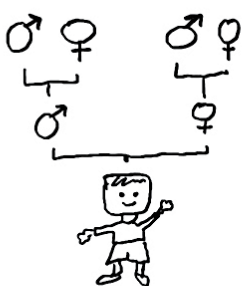
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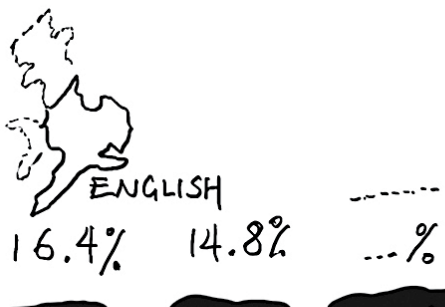
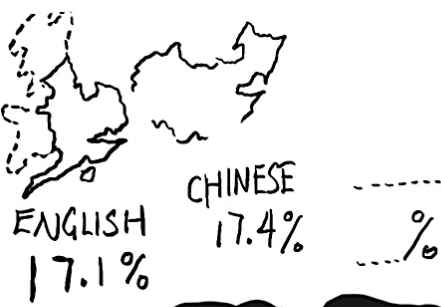
EDUCATION

41.6% 49.9% ...%  
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TOP ANCESTRY



WHAT'S YOUR RELIGION ?

LARGEST GROUP =  
CATHOLIC



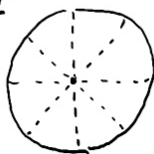
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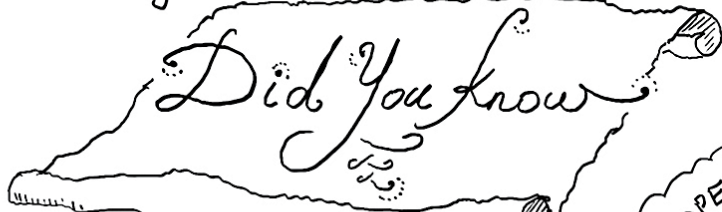


1. What's the median age in our area?  
☐ 20 ☐ 30 ☐ 40 ☐ 50  
tick your answer

2. What proportion of us have both parents born overseas ?



shade the pie chart.



Between 28% and 35% of us walk or cycle to work.

What about 2021? Most went to work by...

<input type="checkbox"/> walk or cycle	<input type="checkbox"/> public transport
<input type="checkbox"/> car	<input type="checkbox"/> work from home



Illustration: Ed Zhao

QUIZ ANSWERS  
1. 30  
2. JUST OVER 50%

**ONLINE MUSIC LESSONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

**VIOLIN  
GUITAR  
PIANO  
DRUMS**

**SAXOPHONE  
SINGING  
HIP HOP  
BASS GUITAR**







Principal Peter Riordan with students at the school's Chetwynd Street property. Photograph: Fernando Maquedano

# Simonds opens up on new site

Peter Riordan

Simonds Catholic College caters for 210 boys in Years 7–9 at our campus in Victoria Street, West Melbourne. We also have a Year 10–12 campus, St Brigid's, in Fitzroy. Dramatic change is in the wings. Next year Simonds will become one school and all 420 students will be based here in West Melbourne, right on the edge of the CBD. We will be using a multistorey building in Chetwynd Street that we bought last October. Currently operating as a campus of Southern Cross Education Institute, it will perfectly suit our educational vision. We will also be refurbishing our current buildings in Victoria Street.

With a proud 27-year history, Simonds is the only Catholic secondary school for boys in the inner city. We're a multicultural school and we enrol students from all denominations from many suburbs around Melbourne. We believe our new venture will enable us to build on the college's outstanding VCE results and our reputation. We pride ourselves on employing teachers attuned to boys' learning and running small classes of no more than 20. Teachers at Simonds are champing at the bit to see all six year levels together on the one site. Director of sport Pat Kirley says it will offer great potential for his area. "We can broaden our PE offerings

and build some terrific basketball and footy teams," he says. Sean Westaway, Year 9 coordinator, is thrilled with the single-site prospect. "We can now plan an integrated approach to pastoral care, careers advice and curriculum development if our Year 9s stay on here next year," he says. The boys at Simonds are onside with our plans. "I'm really happy we can stay on here next year at West Melbourne. I like it here," Matthew Azzopardi, Year 9, says. Classmate Brocky Evans is also in favour. "A bigger school, over 400 kids, and there'll be lots to do. It sounds great." Peter Riordan is principal of Simonds College.

# Young women brought together to learn and play

Kymie Simpson

WomEmpower is an innovative Hotham Mission program designed for local women aged 16 to 23.

The program was launched last year with the aim of providing fun, leadership opportunities and a safe community environment for the participants.

In 2022 WomEmpower will run mainly online via Zoom. We want the program to be as accessible as possible, but we'll also have one major in-person event each term.

For term one, to end early in April, we have distributed activity packs so all our young women can participate in our tai chi, seed germination, aromatherapy and chalk art activities.

The term's highlight will be our in-person Fight Back self-defence workshop on Wednesday 23 March. Our young women will be taught hands-on defence skills to enable them to protect themselves in any dangerous situations they might encounter.

For term two, to begin in late April, the program will be determined by the young women's preferences but will probably run online.

All WomEmpower activities are shaped by the participants, and we love to hear their suggestions. One of them proposed the self-defence class that we have arranged. Others have put forward activities such as meditation, craft and cooking.

We are delighted that the dozen young women in the WomEmpower program are so enthusiastic. "It's wonderful to meet new people and to talk to them.



Kymie Simpson takes a break from the WomEmpower program.

Photograph: Manatosh Chakma

It's lots of fun and I'm making new friends," participant Louise said.

Speaking personally, it's been a joy coordinating the WomEmpower program since I began at Hotham Mission in February. It's so satisfying helping the young women and seeing them gain in confidence and make connections.

I grew up in Wodonga, up on the Murray, and came to Melbourne at 18 to study international relations. However, I emerged from my studies less than excited about academia.

Community development, with the opportunity to learn from people of different cultures, religions, languages and talents seemed a perfect fit. Coming to Hotham Mission is the best move I've ever made.

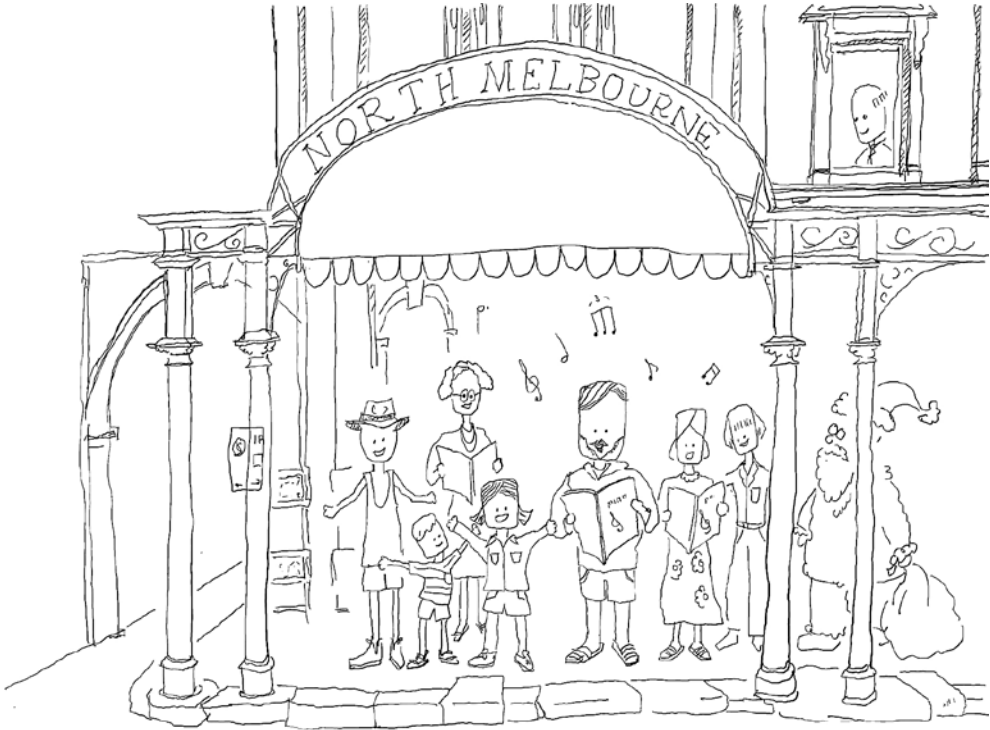
Kymie Simpson is the program facilitator for WomEmpower.

## Want to know more?

To find out more, or to join the program, email [programs@hothammission.org.au](mailto:programs@hothammission.org.au)

# Spot the Difference

Sing NoW community choir (page 19) inspired News illustrator Ed Zhao to set readers a challenge. These illustrations may look the same, but there are 19 differences. Can you track them down? Colour in the drawing and leave it in your front window to brighten the day of people walking about in your neighbourhood. (Answers are on page 27)







Anna (centre) with friends in a Ho Chi Minh City coffee shop.

# Anna’s news from Vietnam

Anna Huynh

I was thrilled to hear that my story for the *News* won an award for the best feature in a Victorian community newspaper. I had written it in the awful days late in 2020 when, without any government or other financial support, I realised I couldn’t continue as an international student. So I ended up at Tulla, donning a full PPE blue suit that made me and my 250 fellow passengers on our flight home look like clowns. When we touched down in Vietnam, we were bussed to a military base in the mountains for two weeks quarantine. A full year has passed. I’ll describe last year as turbulent, full of challenge and change. By December, I had completed a local internship, had finished my third year of online study with Swinburne and was looking after my mother who had COVID. My local neighborhood had been classified as a red zone, the most dangerous designation in Vietnam, and I was in strict lockdown from June to October. During those four months, I regularly called my friends, started learning a new language and tried my hand at cake decorating. I would say the highlight was becoming the caretaker for my mum who was struggling with

COVID. I isolated with her from Christmas to New Year. When I sent my last report to the *News*, early last year, I was still helping out at my parents’ furniture shop in Ho Chi Minh City. When the shop went online, I became redundant and am now unemployed. I have read and reread the supportive emails from friends in North Melbourne and the *News*. They gave me strength when I got stressed. After Ho Chi Minh City’s lockdown lifted, I spent time going out with friends and walking around the city. We often caught up for hours at a café. This casual hangout became an important source of comfort for us all. Now, in 2022, I’m continuing online classes while looking for temporary internships and part-time work. With my family’s financial situation still manageable, I’ve decided to study online in Vietnam until July to spare my parents any financial trouble. Finally, some good news. I’m planning to return to Melbourne before August. I have talked it through with my family and they are supportive of my decision. I am determined to return to my charming Melbourne. No secret where I will head first. First stop will be the *News*.

Anna Huynh writes regularly for the *News*. Even from Vietnam!

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

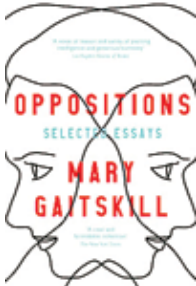
### Chris Saliba



**The Swimmers**  
Julie Otsuka  
Fig Tree, RRP: \$29.99

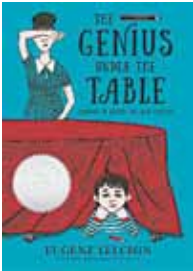
The underground pool is frequented by a wide variety of people, from all walks of life. Once in the pool, however, notions of above-ground status disappear. The water calms and soothes. Worries disappear. The swimmers, all devout regulars, perform their laps with zeal. The routine and counting of laps gives order and meaning. Among this group is Alice. She has spent decades going to the pool. One day she discovers a crack at the bottom of her lane. Could the calm and stability the pool offers be coming to an end? For Alice, at least, it appears so. She has dementia. She exits the pool for the last time and is put into care. Japanese-American author Julie Otsuka has written a quirky and surreal novel, despite its serious subject matter. It starts as social satire, describing life at the pool and the discovery of the mysterious crack. When Alice is put into care, the story lampoons the institutional bureaucracy of nursing homes. The novel closes soberly with Alice’s daughter reflecting on her own shortcomings. An accomplished and entertaining novel that celebrates life, employing much linguistic playfulness, but one also permeated with grief and loss.

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



**Oppositions: Selected Essays**  
Mary Gaitskill  
Serpent’s Tail, RRP: \$34.99

Mary Gaitskill is a highly regarded American novelist and short story writer. *Oppositions* is a collection of her essays spanning the last 25 years. They come under three subject headings, ‘Living’, ‘Watching and Listening’ and ‘Reading’. As can be gleaned from this, some are autobiographical pieces, but the collection mainly focuses on the arts – music, film and literature. The title *Oppositions* refers to the final essay, which analyses Nabokov’s *Lolita*. Gaitskill writes of the terrible incongruity of life and “the natural coexistence of beauty and destruction, goodness and predatory devouring, cruelty and tenderness”. A theme that runs through these essays is how so many aspects of our emotional lives defy interpretation. Often we don’t know who we are or what we really think or want. Gaitskill’s writing on sexual politics is nuanced and refrains from making hard judgments. In pieces on date rape and on porn star and anti-porn activist Linda Lovelace, Gaitskill argues that our contradictory impulses cannot be explained. The truth is we might be what we exalt and also abhor. Deeply considered writings that examine sex, art, politics and human frailty.



**The Genius Under the Table**  
Eugene Yelchin  
Candlewick Press, RRP: \$27.99

Young Yevgeny worries that he has no talent. Growing up in repressive communist Russia, his only ticket out of poverty and strict adherence to Soviet ideology is to be good at something. Yevgeny’s brother Victor is an excellent ice-skater. Like the famous ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, Victor will have the chance to travel outside the country. But what about Yevgeny? Added to his worries is that he is Jewish. Antisemitism is rife and his family have had hateful things scribbled on their door. Yevgeny steals his father’s only pencil and starts secretly drawing. When he is caught, he expects dire punishment, but to his surprise his parents are delighted. He has talent after all. Based on illustrator and writer Eugene Yelchin’s childhood, *The Genius Under the Table* is a memoir-cum-children’s novel. It gives a realistic portrait of life behind the Iron Curtain, full of quirky and unsettling details. Yelchin mixes the delight and innocence of childhood with a looming sense of menace. We learn the consequences of telling the truth under totalitarian government. It’s a stunning creation, illustrated by the author. 9+

ADAM BANDT MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW.

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# COVID not invited, but came to the party anyway

Zoe Sheridan

My year began with a positive rapid test result for COVID. I had woken up on New Year's Day in Sydney, with unmistakable symptoms. The first was a relentless tickle at the back of my throat. I'd already had headaches, fatigue and muscle aches that I'd dismissed as hangovers after hectic nights of partying over the holidays. With just three days left of our holiday, my friends and I organised a rapid test. Ever pragmatic, I asked what our plan was if one of us tested positive. "If you don't test, you don't know. We're all going to get it anyway," one said with grim fatalism. We all laughed and the topic was forgotten until our Sydney friend Cameron arrived, sneezing and sniffing. We'd all shared drinks and New Year's kisses and knew that if he had it, we all would. With that gloomy thought, and after we all refused to spit into one tube, one of our group used the last RAT. The result was the boldest double line I'd ever seen. The first question was: "Who gave it to us?" Within seconds, all eyes were on me as I'd recently been in Byron Bay. I felt super-spreader guilt until Luke spoke up, "In a pandemic, everyone gets it from somewhere. It all started with that bat in a meat market." After a frantic search for more rapid tests, my asymptomatic, negative-testing friends deep cleaned the Airbnb and caught the next flight out of Sydney. I stayed on in a friend's apartment. As the days passed, I could barely last through a feature film on the couch before fatigue dragged me back to bed. I stayed there and declined all invitations.

I came home to North Melbourne as soon as I could. My housemate, Josefine, and almost all of my friends, had also tested positive. We endured our isolation while also feeling we were all in this together. While I couldn't smell my essential oils, I enjoyed my isolation. I people-watched from my balcony and soul-searched and reflected. Pre-pandemic, I was an arts graduate, ready to travel the world. Now, my world was limited to a 5 km radius. I found a wholesome life in sympathetic housemates and neighbours, the Queen Vic market, a network of bike trails, a sourdough mother from Bread Club and my 76 house plants. I spent isolation shaking off the depressing fog that had descended after being burnt out last year as a childcare worker. I even forgave the virus for the lockdowns that had robbed me of the start of my twenties. I began to broaden my horizons and appreciate that others were undergoing much greater hardship. I saw the difference between what were minor inconveniences to me but much more serious issues to others. My favourite restaurants weren't delivering, but only because their staff were at home isolating. When a friend couldn't buy avocados, I realised there were disruptions in the supply chain. Housemate Josefine, an international student dependent on government support, was sleeping 18 hours a day to fight the illness. She was turned away from PCR testing sites and eventually had to wait four hours on a boiling hot day to receive a test. There was worse. After leaving isolation, I found out a friend's cousin's mum, who was terminally ill, had died after her son had unknowingly passed on the virus. We had partied with him in Sydney.

Zoe Sheridan writes regularly for the News.

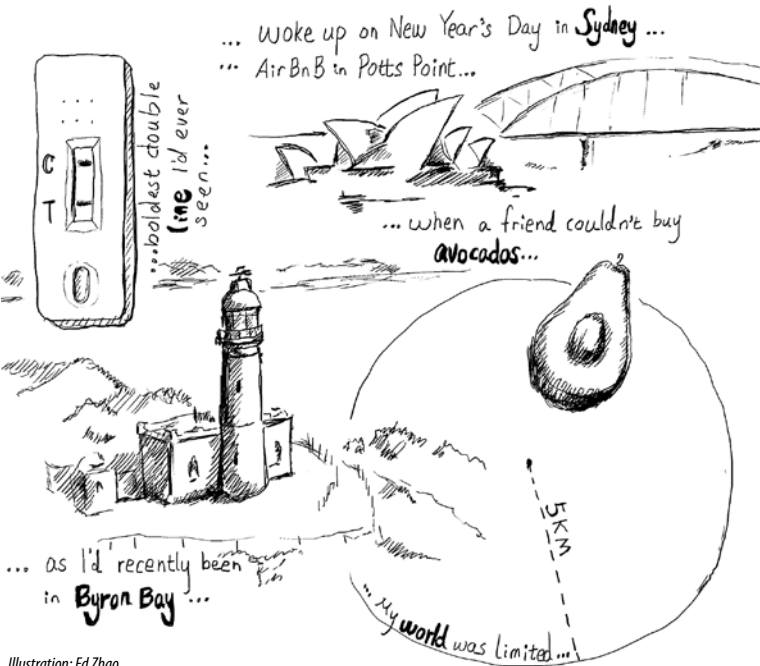


Illustration: Ed Zhao

## THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell



# Focus on local education

My oldest child, Ada, started kinder this year. When she came home with a big smile on her face, it was an important reminder of why it's so important to have good local public education. When I first became an MP, I didn't have children, but I was excited to visit our local schools and hear from the inspiring teachers and staff. Unfortunately, some of my first experiences at our local schools were not exactly what I expected. On my first tour of North Melbourne Primary, I saw kids learning in hallways. Because the school was so overcrowded, some dedicated teachers had turned the library into a makeshift classroom. Overcrowding and lack of funding have been big issues here in the inner-city since Kennett closed many of our public schools. Being able to advocate for new schools, like Docklands Primary School, and funding for upgrades to existing ones has been one of my biggest pleasures as an MP. North Melbourne Primary School, however, has been a little trickier. When the state government announced it would demolish the public housing on Abbotsford Street to make way for privatised social and private housing, I was concerned. I didn't want to lose public housing from our community. The Labor government knew it would be unpopular, so it decided to add a sweetener: a new school to ease overcrowding. The community

wanted the school but wasn't enamoured with having to lose public housing to make it happen. Then the government wanted to make it a totally new school, thus dividing North Melbourne into different school zones, potentially with haves and have-nots. Luckily, with the help of the community, we changed the government's mind and won that battle. Now, unfortunately, we're facing another issue. The new development, while welcomed by many in the community, is cutting residents out of any consultation. Some have contacted me with very reasonable questions about how high the buildings will be, what they will look like, the traffic management plan for the school and housing development, and the impact on the street and homes. However, the government agencies managing the development are giving residents the run-around and are providing no answers. I've raised this with the minister in writing and in parliament. It's such a shame that locals are being treated this way. Residents' voices deserve to be heard.

Ellen Sandell is the state MP for Melbourne.

**Want to know more?**  
If you have questions, please get in touch: [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com). The more voices I can take to the minister, the better.



# St Michael's North Melbourne

## "Where I'm Known"

### Open Day 2022-16th March

Tours: 9:15am | 12:15pm | 7:00pm

Bookings essential

[www.smnthmelbourne.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smnthmelbourne.catholic.edu.au)

**Denise Hussey - Principal**

**(03) 9329 9206**





# The Centre Courses & Activities (Mar–Jun ‘22)

*The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne hosts programs and activities for local residents. Book online at [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au), by phone on 9328 1126 or in person at The Centre, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne. Our programs are responsive to the community: if you have an idea for a course or activity or if you have some skills that you would like to share with others, please contact us.*

## Health & Wellbeing

### Pilates

Pilates aims to improve your awareness of how to use your body correctly and strengthen your postural muscles to allow you to support your spine. Pilates classes are graded so it is possible to find the level that suits your ability, experience or limitations. Exercises can be adjusted to suit all ages. Graded classes are taught by Brazilian-trained physiotherapist Fernanda Cury and local physiotherapist Alice Wilcox. Classes are relaxed and a great way to meet up with other locals.

### General/Intro to Pilates

A class that caters for all levels of experience.  
**Wednesdays 9.15 am–10.15 am**  
*Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)*  
**Wednesdays 6 pm**  
*Melbourne City Marina, 120/439 Docklands Dr, Docklands*

### Beginners

The basics are still covered but some knowledge is assumed. Over the term the exercises will progress to more challenging options as you build strength and flexibility.  
**Thursdays 5.30 pm–6.30 pm**  
*Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne*

### Intermediate

This class provides the next step up with more challenging exercises. Strengthen your postural muscles and exercise in a manner that is safe for all your joints.  
**Tuesdays 5.30 pm–6.30 pm; Thursdays 8 pm–9 pm**  
*Extra holiday classes 12 & 19 April*  
*Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne*

### Intermediate Plus

Our hardest class is suitable for people with a good level of body awareness and strength. Designed to improve your trunk strength and provide a really stable base for your other sports or daily activities.  
**Thursdays 6.45 pm–7.45 pm; Extra holiday classes 14 & 21 April**  
*Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne*

### Yoga

A class designed to help you feel great, by Premium Fitness.  
**Sundays 8.30 am**  
*Melbourne City Marina, 120/439 Docklands Dr, Docklands*

We don't want cost to be a barrier to participation. Those with the means are encouraged to pay a bit more so that others can also participate. If you would like to take advantage our flexible pricing policy, contact The Centre.

## For Seniors

### Older Adults Exercise

A general strengthening class for those 60+. Includes low impact aerobics, balance and strengthening exercises, using exercise band resistance for all parts of the body. Suitable for people of all abilities.  
**Cost: \$19.70 (\$14.40) per class when booking for the term.**  
**Wednesdays 10.30 am–11.30 am starting 27 April for 10 weeks**  
*Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)*

### Young @ Heart Dance Club

Join Claudia for a fun dance class for seniors. One part zumba, one part cha-cha-cha and three parts laughter. It's a super-fun, follow-the-leader community event, where you can meet other local seniors. All levels, genders, abilities and dance skills welcome. Improve co-ordination, keep active, and dance to beautiful music from all over the world.  
**Cost: \$15 (\$12 Concession) per class when booking for the term.**  
**Mondays 12 noon – 12.45 pm starting 2 May**  
*Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)*

### Centre Adventures

Visit historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest and significance. Normally a full-day bus trip, Centre Adventures are a great way to get out beyond the everyday. \$43 (\$33 Concession).  
**4th Tuesday each month 9.30 am – 5 pm**  
*Departing from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne*

## Community Gatherings

### Seniors Morning Tea

Join this group of multicultural seniors for an informal chat over morning tea – a place where friendships can flourish. Sometimes with a guest speaker. \$5 per session.  
**1st Tuesday each month 10 am – 12 noon (ongoing)**  
*The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne*

### North Melbourne Men's Afternoon Tea

A casual get-together for some food and a chat with other men from the neighbourhood. New people encouraged.  
**Thursdays (fortnightly), 2.30pm–4.00pm**  
*The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne*

### Bicycle Users Group

A group for cycling enthusiasts who live and work in North Melbourne and West Melbourne. A new group, we are getting established to provide a friendly network of locals who love to ride.  
**Second Tuesday of the month, 6pm– 7.30pm**  
*The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne or via Zoom if required*

### Community Walks

Each month join a special guest with in-depth knowledge about a particular area or aspect of North & West Melbourne. Visit those pockets not on your radar or learn about the hidden history of those places you walk past every day. **FREE**  
**Last Saturday of the month 10 am–11 am Bookings essential**  
*Leaving from The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne*



## Computers, Tech & Digital

### Computers: Digital Essentials

Make your computer work for you. COVID showed how important it is to engage in the digital world. Lou will guide you to maximise your productivity and minimise frustration. Cost: \$60 (\$45 Concession)

**Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm**  
**(starting 27 April for 10 weeks)**  
**The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**



### iGadgets

Develop the skills and knowledge in using your mobile device to its fullest potential. Calendar, email, accessing files, social media and online accounts. Cost: \$30 (\$20 Concession)

**Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm**  
**(starting 11 May March for six weeks)**  
**The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**

## Creative Pursuits

### Sing NoW Community Choir

A renewed version of the much loved Errol's Angels. Join new music director Susie Kelly in this inclusive community choir for adults of all ages. The choir sings music from across the world and spanning many decades. No previous experience required.

Cost: \$17.50 (\$11 Concession) per session when booking for the term.  
**Thursdays 7 pm-8.30 pm (starting 28 April for 10 weeks)**  
**Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne**  
**OR via Zoom if required**

### Music Club

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

**Monthly on last Wednesday of the month 7 pm-8.30 pm**  
**The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**  
**OR via Zoom if required**

## Come & Try Day

Not sure what course or activity is right for you? Learn more about what is on offer and participate in a range of free taster sessions.

**Saturday 23 April** at various venues in and around The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne  
Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/BVZAE> **FREE**



## North Melbourne Toastmasters

Gain confidence and experience in public speaking. Club members build the skills to become better communicators and leaders.

**Thursdays (fortnightly) 7 pm – 9 pm**  
**The Centre, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne**

## For Kids

### Home Away From Homework Club

Friendly and inclusive, students come to complete their homework (or our extra material) with the assistance of tutors. There are also games, and a nutritious snack and drink provided. For children in Grades 5 to Year 9. **FREE**

**Wednesdays 3.30 pm-5 pm (during school term)**  
– **The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**  
**Wednesdays 4.00 pm-5.30 pm (during school term)**  
– **North Melbourne Language & Learning, 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne**

## New Courses

The Centre is offering a range of new courses in 2022. With support from the Victorian Department of Education & Training, these introductory vocationally oriented courses – run by industry professionals and trained teachers – can lead to further study or direct employment. We will only run the courses if there is sufficient interest, so **register your interest** as soon as possible. Courses will run to suit your needs and timetable.

### Understanding Finances

Gain better financial independence. Take control of issues such as budgeting, credit, buy-now-pay-later, savings goals and bank accounts. In this course, you will develop an individual budget and have an action plan with long and short term financial goals, plus strategies to help reach those goals. Better financial management means better relationships, job prospects and educational possibilities.  
**3 x 3 hour sessions**

### Working in Hospitality

Hospitality is Hiring! Learn the fundamentals of working in restaurants, cafes and functions. Students will learn foundation skills in both front and back of house elements, including customer service, teamwork, coffee making, using hospitality-related technology, health and safety and hospitality industry pathways.  
**8 x 3 hour sessions, plus practical experience working at a hospitality function**

### Working in Retail

Post-pandemic, the retail industry is experiencing staffing shortages. This course will help you understand areas such as customer service and sales, working in a team, workplace health & safety, using point of sale, merchandising and after-sales service. At the conclusion of this course, you will feel confident applying for Customer Service or Sales Assistant jobs in retail shops large and small.  
**8 x 3 hour sessions**

### Event Management

If you are curious about what goes on behind the scenes to make a festival or event come to life, this course is for you. You will gain an insight into what goes into designing, developing and implementing an event, such as a local-based community festival. The course covers topics including event concept and design, community development principles, marketing & sponsorship, event staging and logistics, financial management, risk, safety, staffing, volunteers and event evaluation. Participants will get to work on one of The Centre's festivals.  
**8 x 3 hour sessions, plus a full day at a festival**

### Horticulture & Permaculture

Whether you have limited gardening experience, or you are a keen home gardener, this course will focus on garden basics, safety, tool use and maintenance, composting, mulching, sustainable gardening practices, an introduction to Indigenous plants, organic weed and pest control, propagation methods, and growing ornamentals, herbs, vegetables and fruits. A hands-on practical course in the Docklands Community Garden.  
**8 x 3.5 hour sessions**

### Community Media

Covering newspapers, zines, digital publications, podcasts and radio, the course is designed to give you an insight into how community media operates, the roles involved and the key skills needed to progress in the sector. Students will have an opportunity to create content for a community media outlet as part of the course.  
**4 x 2 hour sessions**



After a shaky Omicron-affected start to 2022, The Centre is back up and running in full swing.

We've been delighted to welcome community members into our Neighbourhood House and shopfront in Errol Street, as well as onto the footpath where our new tables and chairs and planter boxes have been very popular.

It has proven to be the ideal location for our new fortnightly North Melbourne's Men's Afternoon Teas and was the ideal spot for a range of Islamic artforms, including calligraphy and marbling, that were presented as part of SalamFest over two weekends in February.

Connecting Community

Each day brings The Centre into contact with more community members, even if just for a casual chat over a cup of tea. We're delighted that, as a result, some have decided to be a volunteer with us.

A constant refrain I've heard since I started more than a year ago is that people don't know what The Centre is. I'm hopeful that taking our message of connecting community onto the streets is chipping away at barriers to engagement.

The Centre now has a marketing strategy that will see us update our branding, create a new website and become more engaged in social media in the coming months. While we are totally committed to the quarterly newspaper you're

Welcome back to The Centre!

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



reading now, we also know that many people look for news and engagement in other ways.

Have you followed The Centre on Facebook @thecentrenorthwestmelbourne? We've recently made some big improvements. Check us out!

complete the online expression of interest form at [forms.office.com/r/ZwreDdkJkX](https://forms.office.com/r/ZwreDdkJkX). And if you want to participate in Come & Try Day, sign up at [trybooking.com/BVZAE](https://trybooking.com/BVZAE).

Needs Analysis

Keen readers of the News will be

aware that The Centre has been undertaking a community needs analysis since late last year, and we are approaching the end of the research stage. I'm delighted that we've been able to meet and learn from groups in our local community whose voices often don't get heard.

These include international students, Vietnamese and Chinese older people, those experiencing homelessness, Muslim women and African Australians. We will be reporting our findings soon.

Join us at an event

The coming months are busy with a range of events – meaningful, cultural and celebratory. Of course, we have the annual Spanish Language Fiesta (see middle pages for full details) in George Johnson Lane on Saturday 26 March.

For a cultural festival of a different flavour, I encourage all locals to cross Footscray Road and join us for Holi at Docklands on Saturday 19 March. April brings us Hip Hop in the Park, Come & Try Day (23rd) and our Anzac Day ceremony (24th). All these events are free to attend.

See you there!

Come & Try Day

While we had planned to have our Come & Try Day in January, COVID dictated that we push the date back to Saturday 23 April. This extra time means that we can include even more of the fabulous activities that are on offer in North and West Melbourne.

Whether it be learning a foreign language, singing in a choir or street orienteering, there is no shortage of fun and educational and creative opportunities to connect with others in the local neighbourhood while also improving your own life.

If you have something that you would like to offer to the community, give me a call or



Bicultural worker Ruweyda and participants Adna and Hiba at a community needs analysis meeting with a group of younger Muslim women.

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Join our local tutors in one of our Homework Clubs

No age barrier - No experience is necessary  
Training and guidance are provided throughout the year

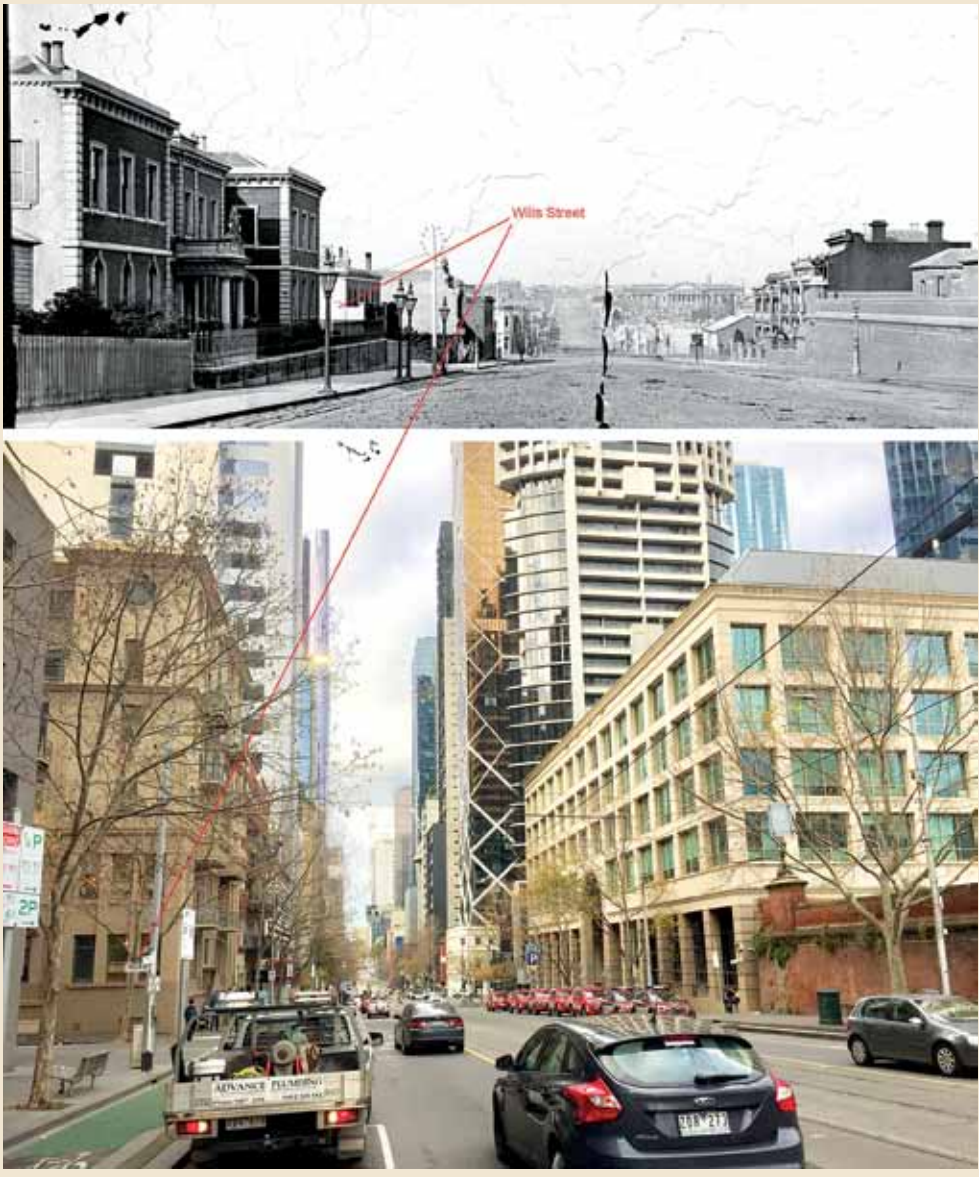
Enjoy meeting students (primary or secondary) and other likeminded people

Only 90 minutes of your time is required through term time

The Centre has been running successful programs since 2004.

Same place, but a very different time

Upper: La Trobe Street looking east from the corner of La Trobe and William streets opposite the old mint in the 1880s.  
Lower: The same view in 2022. Photograph: Stephen Hatcher





NOTICEBOARD



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

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

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

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

**Editor:** Maurice Gaul  
**Production:** Anne Burgi  
**Advertising:** Janet Graham  
**Distribution:** Rashi Jain  
**Proofreader:** Suzie Luddon  
**Illustrator:** Ed Zhao  
**Writers:** Michelle Brett, Lizzy Footner, Stephen Hatcher, Anna Huynh, Very Impressive, Rashi Jain, Alexandra Kent, Nancy Lane, Laura Misale, Joe Misuraca, Nebojsa Pajkic, Geoff Pound, Georgie Preston, Flora Sciarra, Zoe Sheridan, John H. Smith, Evelyn Thompson, Gavan Tobin  
**Publisher:** Ariel Valent  
**Circulation:** 7,700  
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5 Jones Road, Morwell 3844



My Story My Voice was a project supported by City of Melbourne in which a diverse group of local people gathered online during 2021's lockdown to learn how to best tell their personal story. With the guidance of professional writers, storytellers and TV presenters, stories emerged that were variously heartfelt, funny and dramatic. The culminating event was held as part of the community picnic at West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre in December.

**Volunteer information transcribers wanted**  
Volunteers are being sought to transcribe names from Sands & McDougall directories for selected streets in North and West Melbourne.  
This is a home-based, at-your-own-pace task that will appeal to careful typists who know how to use a spreadsheet and have a passion for local history.  
**Please register your interest at [melbournestreets1@gmail.com](mailto:melbournestreets1@gmail.com)**

Easter Services in North and West Melbourne

- St James Old Cathedral, Anglican**  
Corner King and Batman streets, West Melbourne (opposite Flagstaff Gardens)  
*Palm Sunday 10 April 10.00 am Holy Communion*  
*Good Friday 15 April 10.00 am Passion Reading and Meditations*  
*Easter Sunday 17 April 10.00 am Holy Communion*
- St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic**  
Corner Victoria and Howard streets, West Melbourne  
*Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent until 8 April 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm*  
*Saturday 9 April 5.30 pm Vigil Mass*  
*Passion (Palm) Sunday 10 April 10.15 am Sunday Mass; 5.30 pm English Mass — palms will be distributed at each Mass*  
*Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 11, 12 and 13 April, 7.00 am and 12.30 pm Weekday Mass*  
*Holy Thursday 14 April 7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper*  
*Good Friday 15 April 10.30 am Stations of the Cross; 11.15 am Seven Words of Our Lord on the Cross Sermon; 12.00 noon Holy Rosary; 3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion*  
*Holy Saturday 16 April 8.00 pm Easter Vigil*  
*Easter Sunday 17 April 10.30 am Easter Mass; 12.00 noon Easter Mass in Lithuanian; 5.30 pm English Mass*
- St Mary's, Anglican**  
Corner Queensberry and Howard streets, North Melbourne  
*Palm Sunday 10 April 8.00 am and 10.00 am*  
*Mundy Thursday 14 April 7.00 pm*  
*Good Friday 15 April 10.00 am*  
*Saturday 16 April 9.00 pm Great Paschal Vigil*  
*Easter Day Sunday 17 April 8.00 am and 10.00 am*

**St Michael's, Catholic**  
456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne  
*Details not available at time of going to press*

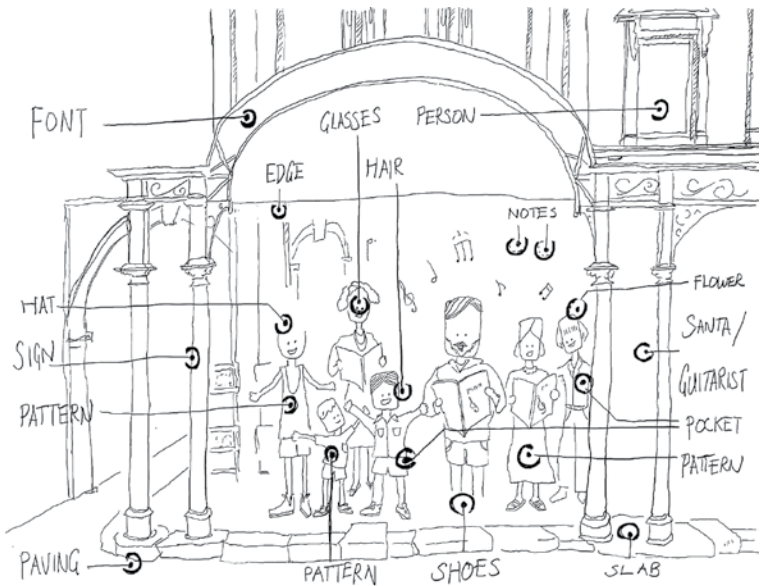
**Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic**  
35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Dryburgh Street)  
*Ukrainian Easter will be celebrated on Sunday 24 April.*  
*Provisional service times: 9.00 am and 11.00 am (subject to change)*

**Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist**  
51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne  
The congregation meets in the church hall, 4 Elm Street.  
*Passion Sunday 10 April 10.00 am, a reading of the passion narrative of St Luke with Eucharist*  
*Mundy Thursday 14 April 7.30 pm, a Tenebrae ('Shadows') service*  
*Good Friday 15 April 10.00 am*  
*Saturday 16 April 8.00 pm Easter Vigil with Eucharist*  
*Easter Day Sunday 17 April 10.00 am Eucharist*

**West Melbourne Baptist Church**  
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne  
*Good Friday 15 April 9.30 am Reflections on the Good Friday story.*  
*Hot cross buns and coffee*  
*Easter Sunday 17 April 5.30 pm Easter stories and Easter eggs*



Spot the Difference (page 21) answers



Kryptic Kwiz (page 18) answers

1. River Nile 2. Drunken Poet 3. Chef Panda 4. Star of the Sea  
5. Overs 6. Shoe Repairs 7. Paw Principality 8. The Centre 9. Czech Club  
10. Casa Verde 11. Aesop 12. Salt 13. Wonky Trolley 14. Meticulous  
15. Fandango 16. Limerick Castle 17. Radius Health 18. Airs & Graces Hall  
19. Contours Travel 20. Los Andes Gifts 21. Milk & Honey 22. One Star  
23. Three Crowns 24. Beatrix 25. Radical Yes 26. New Orleans 27. Ample  
28. Equilibrium 29. Eros Hair 30. Comic's Lounge

Send contributions, letters and feedback to:

**North & West Melbourne News**  
The Centre, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051  
Email: [editorial@centre.org.au](mailto:editorial@centre.org.au) Telephone: 9328 1126

Winter 2022 issue:

Copy deadline: Friday 13 May  
Publication date: Friday 10 June

Spring 2022 issue:

Copy deadline: Friday 12 August  
Publication date: Friday 9 September

Summer 2022–2023 issue:

Copy deadline: Friday 4 November  
Publication date: Friday 2 December

NWMN advertisement sizes and rates for 2022

Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1765.00	\$1485.00
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high)		
or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$855.00	\$745.00
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$620.00	\$545.00
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)		
or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$460.00	\$395.00
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$230.00	\$200.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$124.00	\$107.00
Business card (in Services Directory)		
(9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$107.00	\$90.00
• Prices inclusive of GST		
• Book a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount, total amount payable at time of booking.		
• Prices are for supplied artwork (high-resolution PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.		
• The News reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.		
• For info and bookings, email: <a href="mailto:advertising@centre.org.au">advertising@centre.org.au</a>		





# Knock, knock!

Nancy Lane

- 1. Delightfully distressed, with bougainvillea, on Errol Street
- 2. Mr Price's clinging vines on Queensberry Street
- 3. Understated refinement on Errol Street
- 4. Brilliant robin's egg blue on Purcell Street
- 5. With a matching red post box that pops on Lothian Street
- 6. Tastefully tagged (climbing snails perhaps?) on Curzon Street
- 7. Vibrant zigzags, and a hopscotcher, on Victoria Street
- 8. Better than a cat's meow on Courtney Street
- 9. Framed by lace on Roden Street
- 10. Like a brocade bedspread on Victoria Street
- 11. Fortified like a castle on Leveson Street
- 12. Basic simplicity on Lothian Street
- 13. Chinese characters adding character on Stanley Street
- 14. Suitably shabby chic on Errol Street

