



## A feast of neighbourly faith

Geoff Pound

The West Melbourne Baptist Church hosted a memorable iftar party on a Sunday evening in April. Iftar is the evening meal each night of Ramadan that Muslims enjoy to break their fast. After invitations were issued to local Muslim neighbours and friends, 76 people gathered to enjoy the evening.

Lew Hess, a member of the Baptist church and one of the iftar organisers, was delighted.

"The party was intended to build interfaith and intercultural awareness. We wanted to show



*Laila speaking about her roller-coaster journey from Kabul to Melbourne with Sayed, her husband, interpreting.*

respect as, sadly, much antipathy and ignorance continues to persist towards Muslims in our community," Lew said.

"We hoped those who were not Muslims would have an opportunity to experience the significance of Ramadan. The party also raised funds for

disadvantaged Afghan women remaining in Kabul."

After everyone was welcomed, sunset was declared at 6.01 pm. Sayed from Kabul gave the *adhan* or call to prayer in Arabic followed by an English translation.

A chance for personal prayer was followed by the breaking of the fast with iftar delicacies and snacks. Attendees were told that the Prophet Muhammad favoured the breaking of the fast by eating a date, so plenty of fresh dates were on hand.

Some Muslim attendees spoke between courses. Arvin from Dhaka said Ramadan is one of the central pillars of his faith. Rahima told of growing up in Bangladesh and of the special food the family would have at iftar meals and during Eid.

Omar from Pakistan generously acknowledged the organisers of the iftar: "Thanks for the opportunity to share culture, food and connection. It is a big thing for migrants. We need to feel Australia is our home and we only feel this by connecting with people."

Laila spoke about life in her country since the fall of Kabul and how she and her two boys had sought refuge in Australia only four months earlier.

The sharing of delicious food created an atmosphere to share questions and fascinating stories. Three of the locals who attended – Phil, Anne and Philip – spoke warmly of the function.

"I found the night very moving and informative and my friends and I were grateful for the experience," Phil said.

"I asked the man on our table how he felt about being a Muslim in a Baptist or Christian church. He simply said, 'Same God' and laughed. How wonderful to hear that," Anne said.

Philip said seeing people from many different countries and religious beliefs around shared tables was a highlight.

"What a positive and all-encompassing evening this has been. A shot in the arm in the face of all our local and global troubles."

*Geoff Pound is minister of the West Melbourne Baptist Church.*



*Guests enjoyed a variety of the iftar delicacies.*

## Students explore new skills

Kimalee Fernandes

Nearly half our students at North Melbourne Primary School are plurilingual. Amazingly, more than 40 languages or dialects are spoken in their homes.

This makes our school is a very diverse community. After an initial assessment by classroom teachers, we offer students extra English literacy support through our English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes.

EAL classes are usually about eight children, enabling a genuine 'student-to-teacher' focus. They involve activities such as science experiments, puppet plays, arts and crafts, cooking, exploring books and singing action songs.

As the school's specialist EAL teacher, I simply love my work. I've found my niche here after 25 years in schools teaching every level from Prep to Year 12.

I work closely with classroom teachers and give regular feedback on their students' progress.

It's a team effort as the teachers themselves are skilled at maximising children's language acquisition.

Science experiments work well with EAL students as they are so visual. The children love an activity that shows the action of colour mixing as they investigate the 'hydrophobic' properties of dish detergent in milk.

A sure sign of children enjoying learning is when they can't wait to get to the classroom. When I round up the EAL students for class, I always hear excited shouts, "Race you to the EAL room!"

Once inside, the highlight is our pet yabby. The children named him 'Yodd' and he's been with us since the start of the year. He lives in a little aquarium and enjoys eating yabby pellets and lots of fresh waterweed.

The students love to say hello to him as they peer into his tank. "Where are you hiding?" Hussein asks each day.

Pearl is intrigued by his ability to shed his skin.

"You're so big now. When will you lose your skin again?"

It is a real joy to see EAL students progress as they gain language skills. Some arrived with very limited English and were unable to share their needs and ideas. Now, every day, I hear their happy voices as they play and laugh and learn.

One popular activity asks students to tap into their five senses to improve their writing. They are offered a tasting plate with foods such as lemon, honey, grapes, tomato and Vegemite.

Their reactions to the tasting were priceless. "What is this? Vegemite? Ugghhh, I hate it!"

For little Daria, a recent arrival, the taste of chicken and lemon was a poignant reminder of home. "In my country we make lots of food with lemon. My favourite is lemon and chicken, but I don't know what to call it in English."

*Kimalee Fernandes is the EAL teacher at North Melbourne Primary.*

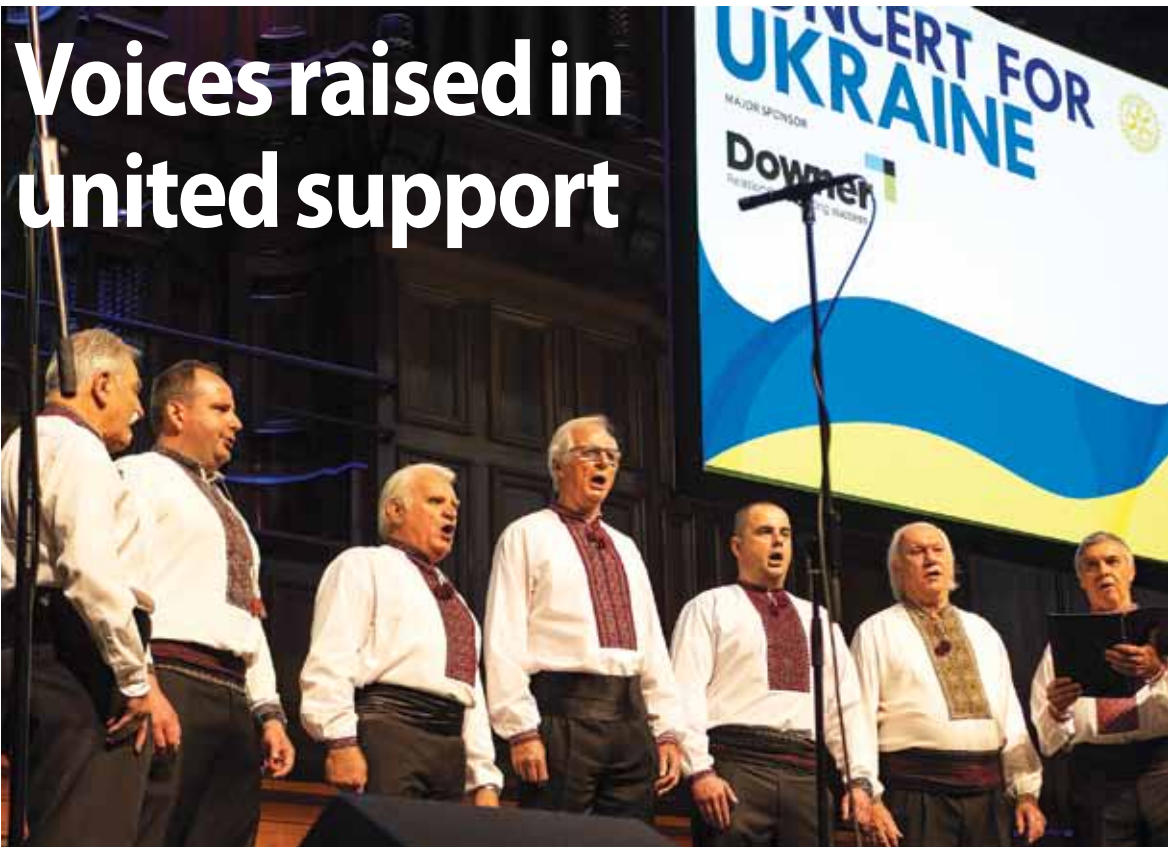
*EAL students try their hand at a science experiment.*





Evelyn Thompson

North Melbourne Rotary held a hugely successful Concert for Ukraine fundraiser early last month. Veteran Rotarian Ted Dziadkiewicz dreamt up the idea. “Some singers in my Homebrew Verandah choir raised the idea of supporting Ukrainian refugees. I told my Rotary club and the local Ukrainian community linked us to a choir and dancers,” he said. The original plan was to hold the concert in North Melbourne. “However, we ended up in the Melbourne Town Hall and it was a wonderful event. The highlight for me was the Cossack dancers and the beautiful music,” Ted said. More than 700 people attended. With the hall lit with floodlights in Ukraine’s national colours, local Ukrainians were welcomed by a sea of blue and yellow and their national flag proudly displayed. The concert began with a touching acknowledgement of country from Professor Mark Rose, who recognised the Ukrainian community’s support for Indigenous people here in Melbourne. This was followed by a heartfelt rendition of the Australian and Ukrainian national anthems. Ted’s Homebrew Verandah Singers launched the entertainment with a rendition of Archie Roach’s *We Won’t Cry*. The sentiments “we will lift our



Ukrainian singers at Rotary’s Concert for Ukraine. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

spirits high” and “together we can lighten this load” expressed support for the Ukrainian community. The Ukraine Combined Choir, made up of three local choirs, performed two songs, *Oh Great God Eternal* and

*We Were Born in a Great Hour*, which is often sung by Ukrainian soldiers as a show of patriotism. The choir members wore traditional cultural clothing and harmonised effortlessly. It was truly moving and

they received sustained applause. The concert’s keynote speakers included Rotary district governor Dale Hay and the ambassador for Ukraine, Vasyl Myroshnychenko. The final performer was Australian folk singer and songwriter John Flanagan. Supported by two friends who provided harmonies, he sang three memorable songs. The first, *High on High*, while written about his life in Northcote, resonated with Ukrainian national identity in the lyric “nobody knows me but this town”. His performance finished with two other songs, *You Make the World Beautiful* and a cover of Tom O’Brien’s *More Love*. Organiser Ted was delighted that the concert raised more than \$30,000. “We got lots of appreciation and it was a wonderful success. The singing was beautiful and it summed up Rotary’s sympathy for Ukraine,” he said. Ted stressed that all the money raised will go straight to Rotary clubs in Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv. “It will be used to buy clothing and medical aid and to provide other support for Ukrainian refugees as they transit to other countries.”

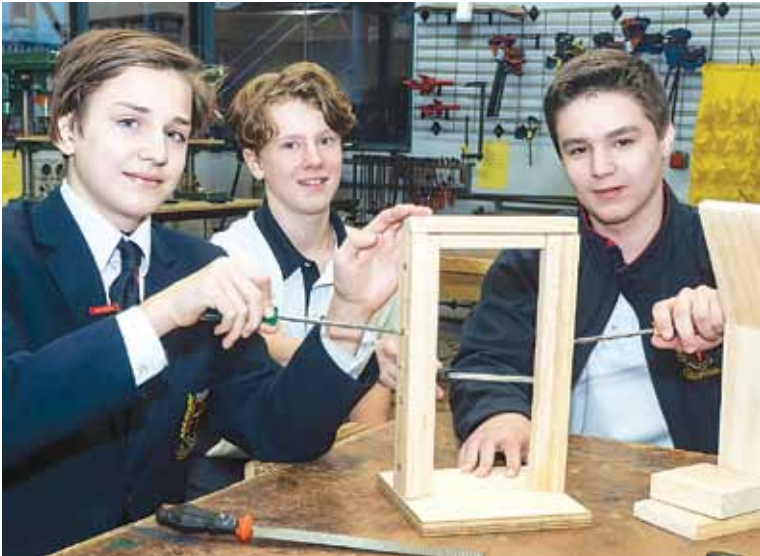
Evelyn Thompson writes regularly for the News.

# From artillery shells to the ring of school bells

Maurice Gaul

Three 14-year-old boys are struggling to find the right words as they sit inside the principal’s office at Simonds Catholic College in West Melbourne. But the trio aren’t in hot water for playing up in class. Michael, Eduardo and Demian are all recent arrivals in Australia from a shattered Ukraine. They’ve been here for barely two months. The boys’ families came on tourist visas and are aiming to receive humanitarian visas. They are being supported by the local Ukrainian community whose members worship at the Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. The church is a prominent landmark on the Canning Street hill. Its distinctive dome is illuminated at night, an eternal beacon of hope for local Ukrainians as they agonise over the suffering of their compatriots at home. The boys are, in their own way, also victims of this obscene war, their lives uprooted and torn apart. Yet there is a touching innocence and a vulnerability about them as they

share their stories in faltering English. Michael and Eduardo have a basic grasp of the language. As they translate for Demian, their words pinball around the room as they try valiantly to express their thoughts. Soon, their stories come tumbling out. Michael’s family lived in Kyiv, the capital of the broken nation. He recalls the daily air-raid sirens that sent terrified citizens scurrying to underground shelters. In the distance, explosions were echoing on the city’s edge. Michael and his mother and brother fled Kyiv soon after the Russians launched their attack. In simple words that belie their suffering, he recalls their departure. “We leave home, go car, drive to Germany. Stay with friends there.” His voice wavers as he says his father remains in Ukraine. His factory, like most of the Ukrainian economy, has been turned over to the war effort and is now making arms and munitions for the army. “Make guns, make bullets, to fight,” Michael whispers. Eduardo’s parents, both lawyers, also acted quickly when they heard of the



Michael, Eduardo and Demian at Simonds College. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

invasion. The family fled their home in Poltava, on the Vorskla River in central Ukraine, and drove across the border into Poland. “Stay with aunty, uncle,” Eduardo says. Demian left home in Ivano-Frankiusk with his psychologist mother and his grandparents. His father is still in Ukraine, daily exposed to Russian shelling of Ukrainian supply lines as he transports food and water to besieged villagers whose homes have been destroyed. None of the boys is following TV reports on the war’s progress. Like all their generation, they are more attuned to the internet and social media, and each is in daily contact with family back in Ukraine. “I talk

grandfather at night,” Eduardo smiles. When Simonds principal Peter Riordan was asked by the Catholic archdiocese in March if he could take any recently arrived Ukrainian students, he jumped at the chance. Soon, the boys were welcomed into a Year 8 class. “We immediately provided new uniforms, books and laptops. We’ve also employed a learning support officer to work intensively with them to improve their literacy skills,” Peter says. Teachers are delighted with the boys’ progress. Year level coordinator Alicia Keighran says they have already made new friends. “They’re just so keen to

learn and they’re even teaching our boys words in Ukrainian.” Michael says he is happy with his new teachers. “Maths help with work. English teacher good to explain things.” All three find school life at Simonds very different to what they knew in Ukraine. This is their first taste of school uniforms and laptops in class. Eduardo says he is finding it hard not being allowed to use his phone during lessons. Single-sex education is proving a novelty, and Eduardo says he prefers Ukraine’s co-ed style. “Better have girls at school,” he grins. However, Michael is not at all concerned by the lack of female company. “I go school to learn lesson,” he says. When the chat turns to sport, the universal language of teenage boys, all three spark up. Michael talks about his volleyball and martial arts; for Demian, soccer is his passion; for Eduardo, it’s volleyball. The three look puzzled when the inevitable question is asked as to whether they’ve picked an AFL team. Only Eduardo has even the faintest idea of our local sporting obsession. “I see play in park. Good, fun!” he says. For principal Peter, a rabid St Kilda fan, this proves an opportunity he can’t miss. “I’ll be converting them to the blessed Saints. We’re a Catholic school, after all.”

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

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Sing NoW choir members with their leader Susie Kelly (right) and Spiderman (aka Susie's son Max).

# Voices again raised in joy

Kate Ritchie

Sing NoW community choir is excited to be back in full voice. With lockdowns behind us, we are again rehearsing in the flesh.

Our recent practice sessions have provided lots of fun. We had a ball singing *Belle Mama*, but the real laughs came when we had a go at *Ardiemus*, by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins.

When we tried to get tongues around “yakama yamaya kaya mema”, the whole gang went into hysterics. What a hoot!

We’re especially delighted to report that the choir has welcomed several new members. It seems our reputation has spread and our newbies are just so enthusiastic.

One significant recruit – well, relatively new – is Susie Kelly, our new leader and director. She is an accomplished musician in bands and orchestras, and an educator who both participates in and has directed many choirs.

At our last session, Susie introduced us to some short and rousing pieces that we picked up in minutes. Soon she had us into golden oldies like Creedence Clearwater

Revival’s *Have You Ever Seen the Rain?* and *(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher*.

Both were arranged to suit four parts (male and female) and the harmonies immediately sounded amazing. With Susie’s skills on keyboard, saxophone and bassoon, not to mention a capella, we know this will be a transformative year for our choir.

Since the group (then known as Errol’s Angels) started in around 2005 we’ve had a lot of fun, made lasting friendships, learnt amazing songs in many languages and performed at some large events like a bushfire fundraiser and festivals as well as in smaller settings like hospitals.

We are always trying to bring



Choir leader Susie Kelly.

cheer to the audience while simply enjoying ourselves at the same time. Some of our singers were new to the area and through the choir have made new friends and settled in.

The feeling you get from performing in a group takes away any inhibitions and is truly uplifting. If you like singing, or have good (or perhaps even not so good) memories of choirs from schooldays, why not come and give it a try?

If you’ve never had the opportunity to be in a choir, we’ll welcome you. It’s easy to sign up.

A modest fee applies, depending on the number of weeks involved and any concession status. If you prefer, just come along and have a sticky beak. Everyone will be welcome and there are no auditions.

We get together Thursday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30 pm at Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry Street. It’s a great rehearsal space with plenty of room and heaps of street parking.

Kate Ritchie is a Sing NoW member.

**Want to know more?**  
If you are interested in joining us, contact The Centre at 58 Errol Street or call 9328 1126.

# Quakers create a spiritual space

Lilla Anika

The Victorian Friends Centre in William Street, West Melbourne, is the new home of the Society of Friends, more usually known as the Quakers.

Step inside the front door and the overwhelming impression is of a space flooded with light. After 18 months of renovations and with lockdown behind us, the Quaker Centre has finally opened. The congregation is keen to welcome the local community.

Australia’s 2000 Quakers are united in their shared commitment to six testimonies: peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, community, and sustainability.

David and Jill Parris are welcoming figures at the centre. They explain that Quakers have been involved in world-wide initiatives ranging from the anti-nuclear movement to Alcoholics Anonymous and the Alternatives To Violence Project.

“It’s not like we just sit and talk about it. We quite often go and hold vigils outside people’s offices, write letters, take concerns to parliament.

Everything we do has an active aspect to it,” Jill says.

The Quakers are involved in local activities. The West Melbourne centre has served as a base for Hope Co-op, a project aiming to make higher education available to asylum seeker students. During lockdown, it supported them with food and financial support.

The centre’s excellent meeting space is also available for hire by commercial or community groups. It has recently hosted training events for organisations such as Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion.

People are often curious about what the Quakers do at their services. One striking difference to many other religious services is that Quaker meetings take place largely in silence.

David explains a deeper significance. “It might seem like people sitting in a circle and not saying anything. However, you get to a point close to the nirvana state in meditation, and people talk about quite spectacular spiritual experiences.”

While Quakerism has its roots in Christianity, one can be both

a Quaker and an atheist or a member of another religion. “It’s more of a spiritual practice than a set of beliefs,” David says.

As well as Sunday morning services, smaller activity groups run during the week, with the library open on Wednesdays.

“Our dream is to keep the door open for anyone to come in, sit down, have a chat, and go away feeling like they’ve been somewhere special,” Jill says.

She and David hope to give young people a glimpse into Quakerism. “We’d like to offer a crucible in which anyone can explore their ideas and their spirituality. We don’t force people into a mould,” Jill says.

She extends an open welcome to locals. “We’re happy to meet and find out what you want.”

Lilla Anika is a new contributor to the News.

**Want to know more?**  
If you are interested in Quaker spirituality or would like to see the Quaker Centre, call David Parris on 0400 009 377.



David and Jill Parris at the Quaker Centre. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

## Community Comment

Lilla Anika was frozen by the icy blast as she asked four locals what they like most about winter



**Theo, student, West Melbourne**  
Fog in the morning always creates a dream-like feeling, a time for reflection. Then when the sun shines through, it’s even prettier.



**Rosie, retired, Parkville**  
The magical way that winter sounds travel differently through the air. There’s always the sound of a dog barking in the distance.



**Noah, student, North Melbourne**  
I love walking home after a night out. There’s often a mist and the street lights are half shining through. It’s so pretty when it’s wet.



**Peter, researcher, Parkville**  
It’s warmth of winter coats and the sweetness of hot chocolate. And being inside where it’s warm and watching the rain come down.



## A fashion stitch-up leads to many sails

Laura Misale

**K**arin Otto is the owner of Melbourne Sewing & Pattern Making, a small business that specialises in producing apparel with a focus on sustainability and ethical manufacturing.

The business operates out of West Melbourne's River Studios, a converted architectural warehouse on the Maribyrnong. It houses more than 60 artists and other creatives who work in the visual arts, sculpture, photography and design.

Karin's studio has a wall of colourful thread, six sewing machines, large tables covered in fabric and a sprinkling of thriving indoor plants.

When she took over the business at the end of 2019 and ran it in Richmond, Australia was grappling with rampant bushfires and then the start of the pandemic.

Despite the restrictions of the time, Karin was able to keep the business afloat. "I had a pre-lockdown client who ran a company called Fair Air Fire Masks. He'd developed a mask that was completely fire proof so in the initial lockdowns I was making mask after mask after mask."

She has recently branched out in a new direction.

"Right now I'm working on a project for a brand new label called Enso Studio created by



Karin Otto at her sewing machine.

Jasmine Sim. I developed the process for the last year.

"Jasmine's had celebrities wear the stuff at the recent American music festival Coachella and because of that exposure a lot of other celebrities have hopped on board."

Business is hectic at the moment. "For the last three weeks we've been sending sample after sample to LA. It's absolutely blown my mind," Karin says.

After 10 years in the fashion industry, she understands the footprint that textile waste has on the environment.

"If I'm cutting, I've got all this leftover fabric sitting on my floor. Australia doesn't have the facilities to recycle textiles so, instead of binning my cuttings, I try to pass them on to other small businesses."

Karin also tries to minimise her footprint by supporting local suppliers. "I use the fabric and haberdashery store down the road or the wholesaler up Sydney Road."

In her spare time, she is a

soprano in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus and secretary of the *Alma Doepel* Supporters Club.

The famous *Alma Doepel* is a three-masted topsail schooner, now 120 years old. "Built as part of a fleet trading down the Bellinger River in New South Wales, she was drafted in WW2 as a troop carrier to Papua New Guinea," Karin says.

The ship was then used for youth sail training, which Karin herself did as a teenager in New Zealand.

"The scheme targets disadvantaged youth and takes them to sea and upskills them to the point where they're given control of the ship."

The *Alma Doepel* has been undergoing restorations at Docklands for 10 years, and Karin has been an active volunteer for the last seven.

"We're stripping everything back and rebuilding her with the goal of returning her to youth sail training."

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.

## Speakers gather for a 'meditation on friendship'

John H. Smith

**A**n enthusiastic crowd gathered at North Melbourne's Institute of Postcolonial Studies in April for the group's first face-to-face seminar in months.

A discussion panel, *Writing Close to Life*, marked the recent publication of *See How We Roll: Enduring Exile between Desert and Urban Australia* by anthropologist and IPCS director Melinda Hinkson.

She took part in a lively discussion with Kim Mahood, celebrated author and artist, and Susie Hutchings, an Arrernte woman and anthropologist. Distinguished RMIT Professor Paul Carter chaired the presentation.

Melinda says *See How We Roll* is "a meditation on friendship" that grew from her practice as an anthropologist, which she describes as giving "studied attention to life".

In this challenging yet beautiful story, Melinda speaks from her heart about her long-standing friendship with Nungarrayi, a Warlpiri woman from the desert country of Central Australia.

Described as "an intimate ethnography", Melinda's narrative blends stories, personal observations and reflections into a rich narrative punctuated with ethnographic observations from a host of authors.

For two and half decades, Melinda has been a friend and observer of Nungarrayi as she navigated the many disruptions she and her people have endured, especially after the Northern

Territory Intervention in 2007.

An energetic and feisty person, Nungarrayi is a presence to be reckoned with.

She has confronted the challenges, and those who presented them, whether Indigenous or not. She was exiled to Adelaide where she still grapples with the task of building a new life.

Ironically, the alien context of Adelaide emerges as a new desert in this account. Displaced and bereft of her traditional kinship supports, Nungarrayi struggles to find the network of friendship she urgently needs.

*See How We Roll* opens a window onto a way of life about which most non-Indigenous Australians rarely have first-hand knowledge.

Popular understanding of Indigenous life is usually based on reports of the Intervention, the 1997 Bringing Them Home Report, media accounts of deaths in custody, and events such as the shooting of Kumanjayi Walker.

While Melinda's book might pose a challenge for the

uninitiated, it illuminates the costs of dispossession and exile. This is the real and continuing story that Australia's First Nations people share with other Indigenous peoples of the world.

Melinda believes we can't escape the violence. "However, writing these stories is part of a discussion we must have in Australia," she said.

"Speaking from the heart is a conversation that addresses and acknowledges deep hurts, in this country, and it looks at where we are now, and where we want to go," Paul said.

*See How We Roll* adds to the resources of social capital we have available to do better. That is something to celebrate.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

### Want to know more?

*See How We Roll: Enduring Exile between Desert and Urban Australia* is published by Duke University Press. To find out about IPCS programs, go to [ipcs.org.au](http://ipcs.org.au)



Lively discussions and thought-provoking speakers at an IPCS meeting.

## Wellness clinic aims to provide complementary health services

Suzie Luddon

**S**usan Hunter launched Radius Health, her Queensberry Street wellness medicine clinic, on the day a snap lockdown was announced.

While that wasn't strictly in the plan, it was a simply a small hurdle that required a bit of the creativity and resolve that had got Susan to the starting line.

That was seven months ago. Susan has since been busy building her team of naturopaths and nutritionists, and connecting with clients and community in North Melbourne.

"We ended up having a Zoom launch instead of an in-person launch. I quickly put up an online store and just had to acclimatise to where things were. It's been bumpy, but I figured if we could get through that we'd be fine," she says.

Specialising in gut health and with an interest in psychology, Susan saw early in the pandemic what the effects would be on mental health.

"The pandemic has had far-reaching impacts on lots of people. There is such a spectrum of experiences, with some people needing to tip-toe back into the world while others really feel like they should have never left it."

Working on the philosophy of prevention, the practitioners at Radius Health try to keep their clients away from hospitals. They focus on an integrative, shared treatment model that involves liaising with other health care professionals that a patient is seeing.

"We're always opening those doors of communication with the doctor or health practitioner and making sure we're all invested in best practice and good outcomes for patients. No one comes in with just one thing, there's often five or six things going on by the time people reach out for help," Susan says.

Team members try to do as much food-as-medicine as possible, which is where the expertise of the nutritionists in the team comes in.

They know what foods to prescribe, but also know when supplements are necessary.

"They're a bit different to dietitians in that they can prescribe nutrients, so they've got that ability to come in with therapeutic levels of magnesium rather than just magnesium-rich foods, if that's what patients need for cramping and sleep onset," Susan says.

Radius Health runs a free online evening session on the first Thursday of every month, with a practitioner talking for 45 minutes then some Q&A at the end. While topics vary, they all offer something useful that people can implement at once. Recent sessions have explored nutrition, treating PMS and preventing burnout.

After 15 years driving across town for work, Susan is thrilled to be working in her own North Melbourne community. She's especially keen to complement the existing allied health and wellbeing services in our area.

"I wanted to create something that

Susan Hunter at Radius Health.



is both patient centred and team focused. That means supporting the team members and ensuring that everyone who comes in feels like they're seen, they're heard and they're offered a cup of tea," Susan says.

"We can help them on any level they're comfortable with. If they can't afford a consultation, they can talk to a qualified practitioner over the counter and get some guidance on

what they could be taking to help them feel better."

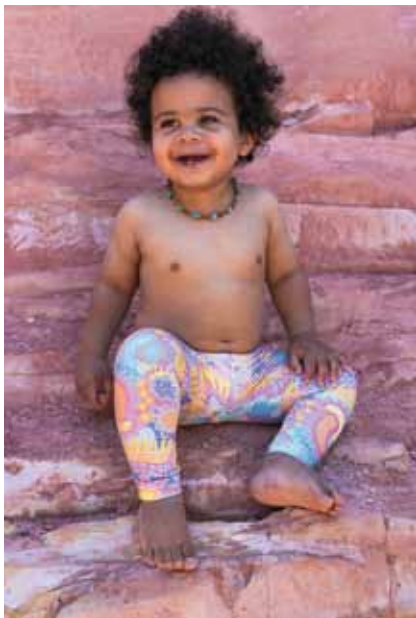
Suzie Luddon is proofreader for the News.

### Want to know more?

Drop in and chat with Susan at Radius Health, 508 Queensberry Street, just along from the Courthouse Hotel. Check the website: [www.radiushealth.com.au](http://www.radiushealth.com.au)



# Sistas pop up in Errol Street



A Pop-Up Shop has opened at 54 Errol Street. It's a retail space that, for the next few months, will foreground Aboriginal children's and women's fashion, eco toys and homewares.

The venture was launched by Yorta Yorta designer Corina Muir and Taungurung education consultant Annette Sax. This social enterprise, known as Amber Days and Yarn Strong Sista Collective, is creating opportunities that empower First Nations women in business and the arts.

The women have outlined their hopes for the concept. "We want to create a space where we elevate Aboriginal women in business, sharing culture and wellness. We're passionate to bring Sistas along with us as we grow our own established businesses," Annette said.

"There'll be opportunities over the next two months for adults and children to participate in Indigenous cultural immersion workshops. Businesses will share bush tucker, meditation, skin care, song, storytelling and weaving workshops. We have a fantastic NAIDOC program lined up," Corina said.



Corina Muir and Annette Sax flanked by The Centre's Ariel Valent and Alex Gyles.





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# aNGKOR CAFÉ proves a capital name

Nicole Pereira

Tucked away in Spencer Street, West Melbourne, on the edge of the CBD, is a charming little eatery called aNGKOR CAFÉ & RESTAURANT. North Melbourne resident Neri Herrmann has created her dream and has given it a striking name. Yes, the use of capitals was deliberate. In 2002, Neri arrived in Australia from her native Cambodia with plans to be a lawyer. However, life took her in another direction and she decided to follow her driving passion for food. She was swept away by Australia's multicultural cuisine. She saw there were plenty of Chinese, Thai and Japanese restaurants – but virtually none serving Cambodian fare.

Keen to share the distinctive flavours of Cambodian cuisine, she looked to the recipes of her grandmother and aunties who had for decades cooked for the Cambodian royal family.

In a dramatic leap of faith in 2009, Neri decided to move to Australia permanently and perhaps open a business. After taking some cookery and management courses, she took the plunge and, in 2016, launched The Coffee Brewer, a small café in Hawthorn.

While little more than a small kitchen, it allowed Neri to test out the locals' tastes. "I cooked pumpkin soup, my grandmother's famous dish, as well as grilled chicken and tomato sauce and chicken and brown rice. It was a hit," she says.

In 2019, she sold the Hawthorn café and bought the current shop in West Melbourne. Initially, she agonised over a name until she came up with 'Angkor'.

The Angkor is a famous Buddhist temple in Cambodia built in the first half of the 12th century. "Australia didn't have an Angkor temple so I decided to create an Angkor here and bring Cambodian culture to Australia," she says.

Starting a business is never easy and COVID made it much harder. Even as she tried to build a new team and to renovate the premises, she ran into construction delays.



Neri Herrmann at aNGKOR CAFÉ in Spencer Street.

aNGKOR did not use a delivery platform like Uber Eats and, with trade dwindling, Neri was forced to close the doors. "We stopped trading for more than six months at one point, but we still had to pay rent."

Finally, when some semblance of normal life returned last year, Neri was able to reopen. Her dream is alive and the café now offers a wide range of tempting meat and vegetarian dishes.

Neri is justifiably proud. "People love the café! They're never disappointed because the quality of our food is so

consistent. Our most popular dishes are still pumpkin soup and chicken and rice."

She is keen to offer an authentic taste of her Cambodian culture. "We offer free tastings if you are ever walking by."

Nicole Pereira writes regularly for the News.

## Want to know more?

Check out aNGKOR CAFÉ at 389 Spencer Street, West Melbourne. Visit the website: [www.angkor.cafe](http://www.angkor.cafe)



Tasty fare at aNGKOR CAFÉ.

# Michael on an artistic journey

Rashi Jain

Michael Carr is the caretaker and building manager of West Melbourne's River Studios, a collection of studio spaces for creatives such as painters, ceramicists and fashion designers.

An inveterate traveller, he has visited nearly every continent while working for circus, theatre, dance and music tours as a mechanist, assisting in stage operations and setting up lights and audio.

His artistic journey began in the early 1990s as an aspiring Melbourne photographer. He soon moved from images to sound, working with audio companies at Melbourne festivals.

Next came stints with live entertainment companies managing international ballet tours. His philosophy was simple. "It all came down to respecting people and building relationships," he says.

His first international project involved a seven-month tour to New Zealand in the early 2000s. Soon after, he flew with the crew to Saint Petersburg in Russia for a ballet tour where he was responsible for explaining safety instructions to the locals.

"I used to say that no question is too small and this rule sort of applies everywhere," Michael says.

The company was so impressed by his work and personal skills that they engaged him to tour Hong Kong and Singapore, handling their lighting and sound equipment.

In a later gig, in China's Guangzhou, he documented future tours' safety regulations to be presented to the Chinese authorities.

His people-first philosophy has never changed. "Wherever you go, you will be relying on the people you work with. So just respect them and try to understand their needs."

Next, he sailed to South Africa with



Michael Carr is a teller of colourful tales.

the tour crew and a shipment of 25 containers containing all the stage equipment and accessories. While in South Africa, he had his most memorable experience.

"I was held at gun point and was about to be mugged but I somehow managed to get out of it in one piece. I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," he says.

For the next decade Michael travelled with dance, music and theatre companies to the US, South America, Europe, India and South-East Asia.

He recalls driving a truck from Belgium to Portugal.

"I accidentally took the wrong turn from a freeway and ended up driving through a tiny village. I was lost and I thought I'd be stuck there forever."

He benefited from the kindness of strangers, the lost traveller's salvation.

"The elderly people in the village used simple gestures to guide me back to the main road. No language was needed," he says.

While Michael's global roaming may now be behind him, he says he feels untouched by the years. "I still feel I'm 25."

His dream is to open his own gallery café bar in Melbourne. He even has a name in mind – Mikey's Café and Gallery.

"During the day it'll be a cafe and at night it'll be a haven for artists and will showcase their talents."

Rashi Jain writes regularly for the News.

# Grave marks a remarkable woman

Felicity Jack

Brettena Smyth (1840-1898) was a resident of North Melbourne during the second half of the 19th century. She owned and managed a drapery and druggist shop in Errol Street for many years.

Brettena's story was told by Michelle Brett in the spring 2019 issue of the News. Her pioneering work in health, contraception and women's suffrage showed her to be well ahead of her time.

I came across Brettena's grave during one of my many wanderings through the Melbourne General Cemetery during our long period of lockdown.

I was intrigued to discover a plaque mentioning that the grave had been restored by the CFMEU and I determined to find out more. My first call was to the union headquarters officials who were able to research the circumstances of the restoration.

The decision to renovate was made at a

committee meeting of the Labour Historical Graves Committee in November 1993. Renovation was sponsored by the Construction Metalworkers Union and unveiled in March 1995 by former premier Joan Kirner on the 139th Anniversary of Labour Day.

The following information about Brettena Smyth was included in the invitation to the unveiling:

*Brettena was prominent in feminist causes. An active member of the first Australian suffrage organisation and founded the Australian Women's Suffrage Society in 1885, recognising the liberating potential of birth control for women. She also lectured to large female audiences at North Melbourne Town Hall. Brettena was a respected identity, especially in labour circles. A true worker for women's rights.*

At the time of restoration, the grave was unmarked. It is likely that the headstone had been removed because it is unconceivable that Brettena's family would have left the site without any acknowledgment of her resting place.



Brettena Smyth's grave in the Melbourne General Cemetery. Photograph: Felicity Jack

According to the death notices that appeared in various newspapers, Brettena was "fortified

by rites of Holy Church". As the Australian Dictionary of Biography points out, this was "an ironic end, given her history of support for secularism and birth control".

That Brettena's outstanding success as a 19th century reformist was recognised almost 100 years after her death is a singular achievement.

All the other graves that the Labour Historical Graves Committee renovated belonged to men, particularly men who had been pioneers of the Eight Hour Day movement that began in Melbourne in 1863 and spread throughout the world.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.

## Want to know more?

Hotham History Project researches and records the history of our surroundings and runs regular walks, talks and workshops.

A number of books it has published can be purchased through the website. The Project is keen to attract new members and encourage people to participate in whatever way they can.

Details: [www.hothamhistory.org.au](http://www.hothamhistory.org.au)





# Locals join ‘Meg’ and ‘Joan’ in the new Metro tunnels

On 27 March, Melbourne Metro hosted a festive open day with guided tours of the new Arden station. Members of the North and West Melbourne Association (NWMA) and Hotham History Project (HHP) were among the invited guests. Tours ran every 15 minutes and were booked out.

Wearing specially issued safety glasses, participants descended several flights of steps and then walked 100–200 metres along one of the twin tunnels towards South Kensington, marvelling at the work done by tunnel boring machines ‘Meg’ and ‘Joan’ in excavating the tunnels and lining them with curved concrete panels.

Equally impressive was the superstructure of the half-completed station. The meticulous architecture uses red bricks and other fabrics deliberately chosen to evince the industrial past of North and West Melbourne and its early railways. The soaring arches are clearly visible from Laurens Street.

## Launch of True North

Earlier in March, Metro launched True North, a series of panels mounted in Laurens Street illustrating the evolution of the area around the new Arden station.

Hotham History Project (HHP) and NWMA members Lorraine Siska, Mary Kehoe and Peter Gerrand had done extensive research for this project, and the curator and writer appointed by Metro, Christine Eid, did a superb job pulling the text and historic pictures together in an engaging and very attractive format.



If you haven’t already, do take a stroll along Laurens Street to see the artwork.

The panels will remain on exhibition there until the end of the year, after which we hope to find a local site to display them permanently. Suggestions are welcome.

## Local MP explores Moonee Ponds Creek with residents

In late February, Ellen Sandell joined the chairs of the NWMA and Kensington Association and others led by Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek members on a walk along local stretches of our much-loved but stressed waterway.

Of particular interest was the recent addition of a solar-powered camera that monitors rubbish build-up in the litter traps near Racecourse Road. These are being emptied more often now.

Ellen was also interested to see the disused rail bridge over the creek near Footscray Road.

We are trying to get the West Gate Tunnel Authority to recommission this structurally sound bridge for the new veloway instead of spending money on building a circuitous and unnecessary loop.

## West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP)

We continue to lobby for noise barriers along the elevated



Hotham History Project members Susan Harraway, Mary Kehoe and Lorraine Siska in the new Metro tunnel. Photograph: Metro Tunnel Project

Wurundjeri Way Extension being constructed less than 100 metres from Railway Place dwellings. We have met with senior Department of Transport executives who have responsibility for both road and rail.

With a commitment from the City of Melbourne to advocate on residents’ behalf, we are hopeful that some of the \$100 million set aside in the Transport & Amenity Program to mitigate the negative impacts of the WGTP will be used to install sound barriers, given the compounding effect of noise from both rail and road.

## West Melbourne Structure Plan

We were delighted to learn recently that Amendment C385melb had finally been approved and gazetted. With its built-form controls on heights and density and an emphasis on green spaces and sustainable design, we are confident that the defining character of West Melbourne will be better preserved.



Christine Eid, Mary Kehoe, Lorraine Siska and Peter Gerrand after the launch of True North. Photograph: Janet Graham

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- Employment Law.



Darling readers, Nunga the Magnificent Wonder Dog and I flew to New Zealand early in May.

Let me share the saga of our leaving. Our travel itinerary ended up as a nightmare. In April, just three days before our flight, it all collapsed when the flight was cancelled. In May, another disaster when the vet told us that Nunga’s vaccinations would expire and we had to cancel. Our accommodation plans collapsed and no other flights were available.

★★★

There were more cancellations and the saga soon got Extra Silly. Non-refundable tickets, new flight dates, more cost and a whole new travel plan.

We finally booked a flight to Wellington but via a route that took us 8,000 km north of New Zealand and with a 12-hour stopover in Fiji. I assumed we would be allowed outside for Nunga to have a wee. My other plan was simple. Fill my pockets with pretty rocks and crystals from my

VERY IMPRESSIVE

collection then to creatively fall off Princess Bridge.

★★★

When we finally touched down in New Zealand, we were impossibly late for two funerals. The first was for the amazing John Auty who had had MND for only three months – we were almost eight months late for him.


The second was for great auntie Jean Tetley, dead at 96 from being old – we were five months late for her.

Nunga is getting on too. He’s a 19-year-old man this year, looking to retire.

★★★

Here’s a letter I recently sent to the ABC. It was a message for Tim, who was on Hard Quiz.

“Hello Tim, congratulations upon your most excellent win. Found myself



cheering for you the entire way through. Love your sense of humour and I think you’re utterly gorgeous. I know you’re more than likely here in Australia because you followed a husband. But just in case you didn’t, I’d like to say that I would be extremely interested in filling the above position.” No reply – as yet.

★★★

I read a vet’s story that explains why

dogs live less than humans. He had been called to examine a 10-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The owners’ little boy Shane was very attached to Belker and when the final moment came, Shane petted Belker as he slipped away. He said he knew why dogs’ lives were shorter than ours. “Well, dogs already know how to live good lives, so they don’t have to stay for as long as we do.”

★★★

If a dog was our teacher, we’d learn many important things. When your loved ones come home, run to greet them. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride. Take naps. Run, romp, and play daily. Thrive on attention and let people touch you. On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass. When you’re happy, dance around and wag your entire body. Delight in the simple joy of a long walk. A good dog can teach us happiness.

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

# The pies were red hot as North fired up at Arden Street

Once lined up on the Arden Street oval next to brilliant North Melbourne skipper Keith Greig as the Kangaroos took on Richmond in a senior VFL game.

Greig was an impossibly graceful and dashing dual Brownlow medallist. I was anything but. Yet, on that long ago Saturday afternoon in 1983, we stood shoulder-to-shoulder in my fleeting moment of football glory.

Let me explain. Over three decades I must have attended hundreds of home matches at the Arden Street ground, but that day is etched in memory. It was the occasion of the great pie stall fire.

I usually watched North’s games from the social club. However, my mate Frank Vardanega had reserved seats on the opposite side of the oval, known then as the gasometer wing in honour of the towering structure that once shadowed the oval.

TOBIN’S TALES

Gavan Tobin

Strangely, it was the only time in more than 30 years that I watched a game from that unglamorous spot. As fate had it, our seats were on the end of the row, just near the rickety old pie stall.

During the first quarter, a ruckus broke out in the crowd. The pie stall was on fire! The flimsy wooden structure was soon fully ablaze. Unbelievably, the game went on, even as sheets of flame roared into the early winter sky.

Frank and I somehow stayed focused on the play. Police seemed unconcerned as they wandered casually around the boundary. Out on the ground, players battled for the ball, even as the inferno grew fiercer.

Check out Channel 7’s call at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYBmaikmjwg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYBmaikmjwg)

Finally, a hero arrived. A North official urged everyone in the vicinity to get over the fence and take refuge on the oval. I recall him yelling: “There are gas cylinders in there that will explode and kill all of you.”

In record time I was over the fence and on the ground. Amazingly, play was continuing as I stood beside the great Keith Greig. Then the umpire’s whistle brought the game to a halt.

Minutes later, a fire-truck arrived in Macaulay Road and firemen climbed the wall then doused the flames. We were soon back in our seats and play resumed.

North had trailed the Tigers by four goals when the fire broke out but we stormed home to win easily.

It was a simpler and more innocent time. With that packed crowd on the outer wing, it could have been a tragedy. Just two years later, a fire broke out in the stand at a soccer game in Bradford in Yorkshire and the inferno claimed 56 lives.

The old pie stall was never rebuilt. In fact, North played their last game at Arden Street in 1985, just two years after the stall had caught fire.

That incident has joined many other memories of our beloved suburban ground. We’ll never forget the dog-racing track that encircled the oval, the massive gasometer and the runaway elephant.

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

# Don’t let your data be held to ransom by cyber criminals

News reader Fabio contacted me recently to ask what ransomware was because he heard it mentioned on TV and didn’t know what it meant.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software (malware) that cyber criminals use to extort money from their victims. To do this, they will typically send a phishing email to their victims. These emails are disguised to look like legitimate emails, but in fact carry malware.

When a user clicks on a link in the phishing email, they inadvertently allow ransomware to be installed on their computer.

Once installed, ransomware will attempt to encrypt all the data it can find on the user’s computer and anything that may be plugged into it. The user will then be unable to access their own files without obtaining a decryption key, which is held by the cyber criminal.

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE

Nebojsa Pajkic

Cyber criminals will provide instructions to their victims on how to send a payment in exchange for the decryption key, which typically includes difficult-to-trace payment methods such as wire transfers or bitcoin payments.

Ransomware has been on the rise in the past few years because cyber criminals are getting more sophisticated, the tooling is becoming more accessible, and many businesses have set up shop online due to the pandemic.

Small and medium businesses may not have sufficient controls in place to protect themselves from ransomware, and as such are a prime target for cyber criminals.

Cyber criminals’ motivation to disrupt business operations is typically driven by financial gain, but they may also be motivated by a desire to cause reputational damage to a business or to promote a cause (hacktivism).

The best general advice when it comes to ransomware is not to pay the cyber criminals’ ransom, but to instead take a proactive approach to protecting your assets.

The easiest way to do this is to make regular backups of your data and enable automatic updates on your computer and other digital devices.

Backup your data on a frequent basis, for example once a week. Save the

backup on an external hard drive, which typically cost less than \$100 (much cheaper than paying a ransom costing you thousands of dollars!).

Make sure to physically disconnect the external hard drive when the backup is complete, so that if your device is unlucky enough to be infected with ransomware, your backed up data will be safe.

Find out how to enable automatic updates on all your digital devices by doing a simple search on the internet specific to your device or by visiting [www.cyber.gov.au/updates](http://www.cyber.gov.au/updates) for more general guidance.

*Nebojsa Pajkic is a local resident and an information security professional.*

**Want to know more?**  
Send cybersecurity questions to [nebojs4@gmail.com](mailto:nebojs4@gmail.com) and you may be featured in a future issue.



# Vale Jock O'Brien

Bill Liddy

Jock O'Brien, former North Melbourne footballer, local cricketer and well-known community member, died last month.

Jock was a true North Melbourne boy. He attended Errol Street Primary and captained both the football and cricket teams.

Jock excelled at cricket and football, playing 33 senior games for North Melbourne from 1959 to 1961. He later captain-coached Ulverstone in Tasmania and had a year with Central District team in Adelaide before heading to Mt Gambier.

Later, as a football administrator, he served on the committee of North Melbourne's Past Players group and was president from 2001 to 2012. He rejuvenated the group, built membership and initiated new social events.

In summer, cricket was his passion. At Ulverstone, he was frighteningly quick and the competition's best bowler.

Jock had a taste of international cricket in 1963 when he played for Tasmania against the touring England team. Jock took a sensational 7-73, including 6-23, in one spell. English captain Colin Cowdrey, one of his victims, invited him into the English rooms after the game.

Off the sports field, Jock was a lunches man. He always seemed to be organising one for me and his three daughters, Gail, Vicki and Jodie. He and I also lunched regularly at the Albion or



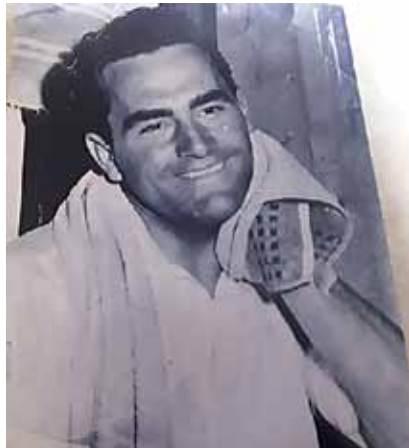
Jock O'Brien winner of 1961 Gardiner Medal. Photographs: O'Brien family

Limerick Castle in North Melbourne.

We were often joined by other friends such as Lorna Hannan, whom Jock always admired for her community work, and Qiwen Dai, my Chinese international student housemate for five years. Jock also organised annual reunion lunches for his cricket mates and former North footballers.

In 2017, on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, old North teammates John Dugdale, Ken Dean, Fred Macquire and I took him to lunch at the Three Crowns Hotel in West Melbourne.

He retained a keen interest in North Melbourne events and people, and attended Hotham History Project walks and functions. He usually ended up in long chats with former



North Melbourne footballer Laurie Shipp, his schooldays football hero.

Jock recently donated a large colour photo of North legend and good mate Laurie Dwyer to the North Melbourne Library where it now adorns the main wall.

He attended some of The Centre and The Legion Anzac Day services at the West Melbourne cenotaph. In our last chat before his passing, he congratulated me for my talk at this year's service with a quiet "Well done mate". That will be a lasting memory.

This had been a tough year for Jock, with the loss of son-in-law Keith then having to undergo major surgery. His funeral last month was attended by many locals and former North footballers.

Many heartfelt tributes have been received. Lorna knew him well and her words capture the essential Jock. "His enthusiasm was infectious. At lunch, he would regale you with stories. Those of us who knew him will miss his stories and his laugh," she said.

Old football mate Des Tobin spoke equally warmly. "I have fond memories of him as an old teammate who made me welcome at North when I was still a fresh-faced schoolboy."

Vale, Jock. I will miss you too, my dear friend. And I'll miss our lunches.

Bill Liddy is a long-term North Melbourne resident and a board member at The Centre.

Jock towels down after playing cricket against England in 1963.

# All dolled up at the library

Very Impressive

My latest art is on show at North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street.

Some of it is about garbage that people stupidly throw away. All that plastic and metal waste upsets me greatly. If we don't start wearing some of that stuff, we'll soon be drowning in it.

We're probably already eating the plastic. Particles have been found in the stomachs of Antarctic krill that are eaten by the other magnificent creatures that live down there. In turn, they are eaten by others that we eat.

For years I've been incorporating select items of waste into my own art and clothing. Often I have wanted other people to wear it also.

Sometimes during the Extinction Rebellion rallies we had pre-COVID, I would sew items of plastic waste onto people during the marches without their knowing.

Other parts of my art show are about fashion. During lockdown I started working on my Dollies as I watched TV. They're my version of a fashion parade. A couple would look great on Lady Gaga, Elton John, Cher or anyone from Metallica.

The sign above the fashion pieces reads 'Dollies by Very Greer Impressive'. I shall keep constructing outfits for my Dollies until I get my own clothing line and label. I'll call it IMPRESSIVE: London, Paris, Seattle, Melbourne and Rome.

All these Dollies are titled and have their own backstory, but they're too complicated to explain here.

They are also for sale. Send an email enquiry to:

[impressive.very@gmail.com](mailto:impressive.very@gmail.com)

Very Impressive writes regularly for the News.



Very Impressive and a selection of his colourful creations.

Photographs: Jim Weatherill





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Felicia Nguyen with the UooUoo she designed.

# The sky’s the limit for Felicia

John H. Smith

North Melbourne local Felicia Nguyen, a third-year communication design student at RMIT, is a Skyline Education Foundation success story. Skyline supports talented government school students at risk of having to leave school early due to financial hardship or difficult personal situations. “I started thinking about my future in Year 10, even though that’s not what most students at that level do. Skyline got me started on that,” Felicia says. The Skyline program she joined in Years 11 and 12 has supported her in her studies. While finishing a cadetship in marketing and design from the Doka Foundation, she is also working as the RMIT student union’s communications officer. “I don’t want to sit at a computer all day. I want to make an impact through community involvement,” she says. Felicia has built relationships for Skyline by interviewing students and creating a community gallery of their photos accompanied by their personal stories. Felicia is also a talented artist. She was commissioned to design one of the UooUoos (pronounced you-yous) that were displayed in public places in Melbourne and Geelong during the pandemic. UooUoos are imaginary Australian creatures whose shape is loosely drawn from the wombat and dugong. Felicia’s design found a home in Docklands before it was auctioned to raise funds for the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Felicia’s Vietnamese background initially shaped her educational expectations and she leant towards English, maths and science. However, when a graphic designer visited her Keysborough Secondary College, the seeds of change were sown. While she had not previously dreamed of a creative career, she immediately thought, “I’d love to do that”. Felicia’s teacher recommended her to Skyline and she studied visual communication design in VCE. “I achieved good results and learned I was capable of doing it. I’d found what I wanted,” she beams. Through a YMCA youth parliament, she learned how to write and argue a parliamentary bill. “I researched raising the age of criminal responsibility and discovered current practice is focused more on punishment than rehabilitation,” she says. The experience prepared her for an RMIT student excursion to Canberra for the federal budget presentation. While there, she was taken aback by the noisy exchanges. “The behaviour in the House during question time was shocking,” she says. But she found at least one uplifting moment. “Anthony Albanese’s budget reply for a care economy really resonated with me.” Felicia is appreciative of those who have helped her on her journey. “My family and my friends have been important to me. And I credit Skyline with where I am now.”

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

**Want to know more?**  
Skyline Education Foundation,  
[skylinefoundation.org.au](http://skylinefoundation.org.au)



# A fun day for Roos and Joeys

North Melbourne Football Club hosted a Family Day at Arden Street during the April school holidays. There was a wide variety of entertainments on offer. Young (and old) fans had the chance to meet players for autographs and interviews, and a footy clinic helped them improve their own skills. There were pony rides, face

painting, a petting zoo, badge making, balloon twisters, Marvel character ‘meet and greets’ and an obstacle course. Food trucks kept the visitors happy and one of the club’s women’s groups ran a very tasty cake stall. It proved a popular day, with many supporters enjoyed the sunshine and atmosphere at Arden Street. The club said the past two years of

COVID restrictions had limited its opportunities to connect with fans. “This new School Holiday Family Day is one of a series of events, along with more open trainings and the return of the Future Roos clinic, that allow us to welcome our members and fans back to our Arden Street home,” the club said.



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# Indoor plants are not a potty idea

Katianna Grosser

Walk into Melbourne Indoor Plants at 113-117 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne and you'll find yourself lost in a leafy green wonderland. You'll be in plant heaven. Operations manager Sarah Schraven explains that all plants are trucked down from the north of the country. "We grow them all up in Queensland as it's not possible to grow them in Melbourne," she says. Sarah says the North Melbourne business has a strong connection to the local community. "Simon, who is behind the counter today, lives just down the road. He's as local as you can get." She says the business is especially attuned to the needs of local residents in the nearby buildings and apartment blocks. "We aim to provide healthy, affordable plants in nice pots to this great community. We're happy to deliver, especially the bigger plants, as we know many locals don't have a car and will ride a bike or catch public transport." Melbourne Indoor Plants featured at the recent Melbourne Flower and Garden show in the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Vouchers given away at the event attracted many horticulture enthusiasts to the warehouse. Sarah says interest in plants boomed during the lockdowns. "Everybody was stuck indoors, under curfew. People really wanted to surround themselves with greenery and to feel nice in their home environment." She believes plants bring a sense of calm to



Sarah Schraven surrounded by greenery.

those who care for them. "They can be really therapeutic as you plant them, repot them, then watch them grow. It makes you feel really good, especially when a new leaf pops out." The friendly staff at Melbourne Indoor Plants are more than willing to help you decide where to position your plant at home. "It's all about picking the right plant for your space, and we can help you match the perfect plant with the perfect spot, especially if you bring a photo in," Sarah says.

Indoor plants were popular back in the 1980s, but the trend seemed to fade in the 1990s, Sarah says. "However, they've really come back recently and I believe there's a plant for everybody. It's just about finding the right plant that you know you love." The secret of selling plants is a simple one for Sarah. "We make sure that people go home with something that makes them happy."

Katianna Grosser writes regularly for the News.

# Max loves life to the max

Harriet Lancaster

Stroll down Queensberry Street and you'll find Max resting on a big brown cushion on the footpath. Max is an American Staffie who helps best mate and business partner David Hauswirth run their quirky little shop, Ace Antiques and Collectables. A veritable rabbit warren, Ace is bursting at the seams with curios, ancient telephones, vases, glassware and thousands of records. Before you enter to inspect the shop's treasures, be sure to give Max a pat. He's the friendliest dog you'll ever meet and he recently agreed to answer my questions. Who is your playmate Cleo? Cleo lives around the corner and she's turning four in July. And I'm four too. She's so excited that she's about to catch up on me. I don't think she realises that, in dog years, I'm much older than her.

**Who are your dog besties?**  
I have lots. I'm very sociable. There's Leo the Labradoodle who lives nearby in Curzon Street. And Scout, he's always up for a game. But I draw the line at dogs that are too keen on entering my territory.

**What's your favourite snack?**  
That's an easy one! I just love the chunks of lamb that friendly passers-by give me. But I like David to give them the once over as he seems to know what food is likely to give me a nasty bellyache.

**How do you handle the onset of winter?**  
David gives me a smart coat to wear when it gets chilly. But when that biting wind whips down Queensberry, I just curl up in his cosy van. When I'm not out on the footpath, that's where you'll find me.

**How would David go without you?**  
I think he'd go broke. Without me there to vet and welcome the customers, I doubt the shop would stay in business. I'm the star of



Max takes it easy in the driver's seat.

the show. At Ace Antiques, I'm the ace and old Dave's the antique.

**What do you when not at work?**  
I watch a bit of TV, keep an eye on the football results and generally take it easy. I get Sundays and Mondays off from the shop. By Tuesday, I'm keen to get back to work.

Harriet Lancaster writes regularly for the News.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES Michelle Brett

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

### Exchange over change and a tiff and a biff (1882)

Thomas Kennedy and Nicholas Bergin were charged with assaulting each other. The court heard Bergin had sent his son into Kennedy's shop to purchase groceries but Kennedy refused to give change. Bergin then entered the shop and he and Kennedy resorted to fisticuffs, both sustaining nasty injuries. The bench fined Bergin 12 shillings.

### Diluting the drinks not in the right spirit (1882)

The Sir Robert Peel Hotel licensee Charles Grant was charged with pirating the trademark of Woolt's Schiedam Schnapps. He admitted he had adulterated the spirits as many patrons took more than a nobbler but only paid sixpence. After the prosecutor said diluted spirits sent many patients to the asylum, the bench fined him 26 shillings.

### Take a week to atone for lobbing a stone (1886)

Two young boys, William Murray and David Mitchell, were charged with throwing stones at Jessie Humphrey. The young woman had been walking in Queensberry Street when she was struck by a stone. A constable came around the Errol Street corner and quickly collared the naughty lads. They were each given a week in the cells.

### Ford told to fork out for not saying 'when' (1886)

James Ford of the Hotham Family Hotel was charged with being drunk on his own premises. A constable entered the bar to arrest a man for vulgar language when he found Ford drunk on the floor. After the defence counsel said his client had signed the hotel over to his wife, Ford donated to the poor box and walked free.

### Words lewd and crude deemed too rude (1887)

Ruth Brown was charged with abusive language. Plaintiff Mary Richie said Brown had come to her house and used the most disgusting language. The crude words were written down and handed to the bench. When Brown was allowed to speak from the box, she rambled as if drunk. The bench upheld the charge and fined her 10 shillings.

### Bad day for Day ends drunk in a daze (1887)

Thomas Wilson was charged with assaulting Andrew Day. Day said he had been outside his house when Wilson asked him to have a drink. After Day declined, Wilson called him a crawler and struck him on the back of the head. Wilson claimed they were friends, but the bench felt he was drunk and gave him a week in the cells.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.

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

146 Peel Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

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







# Holi in Docklands



# Hip Hop in the Park





Photographer Jim Weatherill joined locals enjoying autumn community events around the neighbourhood.



# Spanish Language Fiesta





# Students enjoy oasis in the hills

Rita Totino

St Michael's Year 5/6 class recently enjoyed three fabulous days at Camp Oasis at Mount Evelyn in the beautiful Yarra Ranges. Our students took part in a wide range of outdoor activities including archery, flying fox and team building games. In the late afternoon we did bushwalking as we listened to the sounds of the Australian bush. The campsite featured an indoor reptile house that proved a memorable experience. The children loved learning about reptiles and handling them. They found Sushi, the black-headed python, was heavy yet placid and smooth to hold. The students also handled beautiful green tree frogs. Hamish, one of the frogs, was so inquisitive that he moved from the hands of one of the teachers and jumped right onto young George's head. "I was shocked as I didn't expect him

to do that. I'm glad I remained calm until he was picked up. I hope he got a good view of everyone from up there," he said. As in all school camps, the food was a talking point. Bacon and eggs for breakfast was a delicious way to start the day and some children said they wished they could have this breakfast every day. Desserts and supper were simply sensational. On offer were warm jam donuts, toasted marshmallows around the campfire, and ice cream with every topping imaginable. The hungry children were in seventh heaven. "It was amazing. I chose every topping that was available," Ross said. The candle-making room gave scope for creativity. Learning how to dip the wick into different coloured wax pots and moulding it into desired shapes produced great souvenirs to take home from camp. The biggest highlight was definitely the crate climb. Students loved this

initiative activity where they had to construct a tower made out of crates – then somehow try to climb it! Balance and flexibility were tested as everyone climbed as high as they could before the tower collapsed. Jordan was the star of the day as he managed to climb an astonishing 17 crates. "I couldn't believe I could go that high. I knew I was safe because I was harnessed. The fall from that height was fun. I was really proud of myself," he said. Class teacher Meg said she was impressed with the gusto with which the children attempted every activity on offer. "This was the first camp I've been on in which every child gave every activity a red-hot crack. Even though they may have been a little nervous, they just did it."

Rita Totino is learning & teaching P-2 literacy leader at St Michael's.



Ajier, Judy and Lucy give a thumbs up to the bunk beds.



Matt makes a new friend.



Ben and George take Sushi the python in hand.



Reiku climbing the crates.

## Spot the Difference

St Michael's school camp (above) inspired News illustrator Ed Zhao to set readers a challenge. These illustrations may look the same, but there are 15 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 23)





# Leave the city in the rear view mirror

Each month, The Centre hosts a day trip into regional Victoria. In May, the group visited Cloudehill Garden & Nursery at Olinda in the Dandenong Ranges.

Other recent trips have included Alowyn Gardens and Nursery, Portarlinton Ferry and Healesville Sanctuary.

With Craig Barry in the driver's seat, and volunteer Megan Fitzgerald in the lead, the group explores areas outside the city of historical, cultural or horticultural interest.

The bus leaves Errol Street on the fourth Tuesday each month at 9:30 am. The travellers return about 5 pm. Bookings essential, see page 20.



Megan Fitzgerald, Beverley McCarthy, Siw Khyun Tsen and Cassandra Ko.



Billy enjoys hitching a ride in his pram. He's a far happier dog than when he arrived at Lort Smith (below), suffering multiple injuries and abuse.



# Lort Smith sets Billy up for a new life

Pamm Robilliard

Every year, the Lort Smith Animal Hospital gives thousands of animals a safe place to heal, inside and out.

For 85 years the hard-working veterinary and volunteer teams have supported the pets and people of North Melbourne and beyond, through hard and happy times.

However, when it comes to surrenders, the team doesn't always know what the animal has lived through. The story of 12-year-old terrier Billy is a confronting example of this.

Billy arrived at the Lort Smith Animal Hospital with significant head injuries, including burns to his face.

"We initially assumed that Billy had been hit by a car," his treating vet, Dr Cassandra said.

The little dog was skinny and anaemic. His coat was matted and flea-ridden and he also appeared to be deaf.

After treating his wounds, Dr Cassandra discovered that Billy wasn't deaf, but was in fact dealing with severe emotional trauma.

This is where one of Lort Smith's long-term foster carers, Jacqui, stepped in. "He had shut down and was so scared of me. If I went anywhere near him, he'd panic and hide," she said.

Billy also suffered seizures. Wanting to understand what was causing them, Dr Cassandra did a CT scan of his head and discovered a gun pellet lodged in his skull.

"We were all so shocked when we saw it on the scan. And it adds to the mystery of Billy's injuries because we could see that the pellet had lodged years ago, but the burns happened at the start of this year."

Happily, Billy is making a good recovery under Jacqui's loving care and that of the Lort Smith team. He also has regular acupuncture sessions with Dr Amanda and they are helping with his anxiety.

"He enjoys these sessions and is always very relaxed and calm afterwards," Jacqui said.

While Billy isn't quite ready to be adopted, Jacqui says his transformation over the past few months has been incredible, thanks to the care and skills of the staff at Lort Smith.

"He now loves cuddles and going on walks with his foster-siblings. Because he's still very timid, we bought him his very own stroller. He's so proud of it!"

Pamm Robilliard is a copywriter at Lort Smith.

**Want to know more?**  
To learn more about Lort Smith and how to support their work, go to [lortsmith.com/donate](http://lortsmith.com/donate).



# QUEENSBERRY

## CUP Coming This Spring

A new community event for North Melbourne  
Design, build and race your own billycart  
Plus food, music, circus and games  
Calling all interested parties



Seeking designers, racers, volunteers, sponsors, stallholders, performers. Scan code or call Ariel 9328 1126

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

VIOLIN  
GUITAR  
PIANO  
DRUMS

SAXOPHONE  
SINGING  
HIP HOP  
BASS GUITAR

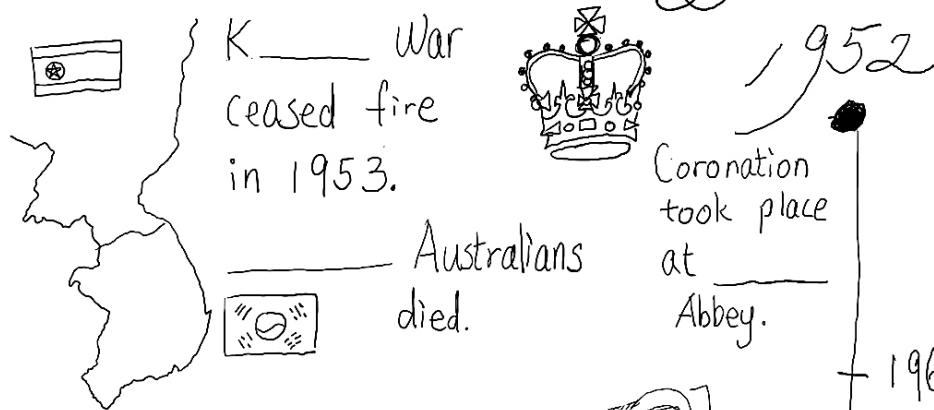


School Of Living Music | 53 Little Baillie St. North Melbourne 3051 | 03 9329 0503 | [info@livingmusic.com.au](mailto:info@livingmusic.com.au)

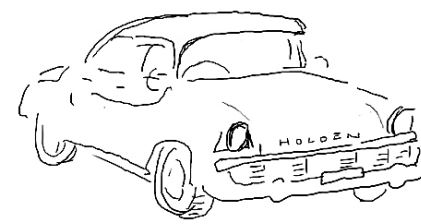


This year marks Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.  
The monarch has been on the throne for 70 years.  
A lot has happened... Let's have a look...

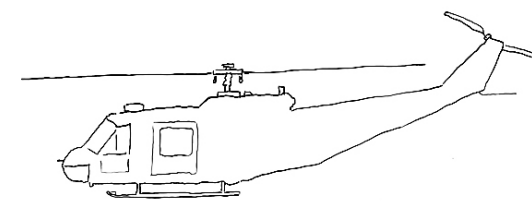
Fill in  
the  
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in



Melbourne hosted the Olympics in \_\_\_\_.  
Australia won \_\_\_\_ gold medals.



By 1962, \_\_\_\_ million Holdens had been sold.



Vietnam War ended in 1975.  
\_\_\_\_ Australians died.



Moon landing took place in \_\_\_\_.

1962

1972



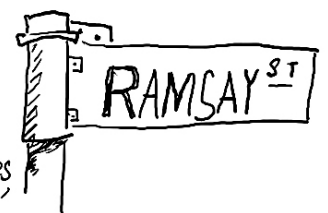
Apple was founded in \_\_\_\_.

On \_\_\_\_, the flag of the USSR was lowered for the last time at the Kremlin.

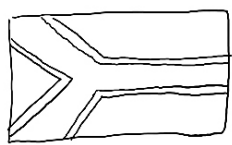


1982

\_\_\_\_ was first aired in 1985. It's run 38 seasons, 8819 episodes, sold to 60 countries!



1992



Apartheid ended in \_\_\_\_.

with the country's first universal election in 1994.

Global Financial Crisis started in \_\_\_\_.

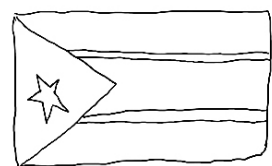
Albert Park first hosted the Grand Prix in \_\_\_\_.

In the 1999 referendum, \_\_\_\_% of voters rejected a proposal for Australia to become a republic.



2002

S \_\_\_\_ Sudan became independent in 2011.



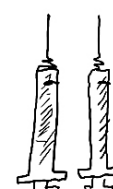
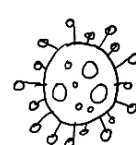
2012

TikTok started in \_\_\_\_.

The UK formally left the European Union in \_\_\_\_.

The 20 \_\_\_\_ Black Saturday Bushfires claimed \_\_\_\_ lives.

In 2020, A \_\_\_\_ 8 was completed. It is the tallest building in Melbourne.



Melbourne spent \_\_\_\_ days in lockdown

2022



# Arts House big strides give a taste of Africa

Margot Tanjutko

A powerful new art exhibition will be landing in North Melbourne this month. *And she was wearing trousers: a call to our heroines* will be making waves at Arts House at the North Melbourne Town Hall. It will feature an exciting line-up of local and international artists from across Australia and southern Africa. These artists have created contemporary works inspired by the many women, from freedom fighters to forgotten feminists, who have shaped the culture, history and identity of southern African. Curated by Roberta Joy



As high as the stars so far unseen by exhibiting artist blk\_banaana. Photograph: Arts House

Rich and Naomi Velaphi, the exhibition will feature vibrant installations, multidisciplinary works and sound. "The exhibition reimagines the possibilities of African heroines in southern African history through a series

of exchanges of text and dialogue between artists of the region. How do we hear of them? What do we learn from them?" Rich and Velaphi ask in their artistic statement. Running alongside the exhibition is a series of free

online Artist Talks, for those who wish to dive deeper into the artists' creative process. There is also a live performance by rising star Rara Zulu, whose raw R&B and hip-hop sound has been making an impact on

Melbourne's music scenes. Arts House looks forward to welcoming both the local community as well as many new faces to this exhibition. It is sure to be an illuminating foray into the lives that continue to exert their

influence on the moment in which we live. Margot Tanjutko is business support officer at Arts House.

**Want to know more?** And she was wearing trousers: a call to our heroines exhibition runs 30 June to 6 August, open 11 am to 4 pm, Monday to Saturday. Exhibition entry is free. Live music performance with Rara Zulu: Saturday 23 July. Tickets \$20. Online Artist Talks, Saturday 16 & 23 July: free. These events are part of Arts House's 2022 season announcement, alongside a great array of new shows. The full program is at [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au).

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

# Lena Condon's story reflects a hard life in Provost Street

Stephen Hatcher

Provost Street runs between Curzon and Abbotsford streets in North Melbourne and was named by the Scottish immigrants who settled in the area. The intriguing word 'provost' was a title given to a civic head of regional Scottish municipal councils, similar to today's 'mayor'. One of the most interesting residents of Provost Street was Lena Condon. She was born into an Irish family in Manchester in 1850 at a time when the population was booming, having increased 40-fold in a century due to the surge in cotton manufacturing. The English industrial revolution was a harsh time for the factory workers who lived in Manchester's slums. The Condons were one of those who braved the odds with the fraught four-month journey across the vast oceans to Australia. With her parents and two siblings,

## RIGHT UP OUR STREET Stephen Hatcher

16-year-old Lena sailed on the *Netherby* in 1866. However, near its journey's end, the ship sank near King Island in Bass Strait. The family reached safety on the island and soon after came to Victoria.

By 1869 the Condons were living in Provost Street. That year 19-year-old Lena married James Johnson and gave birth to the first of her seven children. Married life for Lena was hard due

to her husband's mistreatment and he eventually deserted her and the children, fleeing his creditors and escaping to Sydney. In 1888, Lena married a fellow Mancunian, William Stewart. Perhaps it was social shame that induced her to describe herself on their marriage certificate as a widow rather than a deserted wife. Perhaps the birth in 1889 of their daughter Agnes, Lena's seventh and

last child, at home in Provost Street brought her some joy. Lena died in 1894, alone in hospital, and her death certificate left blank her husband's name, her parents' names and those of all seven children. The cause of death was given as mitral regurgitation, a condition that allows blood to flow backwards to the heart. Might we reasonably call it dying of a broken heart? Little is known of Lena's last child, Agnes. It's possible an uncle or auntie took her in and raised her. In 1914, aged 25, she was living in Abbotsford. She died in 1964, aged 75, in Surrey Hills.

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

**Want to know more?** Read about the people who once lived in Provost Street at [www.melbournestreets.com.au/provost-street](http://www.melbournestreets.com.au/provost-street)



View of Provost Street. Photograph: Stephen Hatcher

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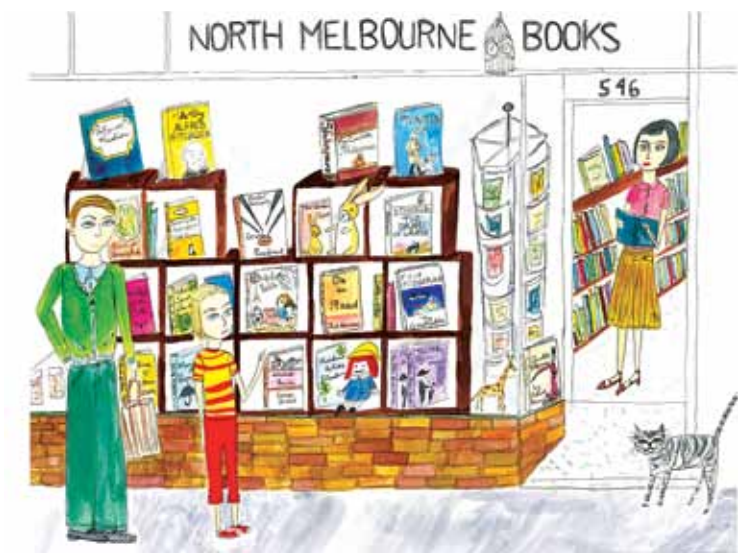
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adambandt.com

THE GREENS

Authorised by D. Lawson, Australian Greens, GF1 296 Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC 3065.





The whimsical image on the bookshop's monthly newsletter.

# Pages of pleasure

Felicity Jack

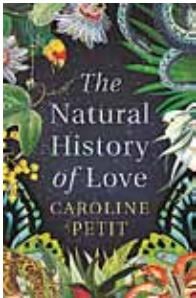
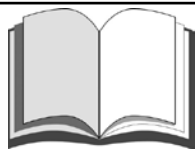
North Melbourne Books in Queensberry Street opened its doors 10 years ago. At the time, I wrote about the bookshop's launch in the 2012 winter issue of the *News*. I said that the two proprietors, both named Chris, were brave to open the shop, but in my mind the word 'foolhardy' seemed more appropriate as big retail chains were then closing their doors. It was assumed that the ease of online shopping would bring about the demise of the walk-in bookshop. Not so! The Chrisses (Hubbard and Saliba) had obviously researched the local community well. Since then, their knowledge of the book industry and their excellent service have been valued by their clientele. While North Melbourne Books occupies small premises, the range of books stocked is extensive, and there is an efficient ordering system. The Chrisses share their knowledge via a subscription-based monthly newsletter that outlines a range of recent publications and includes interviews with interesting authors. North Melbourne local Lew Hess speaks warmly of the bookshop. "It has been an oasis for me in these very turbulent times. I've immersed myself in a wide range of literature and the shop's online service enabled me to transcend the strictures of COVID and

to nurture both my head and heart." With lockdown behind us, Lew is again able to make an almost daily pilgrimage to the shop. "I'm able to bury myself in all things books, engage in interesting conversation with Chris Saliba and Chris Hubbard, and gently agitate for them to also open in the evenings." The bookshop's newsletter keeps everyone informed. At its top is a painting by American artist Vivienne Strauss. The enigmatic cat in the doorway particularly appeals to me. There are a great many tales about cats for children of all ages but two stand out. *John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat* by Jenny Wagner was a great favourite with my children and grandchildren because it deals with basic human emotions – loneliness, possessiveness and compassion. *The Cat that Walked by Himself*, one of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories, is a classic that I read time and again. You can, of course, visit your local library to borrow these books. However, as you'll probably want to read them again and again, it will be more satisfying for you to head off to North Melbourne Books. My only problem is temptation. There are so many books I would love to buy, balanced by the constraints of time and space.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Chris Saliba



**The Natural History of Love**  
Caroline Petit  
Affirm Press, RRP: \$32.99

Melbourne, 1902. Lawyer Nathan Smithson takes on a case involving two brothers, Edward and Charles Fonçeca. An inheritance is at stake and Charles wants the controlling interest. Charles, a violent alcoholic, declares Edward is illegitimate and therefore has no claim. To sort out the truth of the matter, Nathan must uncover the exotic history of the brothers' parents, who settled in Melbourne in 1861. Brazil, 1852. Their father, François, is a French naturalist working in Brazil when he is almost killed. Saved by Tupi Indians, he is taken to a farm run by the Fonçeca family. Sixteen-year-old Carolina Fonçeca soon falls in love with the much older dashing naturalist. They begin a passionate love affair, but François is already married. When François and Carolina's union brings two children, a legally fictitious father is created for Charles and Edward. Based on real events, *The Natural History of Love* is an extraordinary story – exotic, passionate and fascinating. Caroline Petit skilfully creates a gorgeously intimate narrative based on the imagined diary entries of François and Carolina, with lawyer Nathan Smithson tying up loose ends into a cohesive whole. Absorbing and entertaining historical fiction that takes the reader on a wild journey.

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



**Fortune's Fool: Australia's Choice**  
Satyajit Das  
Monash Uni Publishing, RRP: \$19.95

Satyajit Das is a former derivatives trader turned author. He is a familiar face on television chat panels and has written several well received books on global finance and economics. In *Fortune's Fool: Australia's Choice* (part of the 'In the National Interest' series of long essays), Das gives a brief but succinct overview of all aspects of the Australian economy. His analysis finds the old problem that Donald Horne addressed in *The Lucky Country*: we have relied too much on good fortune and failed to innovate our way to prosperity. Currently, according to Das, Australia relies too much on "houses and holes". We have a perverse property market that encourages exorbitant prices and we rely too much for income on volatile commodity prices from our mining sector. To maintain our current lifestyle, we'll need to invest the country's income more wisely rather than promising tax cuts and encouraging consumer spending. Increasing or extending the GST will one day have to be confronted. Tackling climate change may even require a reduced standard of living. The tough lesson we must learn is that while reform is necessary, it doesn't always promise success. But not acting will ensure failure. Grim but fascinating reading.



**Elisabeth and the Box of Colours**  
Katherine Woodfine.  
Barrington Stoke, RRP: \$12.99

Elisabeth lives with her family in Paris. The time is long ago. She is a little girl who loves to paint and draw. Her father is also an artist. One day Elisabeth is sent to a boarding school on the other side of Paris. Things don't work out so well. The building is grey and depressing. Her teacher, Sister Augustine, confiscates her colourful crayons and sternly makes Elisabeth stick to her lessons. Life is unrelentingly gloomy. Then things take a very dark turn when her father dies. Seeing Elisabeth's obvious grief, her schoolmates organise some simple pens and paper for her. She draws an image of her father and starts to feel better. Finally Sister Augustine returns Elisabeth's colourful crayons and she can start to find proper healing in art. Based on the life of French artist Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun (born 1755), *Elisabeth and the Box of Colours* is a delightful yet gently melancholic story for young readers. Katherine Woodfine captures the charms of an imagined 18<sup>th</sup> century Paris in her simple descriptions of people and places. Coupled with Rebecca Cobb's sensitive watercolor illustrations, this chapter book is a wonderful gem. 5-8.

# Chris surfs 10 years of literary waves

**Chris Saliba answers Lizzy Footner's questions about the first decade of North Melbourne Books.**  
**How do you feel on your 10th birthday?** Older! Although it has been nice to watch our younger customers grow, from burping babies to chatty children to precocious readers.  
**How are you celebrating the big day?** Indulging in fine dining and a bottle of something special. Here's the menu: chips from the Haines Street chippie and a Pepsi Max.  
**What's the most satisfying aspect of the decade?** When we opened it was received wisdom that bookshops were dead. People thought we were mad. But the experts and pundits were wrong. Bookshops are awesome!

**What's the funniest thing about the journey?** Two young girls, about 8 or 9, were parading around the shop with a massive teddy bear they'd bought at an Op Shop. The bear looked just like a customer too.  
**Do people get you and co-owner Chris Hubbard mixed up?** No, but some customers have been mistaken for us. One local tells me complete strangers cheerily greet him as "Chris". They think he's Chris Hubbard!  
**Which single book has been the most popular over the decade?** All our books are popular. But if I must choose I'll go for *Beautiful World, Where Are You?* by Sally Rooney, followed by Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu*.

**Any regrets about opening the shop?** Yes – but only one. That we didn't open up sooner.  
**Has there been an unforgettable customer?** One woman told me she was a dance instructor and launched into colourful tales about the tango community. I'd like to say more, but wouldn't want to shock your genteel readers.  
**Which Chris really runs the bookshop?** The shop runs itself. We merely surf its literary waves.  
**What of your plans for the future?** That depends on what the publishing industry has planned for us. Writers are always dreaming up new books. Expect to find them one day at North Melbourne Books.

Lizzy Footner writes regularly for the *News*.





# *mantelpieced photos* (Bill Hannan)

memories of this premiership  
will be imprinted in our minds forever  
until we turn the soil  
and end up in the ground

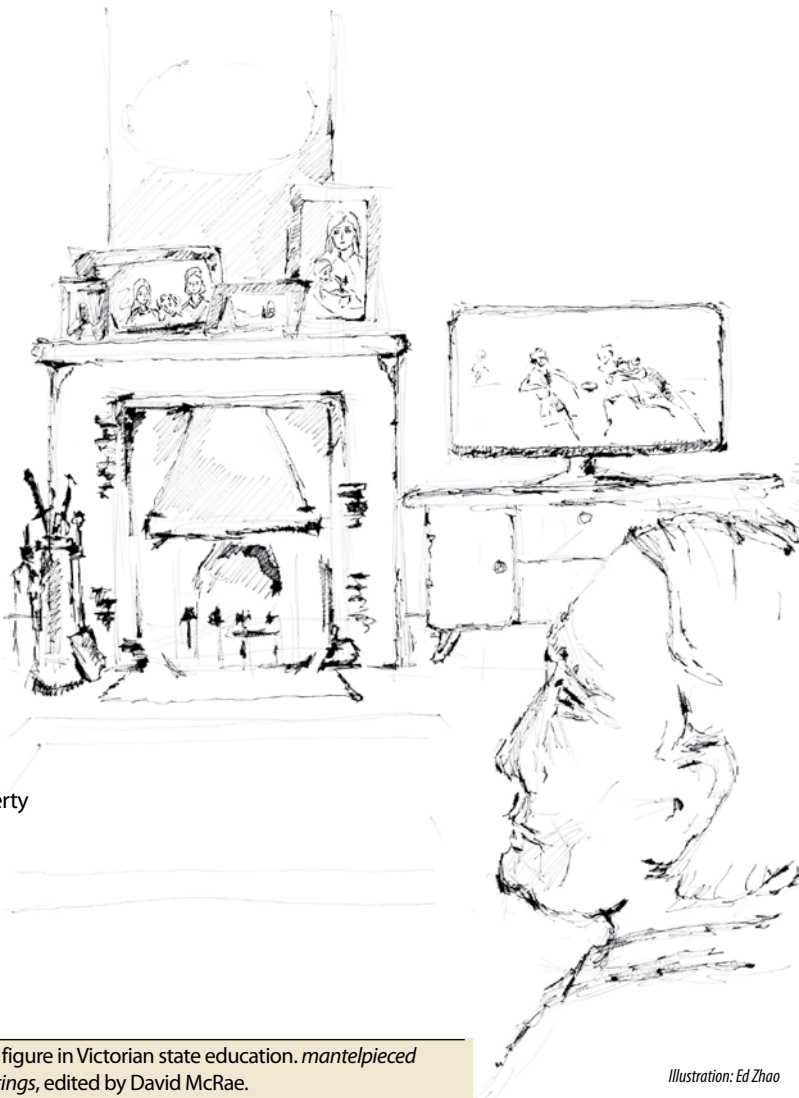
exceptional sentiments from a footy coach  
I thought as I watched the tele  
and surely a witness to how  
he's lifted his battlers to the heights

next to the tele on the mantelpiece  
stands a handful of family photos  
intended of course to bring back the good times  
supposing the past times forever remain good  
that photo of little me and my sister  
me leaning my curls on her shoulder  
she in the best dress mother could buy  
has become a memory of lost times

the joy my mother had scraping  
to afford a posh photographer  
whispers behind the frame but now  
my sister is dead and I have grown old

long dead too is my mother  
photographed in mid-life looking solemn  
I hear her sing as I remember her bouts of madness  
and marvel at how she crafted our way through poverty  
next to that sits our eldest daughter  
with her first child taken two decades ago  
looking more alike than they do now  
reminders of the passing generations

I wonder should I keep such potential for gloom  
on the mantelpiece facing our television room



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

## THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell



### We need free Wi-Fi

During COVID, many people in our neighbourhood didn't have access to the internet at home. They included kids and parents trying to support home learning. Even though many schools and community groups provided free laptops and devices, lack of internet access was the big problem. Some kids camped outside libraries in the cold, using their free Wi-Fi. Many students had to 'hotspot' off their parents' phones or ration who got access to the internet at different times. This was just because families couldn't afford enough data, or simply couldn't get good coverage, especially in public housing high-rise towers. This made home learning difficult. I also heard from many public housing residents in North Melbourne about how the lack of access to the internet increased feelings of social isolation. With community rooms in public housing buildings closed, it was difficult for many residents to participate in online activities, create online communities or stay in touch with friends and family. This was especially important for those in our community who had moved to Melbourne from other countries. The internet can be costly when juggling other bills and expenses. Depending on the housing estate, it can be tricky to get it installed. And if you've ever had to call your internet provider to deal with a problem, you'll know how hard trouble-shooting can be, let alone with English not being your first language. So, after working with the local community and groups like North Melbourne Language and Learning, I've been pushing the state government to provide free or subsidised Wi-Fi for public housing tenants and called for it to be funded in the 2022/23 Victorian budget. Unfortunately, the Labor government did not take up my proposal in this budget. However, I recently met with the Treasurer to raise the issue and re-present my costed proposal for free Wi-Fi in public housing towers. I remain very hopeful we will be able to make it happen this year. I'm pleased that the budget did, however, include \$23 million for much-needed fire safety upgrades in public housing high-rise towers in my electorate, not only in North Melbourne but also Carlton and Kensington.

**Want to know more?**  
If you'd like more information on this, or if there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch: [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com)

## KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

See page 23 for the answers.  
Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Here are 30 names from North Melbourne's premiership teams (1975-77-96-99)

Abraham	Anderson	Archer	Baker	Blight	Burns	Cable
Carey	Cassin	Clayton	Crocker	Crosswell	Davis	Freeborn
Grant	Greig	Harvey	Kekovich	Montgomery	Nolan	Pickett
Pike	Rock	Schwass	Simpson	Stevens	Sutton	Tanner
Wade	Welsh	Can you link them to these clues? (They're either cryptic, obscure or simply silly.)				

1. I'm a synonym for a great pestilence

2. I'm a rhyming word for a German castle

3. I'm Sammy's son, a singer and dancer

4. I'm a gambling den if you just add an O

5. I'm the middle name of JFK's nemesis

6. I'm a Springbok-born English skipper

7. I'm what we do at street zebra markings

8. I'm into lamb, you know it makes sense

9. I'm a painter of the Kelly Gang series

10. I'm the Allies general in North Africa
11. I'm a dozen-maker, unlucky for some

12. I'm untouched by vassalage or slavery

13. I'm linked to Sagittarius in astrology

14. I'm a star of Bazza McKenzie's films

15. I'm a singer of the dad and son chat

16. I'm brought to mind by auld lang syne

17. I'm in my dreamtime, not climbable on

18. I'm a saver of men on a faithful donkey

19. I'm a singer of the land of my fathers

20. I'm a true teller of the Kelly gang tale
21. I'm ready for filicide as an angel comes

22. I'm a choice when you really have none

23. I'm a suburban fence in Howard's idyll

24. I'm a fish, I'm a weapon and I'm a dive

25. I'm in the shallows as I move in water

26. I'm a leathery type with animal skins

27. I'm the cutest face of Vic. public health

28. I'm a net connection and knitting stitch

29. I'm a never-Grimm writer of fairy tales

30. I'm Ulysses, a Unionist in an uncivil war

### News extends digital footprint

North & West Melbourne News is a community institution. If you are reading this, you probably familiar with what the paper offers. However, many people rarely engage with the printed word. To ensure the News is available to everyone in our neighbourhood, we will be expanding our digital presence over the next 6-12 months. Digital issues of the News are available at [centre.org.au/nwm/](http://centre.org.au/nwm/) but this next phase will take us into uncharted waters. If you, or someone you know, can help with this transformation, please email Ariel at [arielv@centre.org.au](mailto:arielv@centre.org.au) (The printed newspaper will continue to be delivered.)



**Premier Health  
Partners**

### Prioritise your physical and mental wellbeing

It's heartening to feel the optimism and sense of busyness reviving among the community as we all slowly refill our calendars with events, social occasions and even travel.

If you haven't already, come and visit our new space in West Melbourne located at 8 Wominjeka Walk. Our beautiful new clinic has lots of room for our practitioners and patients and free underground parking; we'd love to see you.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS · OSTEOPATHY · MYOTHERAPY · OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH · PATHOLOGY · 03 9329 7077





# The Centre Courses & Activities (June–Sept’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 30 June and 7 July**  
**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 28 June and 5 July**  
**Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne**

**Timetable:** Pilates classes operate according to the school term timetable. Term 2 concludes in week commencing 20 June. Term 3 starts in week commencing 11 July for 10 weeks. Extra school holiday classes where marked.  
**Costs:** \$19.70 (\$14.40 concession) when booking for remainder of term. Casual enrolments (\$25 per class) accepted on-line where available.

### Yoga

A class designed to help you feel great, by Premium Fitness. Rainbow Stretch Forever.  
**Sundays 8.30 am**  
**Melbourne City Marina, 120/439 Docklands Dr, Docklands**  
**Also see ‘For Kids’ Rainbow Stretch Forever**

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 13 July 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.**  
**Casual enrolment \$18 online if available**  
**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. \$55 (\$44 Concession).  
**Fourth 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.  
**First Tuesday each month 10 am – 11.30 am (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. **FREE**  
**Thursdays (fortnightly), 2.30pm-4pm**  
**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. **FREE**  
**Second Tuesday of the month, 6pm- 7.30pm**  
**The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**

### 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**



## Creative Pursuits

### Sing NoW Community Choir

A renewed version of the much loved Errol's Angels. Join 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 7-8.30 pm (starting 30 June for 10 weeks except 30 June and 7 July)**  
**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**

### North Melbourne Toastmasters

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

More information, email: [Nthmelb.toastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:Nthmelb.toastmasters@gmail.com)

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

### Life Writing

Designed for women from non-English speaking backgrounds, participants will have the opportunity to write about a memorable event, place or person in their life. The subject can be happy, sad, easy, hard and include people, places and events. Participants will increase their confidence in both writing and speaking English. Facilitated by Jennifer Leslie, a qualified and experienced ESL instructor, writer and editor. **FREE**

**Fridays 1pm-3pm (starting 15 July for 10 weeks)**  
**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**

### Rainbow Art Class

Experienced art teacher Shyamasree Bose will guide children in a colourful exploration of drawing and painting, using watercolour, acrylic, oil pastels, paper collage and pencils. Suitable for creative kids aged 4 to 12.

**\$100 (\$12 casual if available)**

**Tuesdays 4:30pm-6pm**

**(starting 12 July for 10 weeks)**

**The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**



### Rainbows Stretch Forever: Yoga, Breath & Meditation for Kids

Children will practise yoga poses and learn breathing and meditation techniques. Classes will also include literacy, music, singing, games, teamwork building activities, mindfulness craft and loads of fun!

**\$154 (\$16.50 casual online if available)**

**Saturdays 11am-12 noon (starting 16 July for 10 weeks)**

**The Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)**

## 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 13 July 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 27 July for six weeks)**  
**The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne**

## Vocational 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**

### 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**



Autumn has been a busy time at The Centre. While I succumbed to COVID in April, we have all emerged from the shadows of the virus that turned our world upside-down.

Our neighbourhood is transitioning: some things have been coming back to life while others are winding up. It's been great to see shows on at Arts House, we've had community gatherings large and small, and City of Melbourne even hosted a committee meeting in West Melbourne.

With the cohealth 'health concierge' service due to finish shortly, a big thanks to all those champion frontline community workers who provided advice, support and health information at the North Melbourne public housing estate towers.

One other thing that has drawn to a close is our community needs analysis. Local resident and expert consultant Sarah Dyer and The Centre's community development coordinator, Alex Gyles, identified those parts of our local community whose voices are seldom heard.

We're grateful to the young Muslim women, international students, older Vietnamese people and many others who have contributed to a series of insightful conversations.

Read about the key findings and recommendations below.

## Busy autumn at The Centre

### FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



The Centre has been actively involved with many events in the last couple of months.

The Spanish Language Fiesta was a triumph. Congratulations to Yulay Perez and team on an outstanding day of cultural sharing.



I got into the spirit at Holi in Docklands.

Hip-hop in the Park was a surprise hit with families, and Holi in Docklands was full of colourful fun. We hosted a Great Aussie BBQ for international students, welcomed the community to a poignant Anzac Day ceremony and trialled more than a dozen programs at the Come & Try Day.

The Centre is always interested in delivering programs that respond to community needs and aspirations. Some new activities include Rainbow Art Class for children and Life Writing for women from culturally diverse backgrounds. See pages 20-21 for course and activities details.

The Centre was delighted to secure funding from Development Victoria to continue the Docklands Neighbourhood House (no longer just a Pop Up!) program at least until the end of this year.

Finally, we recently celebrated National Volunteer Week. Some of The Centre's 100+ volunteers gathered in the new Errol Street parklet for a casual afternoon tea.

Patricia Harwood was recognised as our volunteer of the year, saluting her many years of faithful service as a volunteer for the Home Away From Homework Club. Longstanding

reception volunteer Karen Kirsopp was also recognised as a super-volunteer.

Our next big event will be the inaugural Queensberry Cup, a billy cart race to be held in spring. Also including food, music and games, this free community event aims to involve our local community in all aspects. See page 15 for more details. Please do get in touch if you would like to volunteer and give back to the community. There are many ways to be involved.



Patricia Harwood and Karen Kirsopp show off their certificates.

## Community Needs Analysis looks to The Centre's future

The Centre's important Community Needs Analysis has been completed. The following key points are drawn from the consultants' executive summary.

The Community Needs Analysis (CNA) was undertaken for The Centre by independent consultant Strategic Development Group between September 2021 and March 2022. The purpose was to provide information that will inform the development of new and creative ways for The Centre

to engage with diverse communities in the suburbs of North and West Melbourne and to better meet their identified priorities and needs.

### From Community Overview

North and West Melbourne has a growing population, with an increasing number of younger professional people. Most residents live in private rental properties, with fewer owner occupiers.

A smaller, but significant, number

live in public and social housing.

Cultural, language, social and economic diversity are strong community characteristics. This diversity was consistently identified by interviewees. Another strong and recurring positive community characteristic is connection between the community members. Informants often spoke about more localised connection between specific groups that is location based or through social, cultural or language ties.

### From Recommendations

- Key recommendations include:
- Continue to reach out to different groups in the community in culturally safe and accessible ways.
  - Dedicate resources to support meaningful engagement and collaboration.
  - Promote the value and benefits of diversity through community-located events and activities.
  - Increase the visibility of The Centre.

- Ensure community representation in The Centre's staff, volunteers and governance.

### Want to know more?

The Centre's board has resolved to accept all recommendations, and these will be the key drivers of The Centre's new four-year strategy that is currently being developed.

To read the executive summary and the full report, go to [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au)

**RAINBOW ART CLASS**

Commences every Tuesday afternoon, 4:30pm - 6pm from 10 May with Shyamasree, \$10/class

Venue-The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Call us now at: **0393281126**

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

CITY OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA

**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.



NOTICEBOARD



The *North & West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers predominantly from North & 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 & 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 \$20 per year (four issues) sent to anywhere in Australia.

Volunteers

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

Editor: Maurice Gaul

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Advertising: Janet Graham

Distribution: Rashi Jain

Proofreader: Suzie Luddon

Photographer: Jim Weatherill

Illustrator: Ed Zhao

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**DO YOU ENJOY:**

- Helping your neighbours and sharing your skills and knowledge with others?
- Meeting like-minded people and making new friends?

If you said 'yes', join us at the Docklands Repair Cafe on the fourth Sunday of every month!

**DOCKLANDS REPAIR CAFE**

On the 4th Sunday of every month 2pm-5pm

Docklands Neighbourhood House is looking for people who are passionate about mending, fixing and tinkering and who have experience in repairing:

- \*Clothing and textiles
- \*Electrical and small appliances
- \*Bicycles
- \*Jewellery
- \*Furniture and wooden items
- \*Electronics

We are also looking for volunteers to provide general support with set-up, visitor registrations, social media promotion, photography/video, etc.

If you would like to know more call us at the Centre on 9328 1126 or email [jasonb@centre.org.au](mailto:jasonb@centre.org.au)

If you would like to register as a volunteer for the Repair Cafe scan the QR code or call the Centre on 9328 1126



A project by



**YOUNG@HEART DANCE CLUB**



**FUN DANCE CLASS FOR SENIORS**  
ALL LEVELS, GENDERS AND ABILITIES WELCOME

MONDAYS  
12:00PM - 12:45PM  
LEGION HALL,  
GEORGE JOHNSON LANE  
(BEHIND NORTH MELBOURNE LIBRARY)

BOOKINGS: 9328 1126 OR  
[ADMIN@CENTRE.ORG.AU](mailto:ADMIN@CENTRE.ORG.AU)



Get involved through The Centre

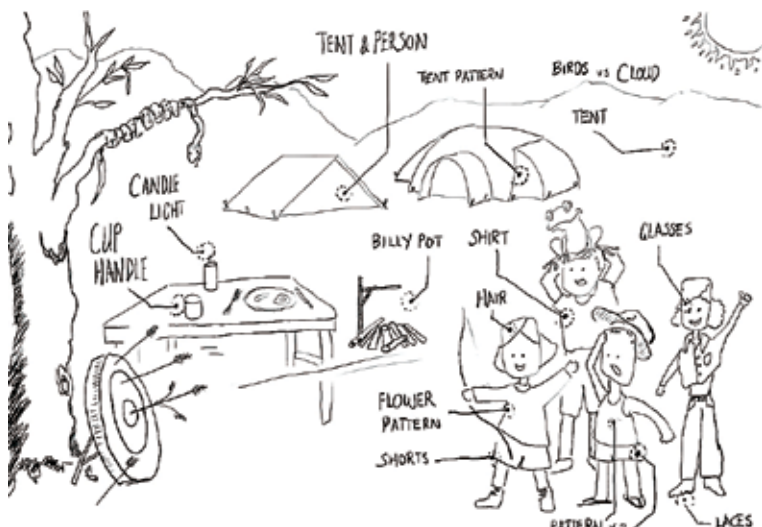
Looking for a volunteer opportunity? The Centre has lots of them, from office administration to event management. Or we can point you towards other organisations that also rely on volunteers.

Take a walk with a purpose

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

If you are interested, please email  
[admin@centre.org.au](mailto:admin@centre.org.au)

Spot the Difference (page 14) answers



Kryptic Kwiz (page 19) answers

1. Blight 2. Schwass 3. Davis 4. Cassin 5. Harvey 6. Greig 7. Crosswell 8. Kekovich 9. Nolan 10. Montgomery 11. Baker 12. Freeborn 13. Archer 14. Crocker 15. Stevens 16. Burns 17. Rock 18. Simpson 19. Welsh 20. Carey 21. Abraham 22. Clayton 23. Pickett 24. Pike 25. Wade 26. Tanner 27. Suddon 28. Cable 29. Anderson 30. Grant

Learn how to share your story

Jennifer Leslie will be running a new class at The Centre giving women from non-English speaking backgrounds the opportunity to write about a memorable event, place or person in their life. Here she shares her thoughts on the course.



practice and that includes reading published authors to see how they structure their work and use language. After that, it is important to develop your own voice and not be afraid to use it. Complacency is the death of creativity and originality.

Q: Why is this course for women with English as a second language?

A: I have lived and worked in several non-English speaking countries and included life writing into English language courses. One of the outcomes of using the language in a personally creative way can lead to a deeper understanding of culture, past and present. The sharing of stories leads to greater understanding of each other irrespective of cultural origins.

Q: Will the course include grammar and other language skills?

A: Yes, but only insofar as these skills are necessary for communication. This is not an ESL course.

Q: Why is it for women only?

A: Initially, I think women work better together when discussing personal matters. With confidence and experience that changes. I think the same applies to men.

Q: Only six participants. Why such a small group?

A: A small group provides the opportunity to establish a group rapport and trust. That is an important feature of any writing group that deals with personal experience.

Q: What interests you about life writing?

A: Life writing provides flexibility. Any subject can be written about whereas autobiography and biography follow established rules. Not everyone wants to write about their entire lives. Some people might want to write about an event, person, place or thing that left a lasting impression or changed their life permanently. The experience can be happy, sad, easy or hard. Not all life changing experiences are traumatic.

Q: What is your experience?

A: I have interviewed people from different cultures and been influenced by their experience, insights and in most cases, general humanity. My main writing interest is literary fiction. I write on a daily basis and am currently completing a collection of short stories.

Q: Do you have to be a writer to do this?

A: No. I don't think writers are born. I think writing skills develop with

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)

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

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: [advertising@centre.org.au](mailto:advertising@centre.org.au)



# Step into art and history ... just look down

Words and photographs by  
Nancy Lane

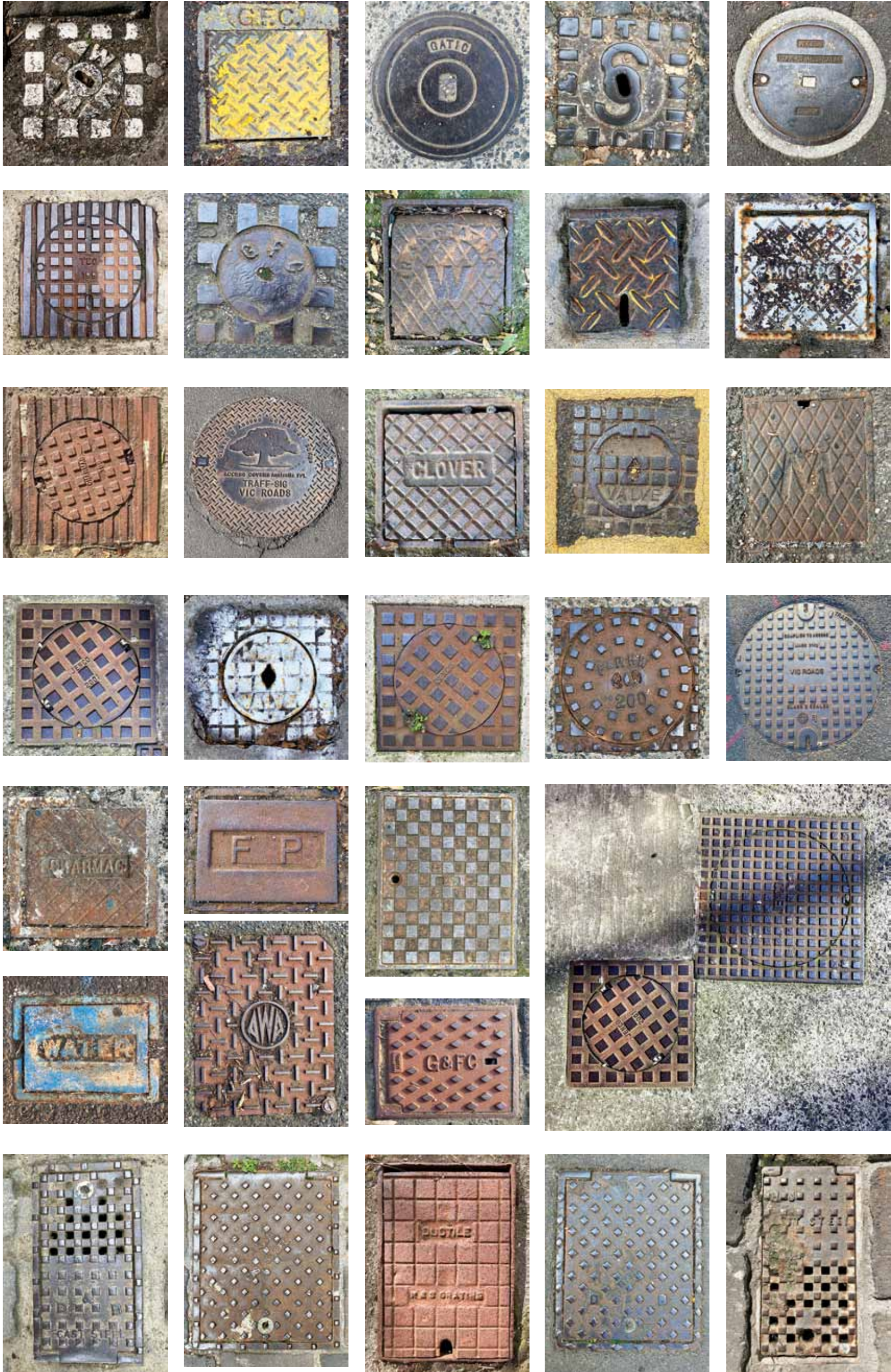
During COVID lockdown, I was called on to suggest activities to educate and entertain my grandchildren. Remembering back to rubbings I'd made of Mayan glyphs in Mexico, I suggested the best equivalent within a kilometre radius: manhole covers.

North and West Melbourne footpaths sport a wide range of them, more recently called access or maintenance covers. Your children – and you, too! – can experiment with coloured pencils, crayons or chalk using different types of paper to see what works best for making the rubbings.

If your curiosity gets aroused in the process, a blog published a decade ago describes some of their local history ([wongm.com/2012/07/melbourne-manhole-covers/](http://wongm.com/2012/07/melbourne-manhole-covers/)).

I was pleased as punch to receive framed 'originals' of the grandkids' artworks for my birthday (see below).

So get your crayons ready.... and head out on the footpath!



Rubbing of Mayan glyph by Nancy Lane



H by Annija Cook, then aged 6



Danger Electricity by Talis Cook, then aged 9