

# Lithuanian Club is a doorway to a world of activities and culture

Harry Patte-Dobbs

Open the door to the Lithuanian Club in Errol Street and you might think you've just stepped into an embassy. The stately corridor with crossed flags leads into one of the area's many buildings that contain so much more than meets the eye.

I'm greeted by Viv Alekna. A club member for more than 50 years, Viv has returned after retirement to assist the organisation. The club really does do it all, with a 300-seat theatre and a ballroom that have hosted University of Melbourne society gatherings, the Melbourne Fringe Festival, plays, concerts, and even German opera.

"On various days during the year, we have concerts," Viv says. "We have Lithuanian folk dancing, choir concerts and occasionally we even put on a play. Overall, we operate for the community."

We wander through the many halls and event spaces to perhaps the main attraction: the restaurant, and of course, the bar. The space is used every Sunday for fundraisers.



Viv Alekna. Photograph: Harry Patte-Dobbs

"We have a common lunch, organised by various Lithuanian communities like the choir, the scouts and the folkdancing groups. People come in to try our traditional food," Viv says proudly. The rich fare includes latkes (pan-fried potato pancakes) and the national dish, cepelinai (meat encased in potato dumplings). Each Sunday's organising group keeps any profit.

"People come in here for lots of reasons," Viv grins. They don't necessarily have to have any connection to Lithuania, as I see when we poke our heads into the ballroom, a space usually used for parties and weddings.

"At the moment we have a very unusual performance," Viv says. *Breakaway Party of Heaven's Temple* is Melbourne-based playwright Nicholas Lah's new work that examines meditation, performance and the symbolic.

Nicholas will play the sitar and be joined by five actors to create a soundscape and an interchanging of roles while they play games of luck. Each night's performance will be unique.

As we leave the club, Viv points to a photo of himself as a young man, half a century ago, standing and smiling in a group of club members.

Harry Patte-Dobbs writes regularly for the News.

**Want to know more?**  
Check out the club at 44 Errol Street. You might find the perfect event space to host or to see a show, to join a Lithuanian language class or just grab a bite to eat. There are social lunches every Sunday. <http://www.lithuanianclub.com/>.



Join Santa and the Angels in Docklands at 2.45pm on 12 December and in Errol Street at 7.15pm. Photograph: Errol's Angels

# 'Tis the season to sing along

Tom Seddon

I spend my day as director of The Centre trying to keep our many activities on track. Alas, finding the money to pay for them is another question. But I digress.

Perhaps my personal favourite among our programs is Errol's Angels Community Choir. I look forward each Thursday to singing for a couple of hours with Maryanne, Kath, Alan, Pam, Dick, Judy, Eva, Kate, Rosie, Anthony, Martina, Helen, Jillian, Imogen, Lauren, Anna, Julie, Mark, Mary, Sarah and Trish.

Many years ago, back in my native USA, I toyed with the idea of a career in music, and I played the piano in a couple of restaurants. My last-ever paid gig was Mother's Day 1989 at the Vernon Manor Hotel in Cincinnati.

The Manor made cameo appearances in a couple of movies over its lifetime, most notably where Tom Cruise tries to order a pizza from room service in *Rain Man*.

Instead of piano I chose law school, which, combined with a passion for rugby, brought me to Australia. Nearly 30 years later I joined The Centre.

Not long after that I went along to an Angels' practice. I was there because the choir was incorporated separately from The Centre, and it seemed to me a waste of time and money to run two companies where one would do.

Since I had to wait until the mid-practice cuppa to get the chance to talk this through with choir members, I sat in the first hour and looked at the mostly unfamiliar sheet music over others' shoulders. By the time we got to the Mamas and the Papas' *California Dreamin'* I was hooked.

I've been back most Thursday evenings since and I've sung with the choir at Spring Fling, in the foyer at the new Peter Mac hospital, in Errol Street at Christmas and elsewhere. Singing is a joyful experience and I always leave practice or a performance with a smile.

Errol's Angels sing a variety of standards from the 1930s and '40s, a bit of rock, some world music,

original music and even pieces in Latin. You don't need to try out or know how to read music (or Latin!) as choir leader Maryanne Clements teaches for all levels.

Our Christmas performance is coming up. Don't miss the Carols in Errol Street on Thursday 12 December!

Tom Seddon is director of The Centre and sings with the Angels.

**Want to know more?**  
Errol's Angels practise during school terms on Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm at the Maternal and Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne. We usually perform in public 4-6 times a year.

**CENTRE OPEN HOUSE**  
The Centre is celebrating the season with an Open House on Wednesday, 18 December, 4 – 7pm Drop by 58 Errol St and say hello. All Welcome!

INSIDE





## Vale Verena Augusti

28.8.1945 – 19.9.2019

Alba Gatto

Verena Augusti arrived in Australia in 1969 as a 24-year-old with her Italian-born husband, Angelo.

After a few years, they bought their first and only home in Lothian Street, North Melbourne. Verena was a seamstress for most of her working life.

After the loss of her husband in 2008 Verena put her energies into many activities, including delivering the *News* and learning the computer at The Centre. She greatly enjoyed the bus trips and morning teas organised by The Centre.

She joined the Italian Pensioners Club of Kensington, the Swiss Club and the Inner Melbourne Life Activities Club. She was also a longstanding member of the North and West Melbourne Association.

Verena loved socialising, dancing and travelling. She travelled extensively throughout Australia. Every two years she would visit Switzerland to see her family. She spent her 74th birthday in August this year with them.

Verena loved Australia's beauty and its animals, birds and plants. She was an avid gardener and a cat-lover. She left behind her two cats, Oscar and Lily, which she adored. They are now in the Lort Smith's care, being prepared for rehoming.

Another of Verena's passions was the Queen Victoria Market.



Verena Augusti. Photograph: Alba Gatto

She went religiously twice a week. It was just as much a social occasion as to buy fresh fruit and veggies, as she would catch up with friends over breakfast or a coffee.

On a Sunday afternoon in late October a large gathering of Verena's friends, neighbours and two of her nine siblings from Switzerland met in Lothian Street to remember her and talk about what she meant to us. Her brother Fritz and sister Rose were able to gain an insight into Verena's Australian life.

Verena was a loyal and caring friend, humble and decent. It was with deep sadness and shock that we learned of her grave illness. We were, however, comforted in the knowledge that she was with her family in Switzerland until her untimely death. Our thoughts are with them.

Vale, Verena. We will miss you.

Alba Gatto is a long-time friend and neighbour of Verena.

## Georgina's key to a joyful life

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

Georgina Bartonek's deep brown eyes sparkle as she recalls her few good memories of World War II in her native Czechoslovakia.

Born in Susice near the German border in 1933, she now uses her inquiring mind at Tuesday evening social excursions, Wednesday's Centre lunches and a gentle weekly exercise class.

"The world is just completely different now, but I don't let anything bother me," she giggles, while brewing a pot of luscious coffee in her spotless apartment near the Czech Club on Queensberry Street.

"Problems have almost overwhelmed me all my life, but I relieve them by writing them down," she says. "If you put them all down on paper, they are separate and then relieved. It won't solve them, but it will reduce them and let them stand apart from you."

As she speaks, her delicate hands are rifling through shelves of personal letters filed during turmoils including Hitler's wartime devastation, 50 years of a hard marriage, medical pains and the deaths of many loved ones.

Her pains are eased by 30 years of stamp collecting. "I love collecting stamps, but now I get them together for other people," she says.

"I was christened Jirnia (Yirn-ya), but no-one could pronounce it," she smiles. Fortunately her Czech birthplace allowed her to



Georgina Bartonek at home in North Melbourne. Photograph: Jim Weatherill

be schooled in German and this somewhat protected her from Hitler's rule.

But it couldn't save her from being placed in a children's camp from 15 to 17. "This was tough and the little food was terrible, but youthful energy meant we danced and did sports after school. And I met my future husband, Meriek, there," she smiles.

With a grasp of English due to her mother's influence, Georgina, just 17, sailed to Australia after the war. After arriving at Port Melbourne she was sent to Bonegilla migrant camp near Wodonga. "I vividly remember the stunning green colours of the trees, especially after 35 days on a dark boat at sea," she recalls.

"But the next times were hard," she frowns. "We were hated when we arrived and the children would not even speak their parents' language with them."

In the 1950s the family bought a home in Regent, near Preston. "We had come here with two suitcases and nothing else. We had to be very careful with money to save for furniture, but we stayed there 50 years," she smiles.

"The key to a long life is having the right attitude. Some people are happy with money and possessions, but I have an inner happiness. I'm so happy here in my little home because joy comes from my heart."

Katrina Kincade-Sharkey writes regularly for the *News*.



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# Arts House 2020 program explores our Asian neighbours

Claire Wilcock

You can be sure that 2020 is going to be a big year at North Melbourne's Arts House. You will find an action adventure musical, an opera about feedback and spectacular light shows from Japan. This year Arts House had a big focus on local artists with dancers, actors and musicians featuring in the line-up. Next year will begin with our neighbours from Asia taking to the stage. Asia TOPA is a festival that shines a light on work created by artists from Asia as it celebrates the creative imagination of artists and cultures in the broader Asia-Pacific region. Two shows will be coming to Arts House in February.

The action adventure musical, *Are You Ready To Take The Law Into Your Own Hands*, is by Sipat Lawin and Friends from the Philippines. In the show, the Philippines' biggest pop star has been kidnapped and it's up to a ragtag squad of fans to bring her back. The neon-drenched adventure that follows is set to 40 years of Filipino pop, vaulting from 1970s peace anthems and iconic Pinoy power ballads to contemporary Filipino hip-hop. In *What is Chinese?*, Shanghai artists Xiao Ke and Zi Han share what they've uncovered from interviews with more than 140 members of the Chinese diaspora. They asked two simple questions. First, what is Chinese? And second, is it a country, a culture, a community or an identity?

A scene from *What is Chinese?* by Xiao Ke and Zi Han. Photograph: Arts House



Find out in this work that's part documentary, part performance and part exhibition. In April, *Spectral* will dazzle the senses with a series of works that dive into the spaces between sound and light. From elevator muzak reimagined to magical works from Japanese artist Shohei Fujimoto, these installations, performances and much more will all demand to be witnessed firsthand. Following a record-breaking season in 2019, *Spectral* 2020 is guaranteed to be one of the hottest tickets around. And finally the feedback opera! Next May, as part of *Next Wave* – a festival that showcases work from new and emerging artists – Arts House brings two brand new

shows to the North Melbourne Town Hall. Dancer Ivey Wawn's *In Perpetuity* will explore how we can maintain a spark of magic in our lives in the face of the daily struggle of earning money, while Marcus Whale's *Possession* is a solo performance that celebrates the high drama and craft of opera through electronic feedback. Claire Wilcock is marketing manager at Arts House.

**Want to know more?** Remember that anyone living in North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Kensington or the CBD can access discounted LOCAL tickets for all these shows. Use the code LOCAL when booking at [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.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) or call in at The Centre in Errol Street.



## Community Comment

Suzie Luddon headed down Errol Street to ask locals where they would really like to live



**Tom (55), Centre director, Malvern London.** I've loved that beautiful city for 40 years. I lived there for two wonderful years a long time ago, and there was always so much to do there and see.



**Emily (35), visual merchandising manager, North Melbourne** Melbourne. I came from England and I've lived in London, but I love living here in Melbourne. It's a great place and the weather is so much better than in England.



**David (50+), retired, North Melbourne** St Andrews in Scotland. The weather's beautiful, it's got the best weather in Scotland. It's got two sea frontages and it's a delightful and clean town. And it's the home of golf.



**Juliette (69), housewife, North Melbourne** North Melbourne. Why not? I love the area and I love the local community. I've lived here for 30 years. My house is close to everything that I want or need.



# Say 'hello' to Antonino when he's out for a stroll on our streets

Laura Misale

Antonino Misale puts on his classic cap and blazer and takes to the streets of North Melbourne. The sprightly 94-year-old offers a smile and a wave to everyone he meets. He has lived in the suburb since he arrived in Australia 68 years ago from Messinadi in Italy. "On the ship there were Italians, Greeks, Maltese. We all come for work and better life," he says. After he stepped off the *Roma* at Station Pier, Antonino moved into a boarding house on Rosslyn Street. He stayed there until 1958 when he married Venezia Borgia and they bought a home in Queensberry Street where he still lives. The double-storey house, with an outdoor toilet and shower, cost £1,600 (\$3,200). "I tell you, it cost lot of money," he grins. Within five years, he and Venezia had three



Antonino Misale  
Photograph: Laura Misale

boys – Agostino, Giovanni and Vincenzo. Antonino fondly remembers Venezia spending her days cooking and making clothes for the family. At the Queen Vic market she would pick a live chicken and engage in some cheeky haggling. "They say ten

dollars for meat and she say 'No', offer five then walk away then they give in and she pay seven," he laughs. After asking for the chicken to be killed, Venezia would shop for fresh ricotta, crusty bread and olives. Once a year Peel Street would fill with country folk and their trailers full of grapes so that people could make their own wine. "We had a barrel in backyard and Uncle Nando come and make wine with me," Antonino says. "And we make sauce every year for pasta with fresh tomatoes." For Antonino's boys, life in North Melbourne was simple. With few passing cars, they could safely kick a footy in the street. "We just had to avoid breaking factory windows," Agostino smiles. Other rituals included Sunday mass at St Mary Star of the Sea and North Melbourne's games at the Arden Street oval. "We'd wait outside the ground and keep any footballs that came over," Vincenzo said. The boys sold the *Footy Record* and newspapers at the Shakespeare Hotel on Dryburgh Street. "When the *Herald* went up to seven cents, we got tips from people offering ten cents," Vincenzo says.



Antonino's sons – Agostino, Giovanni and Vincenzo – in December 1970.

He also recalls making billy carts after school. "We built them out of scrap timber from the factories, and whatever we could find. We would make the wheels from ball bearings." Antonino earned a meagre wage as a labourer for Victorian Railways. "We work with pick and shovel, we do things hard way," he says. Even in his holidays, he would take work at the Bulla Cream factory on Arden Street. "I never say no to work." The Misale home was never

short of love. Every second Thursday, on payday, he would come home with a family-sized block of Cadbury's Dairy Milk chocolate as a treat for the boys. While chickens are no longer killed on site at the market and nearly all the faces in the area have changed since he arrived in 1951, Antonino still happily spends his days walking the streets of North Melbourne. "The trams are good, you don't need car. Everything nearby, there are shops, post office, chemist, everything you want; you can walk everywhere," he smiles. He flashes his Myki card, a very modern concept for this otherwise old-fashioned man. He remains quietly proud that his own two hands helped build parts of our suburban railways. Antonino stills greets everyone he meets, even though he might no longer know their names. "Everyone different now, there are people from lots of countries, but they all very nice," he says. When you see him out on the street, be sure to say hello. Antonino would like that.

Laura Misale is a new contributor to the News. She is proud to be Antonino's granddaughter.

## Rotary Awards honour local volunteers

Neville Page

North Melbourne Rotary recently held its annual Phonse Tobin Volunteer Awards Night in front of a full house at the Mercure Hotel in Harker Street. The Tobin Awards began 26 years ago when Rotary recognised one volunteer each year at the club's then regular lunchtime meeting. The event is sponsored by Tobin Brothers Funerals in memory of co-founder Phonse, a foundation member of our branch and past president of North Melbourne Football Club. Selba Gondoza Luka from Afri Auscare was recognised for the enormous community impact of her work within Melbourne's African community.

Katrien Janssen, a longtime volunteer at North Melbourne Primary School, was honoured for her energetic involvement with school activities and fundraisers. Bill Liddy has volunteered in North Melbourne for more than 50 years. He has been active in the football club, a cycling club and The Centre. He has recently become involved in the historical society and takes regular tours around the local area. Each recipient was interviewed as part of a professionally produced pre-recorded video of their volunteering journey. It was played on the night. The three received a framed certificate and a cheque for \$500, as well as a copy of *Just A Man Called Phonse*, written by Phonse's son Des. Des attended the function and was particularly pleased to recognise Bill Liddy. He said he could remember being helped by Bill when he was a young footballer. We were delighted that so many of Bill's family and friends were present to witness him receiving his award.



Frances Tobin, Selba Gondoza Luka, Katrien Janssen, Bill Liddy & local Rotary president George Zindilis. Photograph: NM Rotary

Neville Page is secretary of North Melbourne Rotary.

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# Hotham homework club gives a helping hand

Neysa Charlton

Hotham Mission provides community outreach and support to some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups in North Melbourne and neighbouring suburbs.

One of its many successful programs is the homework club run at the North Melbourne Community Centre in Buncle Street.

The aim is to provide a safe and positive learning environment for local children who come to get help with their homework from our wonderful volunteer tutors.

Amy\* is in grade 2, a little younger than our usual grade 3–6 range, but she is an example of how we help children who need a hand. Her mother is deaf and unable to speak with Amy, leading to her developmental delays with speaking and writing.

Hotham Mission believes that all children deserve the right to a positive education and so we were happy to welcome Amy into our club. Over seven months, she has grown both academically and socially with the other children.

Amy's journey began when we paired her with club tutor Danielle, who had volunteered for four years before joining us as a support worker. With a varied background in finance and cake making, she has brought a patient and caring nature to her work with Amy.

"Amy was so shy and quiet and her confidence was low. We started developing her literacy skills by creating story panels and working on her reading," Danielle says.

"Initially it was hard as she would shut down if she was struggling with the work and she wouldn't express how she was feeling. But as her confidence grew, she got to know the tutors and the other kids in the program."

After each session, tutors run an activity or educational game to promote critical thinking and team building. The other children were always very supportive and they helped make Amy feel comfortable.

While she still needs help with schoolwork, her confidence has grown dramatically as she is now more able to communicate her problems. She has opened up to both the tutors and the other children and is more independent with her thinking.

Seeing Amy grow and become happier is why we at Hotham value the homework club. As we observe the progress children make, be it in their social development or just in grasping a maths problem, we know that our work is useful.

Our homework club fosters compassion and helps our children grow into confident young adults.

*\*name changed*

Neysa Charlton is youth programs coordinator at Hotham Mission.



Homework Club in full swing. Photographs: Hotham Mission

## Look what's popped up in Docklands

The Centre is extending its mission of 'Connecting Community' into the Docklands. With funding from the City of Melbourne, The Centre is operating a Pop Up Neighbourhood House in Docklands until June 2021.

Until at least April 2020, the Pop Up will be located next to the Bank of Queensland at the Wharf Street entrance to The District Docklands shopping centre, only metres from the Docklands Drive tram terminus of routes 70 and 86 and the City Circle (route 35).

The Pop Up is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am – 3pm, for information, referrals, a chat and cuppa, maybe a board game. Ask about our Homework Clubs, which will expand to Docklands in 2020. Or just drop by and say hello!



Centre interns Jason Butcher and Ivano Abram with The Centre's Community Development Coordinator Carolynne Venn outside the new Pop Up Neighbourhood House.



Amy is happily involved in the Homework Club.



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# The challenge of finding a home for everyone

Tim Cremean

Recently we had a new neighbour opposite our house. This homeless man set up his bedroom in the bushes against the windowless side wall of the Mercure Hotel across the road.

The hotel reception faces the main road. Clearly he was out of sight and out of mind as far as they were concerned. Local well-wishers brought him comforts such as an innerspring mattress and blankets to add to his suitcase and other worldly belongings.

The police dropped by more than once, but he would be literally out for the day at those times. Then, just when he was becoming a local fixture, he disappeared and never returned, leaving his bedroom to be cleaned away a few days later.

As Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp said recently, homelessness is complex. As I see it, while there are many services, troubled people may not always connect with what is on offer. Mental illness clearly plays a big role in the plight of the fully

homeless actually visible on the street.

The old Ozanam House used to leave cardboard and blankets out in the adjoining lane for those who came too late or were too antisocial to be admitted.

Locals may remember the perpetually walking Scotsman who preferred to sleep in Royal Park. During the day he could be seen pacing the streets, pushing a shopping trolley of his belongings, or occasionally playing his bagpipes in the park.

North Melbourne does some heavy lifting when it comes to the homeless. Local services include two Salvation Army accommodation centres and what is now Australia's largest integrated service, the brand new 10-storey Ozanam Homeless Hub in Flemington Road.

As well as providing various levels of accommodation and meals, this hub also offers health and dental care as part of a holistic personalised approach to recovery.

I know a family of refugee teenagers who had a falling out with their adult sponsor and needed immediate



The new Ozanam House. Photograph: Tim Cremean

accommodation. North Melbourne's Wombat Housing helped them with short-term accommodation and food vouchers until they could be permanently resettled. All four are

now completing tertiary courses. This was a fantastic rescue that allowed them to continue secondary studies at a crucial time in their lives and it has resulted in them living meaningful lives and

being able to make a future social contribution.

If you know someone in danger of homelessness, you can find support on offer. There are five state-funded Access Point Services for the homeless in our North Western region with Unison Community Housing in Footscray a nearby contact.

As well as disturbing rises in mental illness and domestic violence, Australia is experiencing a widening gap between rich and poor. The housing outlook for retirees is worrying given that home ownership rates for this group are projected to fall sharply within a generation.

The great Australian dream of home ownership is likely to be no more than a dream for many. This is due to a cocktail of low interest rates, rising household debt, soaring house prices and unsympathetic tax policies.

Part of the rising demand for homeless support services is just the tip of this iceberg. Sadly, many people are being priced out of their need for shelter.

Tim Cremean writes regularly for the News.

# A map in her mind guides Genamarie all around the town

Rosalynd Smith

Genamarie Richards knows North Melbourne like the back of her hand. This is fortunate because the vision-impaired local woman now navigates the streets using a cane.

She developed a mental street map during the years that guide dog Gypsy helped her get around. But now it's her cane that safely guides her around the streets and as she heads to the market, to Carlton for shopping or to Kensington for her computer classes at Vision Australia.

"I've lived in North Melbourne, on and off, since the early 1980s," she says. "Back then the ambience was different as there were fewer young families and none of the lifestyle-oriented cafes of today."

Genamarie recalls the many local op shops, the famous sausage rolls at Mario's and the passing parade of the many eccentric characters. "North

Melbourne seemed full of locals born and bred in the suburb," she says.

These days she loves walking for miles around the district. Her favourite routes lead around the gardens and through the university. "I just wish the green spaces were increasing rather than becoming a little scarcer every year," she says wistfully.

Genamarie's activities go well beyond walking. A talented singer who studies ballet and yoga (she's a qualified teacher), she also takes part in the surfing program run by the Disabled Surfers Association every summer.

This takes a lot of effort. "There's my early Sunday morning trip by tram, train and sometimes bus to get to Ocean Grove in time to register by 8.30am," she says.

She loves her time in the surf and enjoys the barbecue staffed by Rotary volunteers whom she has come to know well. "The only downside is the long trip



Genamarie Richards. Photographs: Rosalynd Smith

home with a damp wetsuit in my backpack," she smiles.

"I also started playing blind tennis. I was reluctant at first because I wasn't very good at ball games at school." Blind tennis places a premium on hearing, with players guided by a bell inside the ball.

Just eight years on, Genamarie is now in the Australian team. "I've travelled to Spain twice for international tournaments,

as well as to Japan where blind tennis was invented," she says with pride.

She's just got back from Adelaide where she competed in the inaugural Australian tournament. And she was honoured when her team won an award at the recent Tennis Victoria awards night.

For all her sporting success, Genamarie still feels most at home in North Melbourne. She

loves her favourite cafes and thinks the area, with more young families, is now more interesting than in the old days.

But she also yearns for those simpler times. "I love listening to the old-timers' stories and I wish there was still an op shop," she laughs.

Rosalynd Smith writes regularly for the News.



# IPCS changes build on a history of exploration

## Carlos focuses on the future

John H. Smith

Carlos Eduardo Morreo is the new executive officer of the Institute of Postcolonial Studies in Curzon St, North Melbourne. “The institute has been very important to me,” Carlos says.

“Phillip Darby’s influence previously introduced me to an interesting group of students and I became involved. Since then, researching and teaching postcolonial approaches to politics and international relations has become my life’s work.”

Carlos explains how the institute has allowed him to pursue his interests. “It makes space for voices from the global south to be heard. As an undergraduate I organised a major program examining the changes taking place in Latin America when radical and left governments came to power in the early 2000s.”

He grins broadly as he



Carlos Morreo outside the IPCS. Photograph: IPCS

mentions his first role at the IPCS. “Phillip gave me the grand title of ‘Latin American Research Initiatives Convenor.’” Later, when the executive office position became available, he seized the opportunity at once. “I knew I wanted to be involved in the institute’s next phase,” he says.

His vision for the future is simple. “The IPCS will continue to be a home for critical thinkers, performers and activists, who put global politics, cultural processes and economy under the spotlight, as well as ongoing forms of colonialism that affect us in many ways.”

He realises there is much work to do to successfully achieve the

vision. “Australia’s past and present colonial history must be critically examined. And knowledge from the global south can help strengthen the bonds of coexistence amongst people,” he says.

For Carlos, the IPCS is an important project. “It offers scope for collaborating between Melbourne’s communities and our members, students, academics, writers and others, to think about, and put into practice, new ways of belonging.”

His new role has certainly fired his imagination. “Being part of something that is growing is exciting,” he says.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

## Melinda seeks to create lively hub

John H. Smith

Anthropologist Melinda Hinkson explains how she came to her position as director of the Institute of Postcolonial Studies.

“In 2016 I was invited to convene a discussion panel for the institute and it evolved from there. Phillip Darby proposed to the council that I be appointed as associate director,” she says.

“In the lead up to his retirement, and with his strong support, I nominated for the position of director.”

Melinda is keen to build on the IPCS’s proud history. “We develop exciting programs based on important creative intellectual work that is not constrained by the outcomes expected in universities.”

Her approach developed from her passion for social justice and community. “We are living in times when urgent pressures



Melinda Hinkson with the mike at an IPCS meeting. Photograph: IPCS

cause many to think critically about what it means to coexist on the planet.

“As an independent educational institution, we are able to address these challenges and, in the process, to help build new communities,” she notes.

Melinda’s mission is to make the IPCS a local sanctuary to explore ideas on the edge of knowledge.

“I want to bring local residents, students, artists, activists and scholars together to create a place that fosters new relationships between people, and new ways of responding to situations we all face.”

Her dream is to create a local program that brings together research-based

knowledge with practical, community-based expertise and experience.

“We particularly support performance and creative formats. Our events are more dynamic than you might find in university seminars,” she smiles.

Melinda has no illusions about the challenge ahead. “It will take a great consortium of visionary, energetic people to counter the discrimination and violence in the world,” she says.

“I want our institute to be a lively hub of activity that contributes to building a just, inclusive and robust community life.”

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.



# St Michael's North Melbourne

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# St Michael's street library adds to book culture

Rita Totino

Reading is a special part of the school day at St Michael's Primary in Brougham Street.

Our children love to read and their daily reading time is important as it allows them to escape into another world and let their imaginations run free.

It is also a way of learning about the amazing things in our world and to understand that world more fully.

Every classroom has its own book corner filled with fiction and non-fiction books. There are also interest-based books about space, dinosaurs, magic, cooking, gardening, history of wars and much more.

St Michael's has also developed a street library, our own book nook, which is a home for books. It holds a position of pride at the front of our school.

The street library grew from our desire to share our love of reading with our local community. We know that some children and adults don't have books at home. Our library is our way of helping others share the same enjoyment that we get from reading.



St Michael's students enjoying the magic of books. Photographs: Rita Totino

We are proud that two of our year 6 students, Rocky and Timothy, developed the design brief for our street library's artwork.

"Our inspiration came from Royal Park across the road from school. We wanted to highlight the beauty of the open space and the little creatures that live there," Timothy said. "Reading is a gift, just like our park and native animals".

The boys met with the artist Jemma Attwater, who also happens to be one of our mums at school. Jemma was thrilled with the concept. "I hope I can fulfil their ideas and expectations," she said.

The street library is now well stocked. The books are well loved and are accessible from the street. They are an open invitation to share the joys of reading with our neighbours.

The system is simple. Books

come and go, no-one checks them in or out. If anyone has a book or two that they think others would enjoy, you can just pop them in at any time. The library is always open for business.

Feel free to simply reach in and take any books that interest you,

return them or even pass them on to friends.

St Michael's book nook is based on trust and respect. It is a tiny sanctuary of reading delight.

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



St Michael's students find that books are a real page-turner.



Pick up a free book – or drop one off – in the St Michael's street library.



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# What a capital idea for a school trip for Simonds College boys

Luke Scerri

Simonds Catholic College recently took our year 9 students to Canberra. The aim was simple: to give the boys a better sense of their studies in civics, science and the humanities.

For many of them it was their first trip out of Victoria. Eight long hours on the bus were punctuated with some important stops to stock up on lollies. The resulting sugar hit kept the boys awake during some marathon film sessions of *Remember the Titans* and *Coach Carter*.

We said hello to Ned Kelly in Glenrowan, patted the dog on the tucker box in Gundagai and finally arrived in Canberra. "It was so cold and so quiet, very different to Melbourne," student Yosef Meselu said.

The boys stayed in a youth hostel, sharing rooms, but spent most of their time running between the rooms. The food was great and they met lots of European backpackers. I admit that the teachers won the battles for the prized couches in the common area.

Over the next three days, the students visited many of the capital's attractions. We attended question time in parliament and heard our local member, the Greens' Adam Bandt, rip into Pauline Hanson's charges that women lie about domestic violence.

We then headed to the Australian War Memorial to view the fascinating exhibits. For student Patrick McCartin, this was the highlight of the trip.

"The World War 1 display was really

interesting as we've been studying this at school," he said.

Kidus Shumye found the exhibitions on the recent involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan more to his liking. "This was so good. I liked them because these are modern conflicts," he said.

We also visited Questacon (the science and technology centre) and the Australian Institute of Sport. Both offered the boys plenty of hands-on experiences, ranging from fiddling with magnets, wheelchair racing, and seeing who could throw tennis balls the fastest.

At the National Gallery and the National Museum, we were guided through some of Australia's most significant artistic, cultural and historical exhibitions.

While we were there, a rare snowfall hit the Mount Ainslie lookout. "It was the first time I've ever seen snow," said an excited Garnar Chokeun. The boys were thrilled to get on the local WIN TV news.

After three hectic days, it was time to head home on the bus. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience life in a different city, to learn about our nation's government, and to spend valuable time with their classmates and teachers.

"It was great being in Canberra with my mates, having a laugh and a joke. And I also learnt lots of interesting things," Ruben Popczyk said with a smile.

Luke Scerri is year 9 coordinator at Simonds College.



Boys from Simonds at Parliament House. Photographs: Luke Scerri



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Nunga, the Wonder Dog, and I sit in Sydney Road trying and hoping to find Walter. I had met him on Thursday, given him my number, but for some reason I didn't get his. I take him home for 'Tea and Oranges', a la Leonard Cohen's *Suzanne*. Oddly, he didn't know the date. I've become hung up on him. Walter, Walter, wherefore art thou?

★★★

He hasn't phoned. This is our fourth day in a row on Sydney Road. Yesterday I think I found the place near Brunswick station where he said he had a squatt-ery. But I couldn't find a way in and saw no disturbance of weeds or grass showing recent ingress. I'm sitting here, on the corner of Alfred and Sydney, hoping he happens to go by.

VERY IMPRESSIVE

★★★

The Uluru Handback. There have been so many PMs since 1985. As a Kiwi, I've no idea when Bob Hawke made the agreement to return Uluru to the Anangu people. I'm sure all PMs since have known that if their term lasted long enough, they might be the one doing the handover. It certainly wasn't going to be Tony Abbott.

★★★

And not ScoMo either. He claimed the date didn't fit in his calendar, either though it was set long ago. Nor did it fit into the calendar of any of his cabinet

members. I've learnt lots about Uluru recently. In 1872 the explorer Ernest Giles called it "the remarkable little pebble". It is made up of arkosic sandstone, laid down more than 500 million years ago.

★★★

The odd thing about the sandstone is that not only is it a giant rock a mile-and-a-half deep but it also sits at an impossibly weird 85-degree angle. A



giant red-brown rock, floating in space at such a bizarre lean that it could be seen as a crashed interstellar craft that has been disguised as a rock. Or is that just my bizarre imagination?

★★★

The other oddity about Uluru is that it was meant to feature in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. As Bernadette says: "That's what this country needs: a cock in a frock on a rock."

But doing that on the rock was not allowed so they went to King's Canyon instead. Offending the ancient gods is never good. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land.

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

Take a ride to explore Melbourne's 'other' river

Fellow guerrilla riders, today I have an enjoyable two-hour ride for you. No uniform or carbon fibre rocket required. Today, we head to Port Melbourne with a cultural diversion to improve your mind.

To start, head down to the Capital City Trail under the freeway and pedal south. This can be busy at peak times so go carefully. Pedal along the Moonee Ponds Creek and the rail yards and you'll soon come to Footscray Road.

Cross over to Costco, keep on the trail as it passes the unfinished vertical primary school, then continue on through the Docklands. Your intellectual diversion will be the City of Melbourne's Library at the Dock.

To get there, turn right at the 10-storey National Bank building. You'll spot the library's wooden exterior at the end of the Bourke Street extension. Its three

WHEELS ON FIRE  
Tim Cremean

storeys include an art gallery and coffee shop.

It's a great place to chill out as you look down on Victoria Harbour.

Browse the many magazines, perhaps even borrow that book on the meaning of art, and then it will be time to push on.

Return to the Capital City Trail, cross Bourke and Collins streets and take the Jim Stynes Bridge along the Yarra, then cross over at the next pedestrian bridge to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This brings you to Spencer Street on the south side of the river.

Push your bike for a block till you reach Normanby Road, where you'll pick up the excellent bike path that parallels the light rail down to Station Pier. Remember that the path squeezes by the tram depot so be sure to turn in there.

You'll know you are on the right track because Melbourne's Tramcar Restaurant trams are all parked there. After the squeezey bit it opens out into parkland and eventually Beacon Cove, which always reminds me of *The Truman Show's* Toytown.

At Station Pier your choices are endless. Maybe ride along the

beachfront to Bay Street for a coffee at Noisette. Or pedal past the *Spirit of Tasmania* to that great beachside café on the bike path at Middle Park. If you brought your bathers this is the place for a refreshing splash.

From there, wind on past the St Kilda foreshore and grab an ice cream on the pier. Then it's on to St Kilda Marina and the skydiving centre. Look up and you find spot the backpacker thrill seekers landing on the grassy strip.

Last stop is my favourite. Try Sandy By The Bay, the little café on Jetty Road behind Trevor Barker Oval. As the sun sets, you can pedal home knowing that you've engaged with a very different part of Melbourne.

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

A wee stop at the start paid off in the long run

Race morning is always full of excitement and nervous energy. Melbourne Marathon day is finally here, and I'm paranoid I'm going to forget something. Race bib, check. Chocolate milk, check. Running belt, check. My stomach is churning, I don't want to eat my porridge, but I know I'll need the energy.

I empty my nervous bladder for the last time, and it's time to go to the start line for my half marathon (21.1 km). Pyrotechnics set us off and I soon realise this race is very different to the Parkville Parkrun. People are elbowing and nudging to get past, not exactly the respectful dodging I'm used to, but I understand their urgency.

I'm running with 37,000 people. The massive crowd becomes painfully

MARATHON GIRL  
Thea Oakes

obvious when after a kilometre a bottleneck slows everyone to a walk – not ideal for those seeking personal bests. I don't even bother to start my music as the sound of thousands of feet pounding the concrete is soothing enough. I hear people yelling and whooping, creating the best running atmosphere I've felt.

At the 12 km mark, I start my music and luckily every song gives me the extra energy I need. Bonus tip: *Don't Leave Me This Way* by The Communards is perfect for your running playlist.

Drink stations are a big challenge. Drinking from a cardboard cup while running is not a skill I've yet mastered. The liquid ends up all over my face, and only a small amount makes it into my mouth, unless I stop and walk. And don't even get me started on water burps.

Despite my conscientious pre-race toilet stop, I still end up busting during the run. I enviously stare down each toilet we pass while some runners stop to go. But I'm determined to keep running. I tell myself that no

personal best is achieved by stopping.

Finishing at the MCG is a priceless experience and of course I score some new running bling. Best of all, I realise I've run the half marathon in one hour, 58 minutes. That's better than I could ever have imagined!

The previous night Eliud Kipchoge ran the first sub two-hour marathon. And the night of my race, another Kenyan, Brigid Kosgei, ran a world record for the women's marathon. What a weekend of running achievements, for them and for me.

I'll leave all you keen runners with a tip: stay hydrated during this hot summer. And don't slosh it all over yourself like I did.

Thea Oakes writes a regular running column for the News.



John Widmer

You can travel to any place in the world and waterways, creeks and rivers are the sites of towns. Melbourne is no different. Obtaining water and an efficient way to remove waste were the two primary functions of Melbourne's creeks.

Moonee Ponds Creek certainly still has the latter function, but with litter traps installed at strategic points to deal with the waste.

After extensive consultation, the City of Melbourne has finalised a plan for 'our' bit of the creek. A quick search will find the document, *Draft Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan*, on the Participate Melbourne website.

The plan has won an Award of Excellence from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. Elizabeth Clarke of *The Age* writes: "Linking both new and existing communities, it is predicted to set new standards for water management and sustainable development."

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek have been active in dealing with the issues that confront the creek today. Residents and supporters have recently been planting on the western bank. The small plants are responding to the steady rains of the past two months. These plantings



North and West Melbourne Association

have been the most successful revegetation activity of the last few years.

If you wander along the creek between Kensington and North Melbourne you will see a freshly planted *Indigofera australis* and even an *Acacia* species in full bloom. Beware, though, of cyclists rushing past you on the eastern side of the creek.

Melbourne Water contractors have been carefully clearing the extensive litter-trap system near Racecourse Road. That part of the creek is often alive with large numbers of white ibis.

The area around the new North Melbourne station site will become a densely settled part of the suburb. This area, known as Arden, sits alongside the creek.

The tolled CityLink viaduct sits alongside and above the creek in northern North Melbourne.

If the Federal Government succeeds in getting the abandoned East West Link project reinstated, this would also consume air space above the creek. Would this be in the interests of the current residents of North and West Melbourne and of Moonee Ponds Creek itself? Flyovers already cast shadows over much of this stretch of water.

It is significant that City of Melbourne has 'signed off' on the *Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan*. A plan, however, is just that. Action and outcomes are an entirely different matter. It is not easy to see how the plan can bring change. The document openly discusses the challenges. They are immense.

The control of flooding is the principal problem. For instance, Stubbs Street on the Kensington side of the creek still floods during major rainfalls, despite the operation of flood pumps.

Nobody could argue with the plan's aspirations. There is, however, a problem with the jurisdiction of government in Australia. Which arm of government is responsible for what? We often see plans stymied by 'blame shifting'. How do we move the plan to action?

Perhaps the residents who got out their shovels and planted the seedlings in August will show us the way.

John Widmer is the North and West Melbourne Association's representative in Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek.

**Want to know more?**

North and West Melbourne Association meetings are open to the public and take place on the third Tuesday of most months at 7.30pm at the Bastow Institute, 603-615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Our next meeting will be on 18 February 2020. For further information email [info@nwma.org.au](mailto:info@nwma.org.au) or visit [www.nwma.org.au](http://www.nwma.org.au).

Walk into history

Felicity Jack

In North Melbourne, the streets are alive with the sound of literature. We have a Byron Street, and Lothian, Dryburgh and Abbotsford streets are all echoes of Sir Walter Scott.

I assumed that Arden Street was associated with the idyllic Forest of Arden in Shakespeare's pastoral comedy *As You Like It*. But browsing through the Hotham History Project's latest venture that aims to make our neighbourhood history accessible as an online resource, I discovered that a George Arden had a colourful life followed by a tragic death.

George arrived in Melbourne in 1838 aged 18. Within a fortnight he launched the *Port Phillip Gazette*, the first legal publication in Port Phillip. He was a keen lecturer and through talks and publication he encouraged the public to embrace the idea of a national literature.

However, other newspapers began to compete, and George's vitriolic and passionate temperament led to his decline as a businessman. He became bankrupt and in 1852 he went to the goldfields to try to regain his fortunes through mining.

It did not go well. In 1854 he was found dead on Bakery Hill in Ballarat. According to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*,

"he was dismissed by his peers as a man of talent and power cut down by his own intemperance".

The website [www.melbournestreets.com.au](http://www.melbournestreets.com.au) tells the "stories and history of what you see when you walk around the streets of North and West Melbourne – the architecture, the families, the characters and the evolution of today's suburbs".

This ambitious online project can be found through the above link, or through the Hotham History Project website, [www.hothamhistory.org.au](http://www.hothamhistory.org.au). It aims to maintain a record of all the significant buildings and landmarks of the area with their history. Collection of stories and data has already commenced.

This important resource will enable us to record valuable information that can be drawn on when buildings are redeveloped or demolished, as our suburbs change to make way for a growing population. Photographs are uploaded wherever possible, both contemporary and historical. Details of the architect, builder and current and former residents may also be included.

If readers have information or photos of their house or their street, contributions can be sent to [melbournestreets1@gmail.com](mailto:melbournestreets1@gmail.com).

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.



An acacia in full bloom on the banks of Moonee Ponds Creek. Photograph: John Widmer

**Want to know more?**

Hotham History Project researches and records the history of our surroundings and runs regular events – walks, talks and workshops. Since the Project began in 1995 a number of books have been published and can be purchased through the website. In 2004 the Project published Guy Murphy's history of one particular house at 519 Dryburgh Street, At Home on Hotham Hill: A Portrait of a Nineteenth Century Entrepreneur. Next year Guy will give a talk on what further research has revealed about the history of the house. 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).



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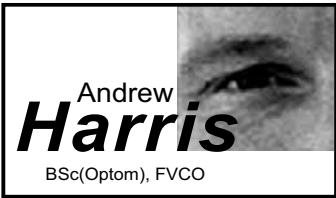
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# A journey into the past for adoptee

Tilly Gwinner

**P**auline Ley's story will break your heart. Adopted out after her birth 74 years ago, she battled against the odds for decades in her ultimately successful search for her biological parents.

In 1989 Pauline co-founded VANISH, a centre in North Melbourne's Howard Street, that supports and assists people affected by adoption. She remains a patron of the agency, and last year was awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

She was born in Perth in 1945 to an unmarried mother whose church arranged adoption to a Melbourne family. It was a common solution to that era's shame of illegitimacy. "Some people think that if you remove a baby at birth, put it in the arms of another woman, then what can a baby know?" she laments.

At 16, Pauline found out she had been adopted. "It was a relief to my adoptive mother that I finally knew," she says. But it was only at 24, when pregnant, that she felt the need to find her birth mother. "It was sparked by my relationship with my child in utero. I felt so closely connected."

Her adoptive mother provided the vital clue of a likely surname, Robertson or Robinson, on the original adoption order. There was now no turning back for Pauline as she embarked on a search that would shape her life.

Just a year later, she met her birth mother, Bet, and acquired a ready-made family of two half-sisters, an adoptive stepsister and a grandmother. "Bet had lived all those years with the secrecy of my birth. We later kept in touch, but my relationship with her wasn't easy, she was defensive and felt guilty," she says quietly.



Pauline Ley. Photographs: Tilly Gwinner

For Pauline, meeting Bet changed her life. "I realised that people who had an experience like ours were on their own," she says. Back home in Geelong, she shared her story and began assisting others search for their birth families. She set up the Geelong Adoption Program and started supporting people across Victoria.

A breakthrough came in 1984 when Victoria reformed adoption laws and granted people access to identifying information. In 1989, when Pauline was 44, she co-founded VANISH, which has since assisted many people in their search for long-lost birth parents or adopted-out children.

While Pauline had found Bet, there was one remaining puzzle. What of her biological father? When she had quizzed Bet, the answer was: "It was a long time

ago, I can't remember anything." When Bet died in 2009, Pauline accepted sadly that she would never find him.

However, both online services and DNA science had grown rapidly. In 2011 a friend urged Pauline to send a saliva sample to Ancestry DNA. The response left her stunned. "When the DNA results came back, I found I had half-Jewish heritage. It was just bizarre," she smiles.

On Ancestry.com, Pauline found an open profile of Barbara, a fourth cousin. A retired art teacher living in New York, she herself was currently working with a genetic genealogist to trace her own extended family history.

The two women traded information to see how they fitted into each other's families. "We

exchanged over a thousand emails. Barbara has been my Rock of Gibraltar over the journey," Pauline smiles.

There were even more exciting revelations. "In 2017, for the first time, I found a close DNA match on Ancestry. It was with a 15-year-old girl in America interested in genetics," Pauline says, her voice rising with excitement. "Her grandmother, Lea, is my first cousin and the family confirmed my father had been in Perth at the time I was born."

It was the breakthrough she had been seeking during decades of private searching and public advocacy for policy reform. It enabled her to find the father she had never known, the father she had feared to be lost forever. "It felt surreal. I just went numb," she says.

Her father, from an Orthodox Jewish family, had enlisted in the US Navy at 18 and served in World War II as a submariner in the Pacific. In early 1945 he had been in Perth as his submarine underwent repairs. It was there that a fling with Bet had resulted in Pauline's birth.

He died in 2004 without knowing he had a daughter. However, the discovery enabled Pauline to connect with her half-brother, Barry. Her eyes shine as she tells of their meeting and how they have retained contact.

"He came out to Australia to be sure it was true. He's closer in age to my son and daughter, and they connected with him in a big way. My four grandchildren think he's super cool, and he adores them. Barry never married, but now he has his own family."

*Tilly Gwinner is a new contributor to 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 were the criminal cases heard in the North Melbourne court. Here are some of the stories that ran more than 120 years ago in the first week of summer – the very week you're reading this.

### Kate is forgiven by her brother (1885)

Kate Nolan was charged with stealing £50 from her brother, Patrick. Instead of depositing the money in the bank, Kate bought a ticket to sail to New Zealand. She was caught in New Zealand, sent home and tried for robbery. However, loyal brother Patrick, after paying her passage home, then refused to press charges.

### A reekin' mess on Wreckyn Street (1887)

Local butcher Mr Sutton was charged with allowing decomposed animal matter and offensive liquid to flow from his premises into Wreckyn Street. Although the quaintly named Inspector of Nuisances had previously cautioned him from doing so, Sutton blamed the affair on the carelessness of his employees.

### Caught out under the caretaker's bed (1888)

Philip Welch was charged with breaking a window at the local school. Police found him under caretaker Mary Blaron's bed, clad only in a shirt. Welch had earlier threatened to burn the school down. After explaining he had taken a little too much beer, he was given three months in jail.

### Take the train to Castlemaine (1888)

Charles Russell, an elderly coloured man, was charged with vagrancy. Clearly well educated, he made a sweeping bow to the bench and said he was a phrenologist, an analyst of bumps on the skull. He had been found drinking water out of the gutter. He was put on the next train to Castlemaine, to live with his son.

### Catching a nap in the churchyard (1888)

Annie Jones was described as an "old colonist" who had lived in the area since 1852. However, she was charged by Constable Dunlop after he found her sleeping in the grounds of St Mary's church in Queensberry Street. The report said she had "a good deal of dignity", but the court gave her a month in jail.

*Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.*

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# A taste for more than tea

Nancy Lane

“Sit on it, drink from it. If you like it, you can buy it,” says Judy Steel, as she explains the concept behind The Errol Street Merchant. Her vision is to provide high quality tea with taste. To her, taste means not only flavour but also style and ambience. Judy opened The Errol Street Merchant at 100 Errol Street just months ago. The shop is an unusual cross between a tea merchant, a tasting room, and a shop specialising in vintage furnishings. “This mix is my concept,” Judy says. “I have had to make it come to life.” First and foremost, this is a tea shop. It stocks teas imported from George Cannon, a fifth-generation family company in Paris specialising in tea blending.



Judy Steel preparing tea at The Errol Street Merchant. Photograph: Nancy Lane

The owners strive to source organic and ethically produced tea, as well as growing their own crops in Darjeeling. Judy has been tasting a variety of their teas for the past eight years. “I have learned to listen carefully to my tongue,” she says. She has put together a collection of about 45 teas, which she sells either by the cup or the packet. She stocks a range of the more robust teas than Australians are used to, such as English Breakfast and Earl Grey, as well as others that are more delicate and ideal for blending. “I want people to find their comfort cuppa, but also want to introduce teas that might be new to them,” she explains. What makes this shop one-of-a-kind are the surroundings – the vintage tables, chairs, cannisters, tea pots, and cups and saucers. “I

love these objects,” Judy confides. “I pick them up as junk, clean them up, refurbish them. I try to see the objects for what they can be, rather than what they are when I find them.” All these items have been beautifully arranged throughout the shop, no doubt reflecting Judy’s background as a graphic designer. Visitors have expressed a range of emotions – usually a smile when they recognise an object from their childhood. “Several people have told me that it makes them feel nostalgic, that it’s like stepping back in time,” Judy smiles. “Some have even started to cry, saying that it reminds them of their grandmother’s house.” Judy serves tea in the beautiful cups and saucers she has collected, and visitors sit on vintage chairs at vintage tables. Her philosophy is that the experience shouldn’t be rushed. She wants her customers to gain knowledge about the tea being served, to savour the taste and to enjoy the surroundings. The morning I drop by to meet Judy, she is sampling a tea called Étoile des Neiges, and I can recognise the wonderfully subtle blend of flavours as I slowly sip. Her enthusiasm is infectious. “Doesn’t this taste just like Christmas?” she asks. And it does.

*Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.*

**Want to know more?**  
Contact Judy at The Errol Street Merchant on 0408 031 056. It is open Wed-Sun from 10.00am-5.30pm. (Extended hours through summer, weather permitting.) See Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/errolst.merchant/> Private functions and high teas by arrangement.



Milos Pelikan at River Studios. Photograph: Mike Muscat

## The art of repurposing

Mike Muscat

When Milos Pelikan’s young cousin wanted to buy a toy boat, the West Melbourne-based artist challenged himself to create one instead. The result was an impressive ship made from discarded computer parts and electronic equipment. “I got a bit carried away. I thought that building a boat would be fun, but I ended up making a whole fleet,” he laughs. Recycling and repurposing is an approach with which the artist is very familiar. His elaborate industrial-style sculptures are made with consumer and electronic waste that would otherwise be destined for landfill. On the wall is an owl made of cogs and fan guards. “So many people discard fans at the end of summer and most of them still work. Surely there’s a better solution than throwing it all into a hole and burying it.”

Milos’ sculptures are designed to get people thinking about everyday items and their function. “Part of the fun of the art is to see a boat or owl and, looking closer, being able to identify the individual objects that make it up,” he says. “The art isn’t just about recycling. It’s about challenging people’s preconceptions about what things are and how they use them.” While resource waste and its environmental effect is a major theme, Milos explains he’s careful not to simply preach in a didactic way. “I don’t tell people my message or my reason for creating a piece. It’s about getting an emotional response. It’s about getting people to talk.” River Studios, the once dilapidated warehouse on the banks of the Maribyrnong in West Melbourne, has been converted by Creative Spaces to provide 63 affordable studios for local artists. “I was so lucky to find this studio. It’s great to have a place where I can get out of the nine-to-five headspace and focus solely on my art,” he grins. In addition to Milos’ exhibitions, you can see his work in various spaces around the city. “I love the idea of art in public places. Not everyone is comfortable attending galleries, and I think it’s nice when people can experience art while going about their day.”

*Mike Muscat writes regularly for the News.*

**Want to know more?**  
To see Milos’ work, head to [milospelikan.com](http://milospelikan.com). Find out more about River Studios at [creativespaces.net.au](http://creativespaces.net.au).

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# New cafe with a sassy touch

Harry Patte-Dobbs

Sassy.x is a 96-seat café and restaurant that has just opened in Dryburgh Street, opposite North Melbourne station. Next door is its sister restaurant, Sassy Buns. If those names alone don't make you want to check them out, the food certainly will.

We were met by Sassy.x's owner and chef, Ele Troise, as we turned up for a recent local fundraiser for nearby St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre. This event is a sure sign of Ele's aim for his new venture. "We're here for the locals first," he says.

We were seated by one of many smiling staff at a table in front of an impressive wall-sized mural of the Sassy.x lady herself. We soon see funky matcha green tea and purple-beet buns pass us by as orders emerge from Sassy Buns, Ele's burger joint next door.

The buns embody the essence of a good simple burger. "We let the ingredients speak," Elieo says with pride. The black sesame pulled pork burger is a definite highlight – toasty and soft with a slight kick of spice and not too sweet or lathered in barbeque sauce as is all too often the case.

The fundraiser, which attracted several local groups, is topped off

with a seemingly never-ending table of antipasti, wonderfully crispy margherita pizza with fresh basil and inviting burn spots and heaps more. Some of the extras included leek and manchego croquettes. They are sure to put a happy look on your face.

A staff member we spotted tucking into a burger on her break attested to the excellent standard of the food.

With a background as a pastry chef, Ele has worked all over, including Melbourne's CBD, Europe and South America. These influences, as well as South-East Asian touches, are on display in a menu peppered with ingredients such as chimichurri, churros, ramen and even galangal and roasted coconut in some of Sassy.x's signature cocktails.

"If you're eating in my restaurant, you must say hello, shake my hand, hug me," Ele smiles expansively. This is definitely a place to socialise, to eat and to appreciate the experience, so be sure to put down your phone. Otherwise you may be the unwitting victim of the "wooden spoon warning" I hear about.

It involved a friendly warning for one of Ele's customers in a previous restaurant who wouldn't stop looking at his screen and

was soon admonished with a rap across the knuckles. But it was all in good fun and it's the sort of thing that his customers seem to love Ele for.

He might have made unexpected use of that wooden spoon, but he can also take it when the joke is on him. Once his chefs stitched him up by entering him in a salami-making competition. He was awarded first place and his winning salamis now hang proudly on the wall at the entrance to Sassy.x.

So, head on down to this new local eatery and I'm sure you'll give it a rap. Make yourself known to Ele, otherwise it might be a sharp rap over the knuckles for you.

Harry Patte-Dobbs writes regularly for the News.

**Want to know more?**  
The café-restaurant is at 9 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne. [www.zomato.com/melbourne/sassy-x-restaurant-bar-west-melbourne](http://www.zomato.com/melbourne/sassy-x-restaurant-bar-west-melbourne).



A veritable feast at Sassy.x. Photograph: Harry Patte-Dobbs

## Pop-up opportunity for the community

Did you notice the pop-up community shopfront in Errol Street at Spring Fling? Could your club or community group make use of it if it were to pop up again? Exhibitions, consultations, game nights, talks, and lots more could be possible. But only if the community speaks up. Register your interest or idea by email today: [director@centre.org.au](mailto:director@centre.org.au).

## Have your say on Macaulay urban plan

The Arden and Macaulay urban renewal areas are about two kilometres north-west of the central city, with industrial segments in North Melbourne and Kensington.

In 2012 the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan was released by City of Melbourne, identifying areas that will transition into sustainable living and working environments over the next 30 years.

In 2016, Arden and Macaulay were separated into two projects, due to changes in the planning context.

Planning for the Arden Urban




with other government departments and agencies.

City of Melbourne is leading the planning of Macaulay and they are in the process of creating a refreshed structure plan for the area.

The City has developed a discussion paper that outlines its proposals for Macaulay to inform a refreshed structure plan.

**Want to know more?**  
Search "Participate Melbourne Macaulay Refresh" to read the discussion paper and have your say. Public comment is open until 19 December.



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# St Al's garden flourishes

Jodie McLeod

**M**ary, Mary, quite contrary /  
How does your garden grow?  
Children have sung this playful nursery rhyme for generations. But for year 11 and 12 Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) students at St Aloysius College, tending the school garden has become part of personal development skills classes and a significant learning experience.

Earlier this year the VCAL students linked up with Chris Saray from The Food Security Network organisation. The network offers programs to give secondary students an insight into social justice, poverty and food security via a focus on organic gardening.

The girls learnt that many people, both in Australia and around the world, simply don't have reliable access to sufficient affordable and nutritious food.

VCAL teacher Siobhan Bloomfield explained the heart of the project. "Students had to create an external partnership and they chose to work with Chris from the Food Security Network," she said.

The girls gained a compassionate understanding that too many people suffer from food insecurity. This insight fostered the idea of 'growing for giving' and motivated them to engage in gardening and to succeed with their crops.

VCAL student Grace Jackson spoke up for her classmates. "The project has shown me that food insecurity can affect anyone. I felt empowered to contribute to a cause," she said.

The students developed an empty garden space at the school. It soon became a focal

point in the recreational area. The girls planted kale, spring onions, coriander and parsley in three garden beds as part of the program.

Kristen Petrini loved getting her hands dirty. "Working in the garden was so therapeutic," she said. "It was so lovely to be outside when the weather was nice."

The food harvested by the group was donated to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre to assist needy people who lack the means to have daily healthy and nutritious meals.

Delivering the produce to the centre was a highlight for the girls. "It was so rewarding to

donate the produce to people who needed it," Isabelle Jetson explained.

The project proved to be a roaring success. "It was wonderful to see the students develop many new skills," teacher Siobhan said. "They developed problem-solving and critical thinking skills, as well as experience in teamwork."

The girls picked up many practical gardening skills. "We had to watch the weather so we could plan for warm and wet days. I was hesitant at the start but I learnt so much as we went along," Isabelle said with a smile.

*Jodie McLeod is community development manager at St Aloysius.*



VCAL girls keeping a close eye on the garden. Photograph: Jodie McLeod

## THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell

Ellen Sandell

**I** recently returned from a few months of parental leave following the birth of my second child, Gabriel. I am happy to report that he is doing well and growing like a champion.

In fact, he's growing so much we are optimistic about his chances of playing ruck for the Tigers (or the Roos) in about 2038. Put it in your diaries!

It's been great getting back into the swing of parliament and continuing my work advocating for the community. It's a privilege having the opportunity to work with community groups like the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and the North West Patch community garden on important local issues.

But it's been challenging too. Not least of all because, as any parent of a newborn will understand, sleep is pretty scarce at the moment.

Parliament itself hasn't always been the most baby-friendly place. When I had my firstborn, Ada, I became the first person to breastfeed in the chamber since Kirstie Marshall was kicked out for doing so more than 16 years ago.

Luckily, times have changed a bit since then because, despite our best efforts, my new son, Gabe, still often refuses to take a bottle. So, if he needs to be fed and I need to be in the chamber for a vote, then he's coming in with me. On his first visit to question time, he was actually much better behaved than most of the MPs!

Most days the juggle is tough, but I know many people have it a lot harder than I do in balancing their work and home lives. I know



Ellen's hands are full with baby Gabe.

I'm very fortunate that I get to bring my kids to a lot of my work events.

Some of you may have met them at the October Spring Fling, the Jeffcott Street mosque's open day, or other community events.

As all parents and carers would know, caring for others is a constant balancing act. However, it also drives me to work even harder on the big issues we're facing, like fixing our broken housing system and dealing with climate change, because it reminds me what's at stake.

Thanks to the community for welcoming my two little ones into the fold. I'm sure you'll meet them out and about at an event soon.

*Ellen Sandell is state MP for Melbourne and mum to Ada and Gabriel.*

**Want to know more?**  
If you want to chat about a local (or state-wide) issue, just get in touch. Ring 9328 4637 or email my electorate office at office@ellensandell.com.



### Christmas at MtE

Advent Readings, Carols and Prayers  
Sunday December 22, 10am, with Eucharist

### Christmas Day

Wednesday December 25, 9.30am, with Eucharist  
Normal Services for Sundays after Christmas: 10am

[www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)



Hotham Mission has long served local young people and their families. Our main areas of focus are food assistance, education support and providing accommodation to people seeking asylum.

This Christmas our food program will deliver hampers to those in need during the holiday season. If you would like to donate to the Christmas appeal or volunteer to assist with our programs in 2020, please visit the Mission's website!

[www.hothammission.org.au](http://www.hothammission.org.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



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Chris Saliba



### Girl

**Edna O'Brien**  
(Faber, RRP: \$29.99)

A group of Nigerian girls is abducted from their school by a militant jihadi group. They are taken to a secret camp and undergo all sorts of horrors, including genital mutilation and pack rape.

To show the girls their possible fate should they not submit to the militants' authority, they are made to witness a woman's public stoning.

The focus of the novel is Maryam, who narrates her story. She has been through so much trauma and hardship that she is not even sure of her age. Married off to a jihadi soldier, she has a baby girl but manages to escape the camp. Finally reunited with her mother after much danger, it would seem her ordeal has ended, but it's really only just begun.

Irish writer Edna O'Brien's new novel is a work of great courage, integrity and artistic risk-taking. Taking on the voice of a young African woman (the story is based on the Boko Haram abductions) is a brave step, but in such skilled hands it pays off.

O'Brien's novel has urgency, fire and anger. Written with consummate skill, even grace, it's an unforgettable portrait of the shocking abuses of girls and women.



### Tech Titans of China

**Rebecca A. Fannin**  
(Nicholas Brealey Publishing, RRP: \$29.99)

China's pursuit of technological dominance has progressed through three stages, according to business writer and China expert Rebecca A. Fannin.

The 2003–10 period saw the flourishing of internet start-ups; phase two was the boom in mobile phone-centric start-ups; and today China is putting up stiff competition in artificial intelligence, biotech, self-driving cars, robotics, mobile payments and more.

At first China was a quick and effective imitator; now it is pulling ahead in key areas. While there are pitfalls for China's tech titans – a repressive government that could close any business that gets too powerful and a lack of profitability for many emerging start-ups – the overall picture is of an emerging tech dragon.

The way Fannin paints it, China could be on the cusp of global tech dominance, leading to an economic dominance and a shake-up in the world order. Nothing is assured in this cut-throat world, but the sheer speed with which China has caught up with the West is no doubt ringing alarm bells in government and policy circles.

This is a fast-paced overview of a quickly evolving tech sector with enormous potential for global disruption.



### Osbert

**Noel Streatfeild**  
(Scholastic, RRP: \$24.99)

It's the day before Aunt Cathy's wedding. Father has decided the family dog, Osbert, cannot attend. He's too scruffy looking. The family has had Osbert since he was one month old, and they'd hoped he'd turn into a terrier, but they've had to settle instead for a black poodle with limp fur.

The children – Ann, Peter, Jane and Andrew – are terribly upset. They decide to take Osbert to Monsieur Toto, a popular ladies' hairdresser. Monsieur Toto is very busy with appointments, but decides to take on this urgent job.

When the children pick Osbert up they are delighted with the transformation. Osbert has had a permanent wave, his fur is shampooed, his legs shaved into cowboy trousers, and his head topped off with a spray of orange blossom. He's the hit of the wedding!

Noel Streatfeild, famous for her children's novel *Ballet Shoes*, first published *Osbert* in 1950. It fell out of print immediately after and has only now been revived, almost 70 years later.

It's a charming, funny, quirky story, with delightful illustrations by Susanne Suba and is sure to appeal to children and adults of all ages. A rediscovered gem that shouldn't be missed.



# Romulus falls on his feet

Suzanne Kundevska

Romulus, a beautiful blue British Shorthair, came to Lort Smith Animal Hospital with a very sore leg when he was six months old. X-rays revealed he had broken his hip in what must have been a nasty fall.

Poor Romulus underwent expert major surgery to restore mobility to his broken hip. During the procedure, Lort Smith orthopaedic surgeons removed the top of Romulus' thighbone.

An intense six-week post-surgery therapy was required to ensure that the scar tissue forms properly to provide cushioning that vets call a 'false joint'. This false joint enables the patient to move around pain free.

Sadly, Romulus' carers were unable to commit to his extensive rehabilitation, so they asked Lort Smith to find a new home.

Romulus required strict confinement for the first few days after surgery to help manage his pain. He spent the time purring continuously and resting on his blanket.

For a full week he received daily physiotherapy, which included passive range-of-motion exercises and thigh massages.

By week two his physiotherapy focused on rebuilding his muscle mass and strength with gentle activities to help keep the scar tissue flexible. This therapy lasted six weeks.

Romulus developed such a strong bond with Andrew, his foster carer, that he now has a permanent and loving home.

"He has changed my life," Andrew said. "When I'm home we play all day non-stop. After a stressful or busy day working, my stress level immediately reduces when I open the door to find him waiting patiently for me."

Six months on, Romulus is full of energy. He loves exploring, playing with toys and, like all indoor cats, he especially likes to sit at the front window watching people pass by.

Suzanne Kundevska is PR manager at Lort Smith.

**Want to know more?**  
Romulus can be found on Instagram @romulus\_webcat showcasing his skills and spills. He also stars as Mr October in Lort Smith's 2020 calendar. You can support Lort Smith's work by buying one for \$15 at the hospital or online at: [lortsmith.com/shop](http://lortsmith.com/shop).



Romulus the cat with Andrew. Photograph: Lort Smith

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

# ELLEN SANDELL

## STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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

(03) 9328 4637

office@ellensandell.com

Mail & Office: 146 Peel Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051



Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne VIC 3051.  
Funded from Parliament's Electorate Office & Communications Budget.

# Boomerang bags

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



# North Melbourne life captured in just three lines and 17 syllables

Words and photographs by Suzie Luddon

Haiku are short poems that express ideas, emotions or observations, typically about a place or a season. Of Japanese origin, haiku consist of seventeen syllables over three lines in a five-seven-five format. A haiku in its essence conveys an impression about the physical world that may cause the reader to reflect on nature, life and the environment. In the four centuries since their inception, haiku have become a popular poetry form that is accessible to everyone.

*The weekend beckons  
A spring Saturday morning  
Coffee on Errol*



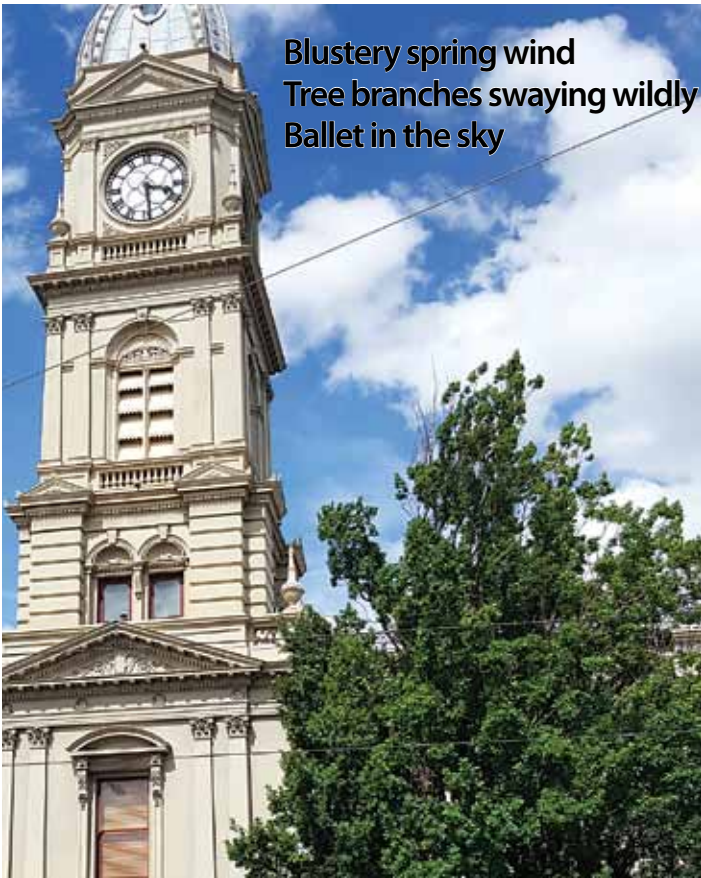
*Creaking and groaning  
The number fifty-seven  
Wends its way northwards*



*North Melbourne street art  
A fox on a soccer ball  
Makes me stop and smile*



*Errol Street buildings  
Showcasing our heritage  
Beauty and function*



*Blustery spring wind  
Tree branches swaying wildly  
Ballet in the sky*

# The Christmas story behind the celebrations

John H. Smith

Christmas! There is no escaping it, but its celebration is questioned in Australia's multicultural, multi-faith society. Ironically, in some countries little affected by Christian heritage, such as Japan, Christmas has grown in popularity. But what are we actually celebrating? Christmas coincides with the northern hemisphere winter festival celebrating the shortest day and darkest night, when the slow return of warmth and light stirs a new cycle of life. When Christianity became dominant in the north, the symbolism of the winter festival was adapted to the Christian story, centred on the life and



message of Jesus. Christmas came later in the church's history. When it did, it was Easter that set the tone. Christmas traditions celebrate the birth of a child in a dark, out-

of-the-way place, threatened by imperial power. His life became a powerful symbol of hope for those living in a dark world, especially so because it was the poor and disenfranchised

shepherds who were the first to know about this. As suggested by the visit of the wise men, his birth attracted people from different cultures and faiths. It had significance for all people and, as the presence of oxen and donkeys suggests, significance for all of creation. Through the child who was born, the creative, enlightening, life-giving power that humans refer to as God was fully expressed in a life just like ours. Many Christmas carols are based on this thought. But Christmas is not an idea. It is a person to embrace, a life to follow, which is why Jesus is indeed the reason for the season. Because of the way he lived and died, the inner truth of Jesus' life has implications for how we

regard one another, and the way we seek to live. Welcomed by shepherds, he welcomed outsiders to his side and to his table – generosity and hospitality are quintessential Christian virtues. Honoured by foreign sages, he did not choose to overpower us or to place boundaries around our life. Instead he offered us a new possibility of life, set against an infinite horizon. Everything about him is a sign we are embraced at the deepest level. If that is really true, then no wonder Christmas is a season of joy and good will. The challenge is to make it so ourselves. Merry Christmas!

*John H Smith writes regularly for the News.*

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THE GREENS

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



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Tom Seddon



## Com ings and goings

At The Centre's Annual General Meeting in October, we farewelled Centre stalwarts Malcolm Peacock AM and Michael Halls.

Malcolm has been a board member since 2012, including a period as The Centre's treasurer.

Michael Halls was Centre director for six years and my immediate predecessor. His transition to the board before departing altogether ensured that he was there for the many times I needed his help in understanding all the different

things we do here! Both will be missed.

However, we do have two new board members to welcome: Kay Oke OAM and Lorna Hannan OAM. Both Kay and Lorna are well known locally, and both have already spent some time on our board. Lorna was made The Centre's first (and only) honorary life member in 2014, while Kay was the organiser of the very first Spring Fling.



The Centre's board needs a combination of different skills and knowledge, experiences and perspectives. Enthusiasm is a must, as is the ability to be a good team player. If you think a term on our board might be a rewarding way to contribute to community development in North and West Melbourne, please get in touch.

## Spring Fling, looking backwards and forwards

Over its 40-plus years Spring Fling has taken a few twists and turns. These have ranged

from happening entirely inside North Melbourne Town Hall and sprawling for block after block, to this year's laneway-focused festival.

As I wrote in this year's winter issue of the *News*, the decision to reduce the festival footprint and to not block major roads wasn't taken lightly. The Centre had covered an ever-larger share of the costs for the event as security, traffic management, tram diversion, regulation and such costs rose sharply.

As I write, the final result is not yet in, but last year's shortfall of tens of thousands of dollars will be only a few thousand dollars this year.

Thank you once again to Tatiana and everyone who helped out. Thousands of people turned

out for this year's event, and we received both positive and negative comments.

We are busy thinking about the future of Spring Fling, not just where and how, but when and even whether. We are not the only ones to wonder if the cost and red tape of putting on large public events hasn't become prohibitive for lightly funded community organisations.

Unless the 'community' – locals, businesses, community groups and local government alike – is actually willing to put time and, in many cases, money into it, then how is it really a 'community' festival?

I would love to hear your thoughts on two questions. What would you like to see? And are you able to help achieve that?

## On course with the Centre in 2020

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## Errol's Angels Community Choir

Time: Thursday 7.00pm–9.00pm  
Membership: \$179 / \$111 concession\* per term

Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne

Find us on Facebook!

## Home Away From Homework Club

Primary (Grades 4–6)

Time: Wednesday 3.30pm–5.00pm  
Cost: Free

Venue: North Melbourne Library

Secondary (Grades 7–10)

Time: Wednesday 3.30pm–5.00pm  
Cost: Free

Venue: 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Open (Grades 4–10)

Time: Wednesday 4.30pm–6.00pm  
Cost: Free

Venue: North Melbourne Language & Learning

Open (Grades 4–12)

Time: Thursday 3.30pm–5.00pm  
Cost: Free to City of Hobsons Bay residents

Venue: Altona North Community Library

Find us on Facebook!

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

VIVA LA SENIORS  
– Activities for Older AdultsCentre Adventures  
– Monthly Bus Trips

Time: Tuesday 9.20am–5.00pm  
25 February: Tour of Woodlands Historic Homestead, with morning Devonshire tea and light lunch, and visit to the park (home of retired champion racehorses)

24 March: To be advised

Cost: \$43 / \$33 Health Care Card concession\*

Meet at: 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

## Community Morning Teas

Time: 10.00am–12.00 noon  
Tuesday 4 February,  
Tuesday 3 March

Cost: \$5 or bring a plate of food to share

Venue: 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

## Older Adults Exercise Classes

Time: Wed: 10.15 – 11.15am  
starting 5 February  
Fri: 12.15 – 1.15pm  
starting 7 February

Cost: \$197 per term or \$144 Health Care Card concession

Venue: The Legion (behind North Melbourne Library)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
PROGRAMGeneral Pilates Sessions  
in term break

The Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

\$24 per session

Tuesday 5.30pm–6.30pm, 7, 14, 21 & 28 January

Thursday 6.30pm–7.30pm, 9, 16, 23 & 30 January

## Tuesday Pilates

The Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

Commencing 4 February

5.30pm–6.30pm – Intermediate

6.30pm–7.30pm – General

7.30pm–8.30pm – Introduction to Pilates/Rehab

## Wednesday Pilates

The Legion (behind North Melbourne Library)

Commencing 5 February

9.15am–10.15am – Intermediate

## Thursday Pilates

The Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

Commencing 6 February

5.30pm–6.30pm – Beginners

6.30pm–7.30pm – Intermediate Plus

7.30pm–8.30pm – Intermediate

Cost: \$197 per term or \$144 Health Care Card concession

## COURSES

Information, Digital Media  
and Technology

16 weekly 2½-hour sessions

Wednesdays 10.00am–12.30pm

Cost: \$120 / \$90 concession\*#

## Introduction to Technology

Six weekly 2½-hour sessions

Wednesdays 6.30pm–9.00pm

Cost: \$40 / \$32 concession\*#

## One on One IT Tutoring

Cost: \$63 per hour. Times to suit you.

Connect with People – Introduction  
to Customer & Client Service

Eight 2½-hour sessions

Wednesday 12.30 – 3.00pm

Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession\*#

Introduction to Accounting/  
Basic Bookkeeping

Eight 3-hour sessions

Fridays 10.00am–1.00pm

Cost: \$75 / \$55 concession\*#

Make it to Market – Crafting  
and Sewing

Seven 3-hour sessions

Tuesdays 9.30am–12.30pm

Cost: \$50 / \$38 concession\*#  
(excludes materials)

\* subject to conditions

# subject to staff–student ratios

Classes follow school term dates unless otherwise stated. No classes on Public Holidays

To book, Contact The Centre on 9328 1126, at [admin@centre.org.au](mailto:admin@centre.org.au) or at [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au) for dates.

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





NOTICEBOARD



The *North and West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers from North and West Melbourne and the inner city. It is now in its 42nd year of production. Readers' contributions and letters are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

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

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

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

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

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Email: [editorial@centre.org.au](mailto:editorial@centre.org.au)  
Telephone: 9328 1126

**Provisional dates for 2020**  
**Copy deadline for Autumn 2020 issue:**  
**Friday 14 February**  
Publication date: Friday 13 March

**Copy deadline for Winter 2020 issue: Friday 15 May**  
Publication date: Friday 12 June

**Copy deadline for Spring 2020 issue: Friday 14 August**  
Publication date: Friday 11 September

**Copy deadline for Summer 2020–2021 issue:**  
**Friday 6 November**  
Publication date: Friday 4 December

*North and West Melbourne News* is available online at  
The Centre's website: [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au)

Advertisement sizes and rates for 2020		
Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1732.50	\$1457.50
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$841.50	\$731.50
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$610.50	\$533.50
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$451.00	\$390.50
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$225.50	\$198.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$121.00	\$104.50
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$104.50	\$88.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prices inclusive of GST</li><li>• Book a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount.</li><li>• All previous introductory offers, transitional rates and discounts ceased with publication of Summer 2019–2020 issue.</li><li>• Prices are for supplied artwork (high-res PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.</li><li>• The <i>News</i> reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.</li><li>• Email <a href="mailto:Advertising.NWMN@outlook.com">Advertising.NWMN@outlook.com</a> for info and bookings.</li></ul>		

**Save the Date!**  
**Open House at The Centre**  
**Wednesday 18 December, 4.00pm – 7.00pm**  
*Join us to celebrate the end of the year!*  
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051

**Closing dates over Christmas & New Year**  
**The Centre will close from 3.00pm**  
Thursday 19 December 2019  
and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2020

***Carols and games in Errol Street!***  
Errol's Angels Community Choir will be singing with Santa Claus in front of The Centre on **Thursday 12 December from 7.15pm**. Earlier, Errol Street north of Queensberry will be closed to traffic for street entertainment, progressive dining, children's activities, magic shows and an early appearance by Santa at 4.15pm.  
**Visit [www.northwestmelbourne.com.au](http://www.northwestmelbourne.com.au) for details**

**Thank you, News distributors!**  
A big thank-you to the following volunteers who delivered copies of the *North and West Melbourne News* to local letterboxes during 2019.  
If any readers would like to join the distribution team, please contact me through The Centre.  
**Rahul Velumani**  
**Distribution Coordinator**

Verena Augusti  
Craig Barry  
Anne Burgi  
Tim Cremean  
Elaine Drew  
Carolyn Fyfe  
Alba Gatto  
Maurice Gaul  
Agnes Girdwood

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Jacques P  ril  
Eiko Sakaguchi  
Madeleine Scully  
Tom Seddon  
Rosemary Tonkin  
Dan Tutas  
Rahul Velumani  
Samantha Wilson

Christmas Services in North and West Melbourne



**St James Old Cathedral, Anglican**  
**Corner King & Batman streets, West Melbourne (opposite Flagstaff Gardens)**  
Sunday 15 December 10.00am Nine Lessons and Carols  
Tuesday 24 December 11.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion  
Wednesday 25 December 10.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion  
**St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic**  
**Corner Victoria & Howard streets, West Melbourne**  
Tuesday 24 December 12.30pm Mass (English); 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass; 11.30pm Carols before Solemn Midnight Mass  
Wednesday 25 December 10.30am Mass of Christmas Day; 12.00 noon Mass (Lithuanian); 6.00pm Latin Mass  
Thursday 26 & Friday 27 December 12.30pm Mass (English)  
Saturday 28 December 11.00am Mass (English); 6.30pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday 29 December (The Holy Family) 10.30am Mass (English); 12.00 noon Mass (Lithuanian); 6.00pm Latin Mass  
Tuesday 31 December 12.30pm Mass (English); 10.30pm New Year Eve Mass  
Wednesday 1 January (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) 12.30pm Mass (English)  
Saturday 4 January 11.00am Mass (English); 6.30pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday 5 January (Solemnity of the Epiphany) 10.30am Mass (English); 12.00 noon Mass (Lithuanian); 6.00pm Latin Mass  
Sunday 12 January (Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) 10.30am Mass (English); 12.00 noon Mass (Lithuanian); 6.00pm Latin Mass  
*From Monday 6 January follow the normal St Mary's timetable*  
**St Mary's, Anglican**  
**Corner Queensberry & Howard streets, North Melbourne**  
Sunday 22 December 7.00pm Carol Service  
Tuesday 24 December 4.00pm Kids' Christmas; 11.30pm Midnight Mass  
Wednesday 25 December 9.00am Sung Eucharist  
**St Michael's, Catholic**  
**456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne**  
Tuesday 24 December 6.30pm Christmas Eve Mass  
Wednesday 25 December 10.30am Christmas Day Mass  
**Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic**  
**35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Canning & Dryburgh streets)**  
Sunday 22 December 8.00am & 9.30am Divine Liturgy  
Wednesday 25 December 10.00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday 29 December 9.30am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday 5 January 8.00am, 9.30am & 11.30am Divine Liturgy  
Tuesday 7 January (Ukrainian Christmas) 8.00am & 10.00am Divine Liturgy  
**Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist**  
**51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne**  
*The congregation meets in the church hall, 4 Elm Street*  
Sunday 22 December 10.00am Advent Readings, Carols and Prayers, with Eucharist  
Wednesday 25 December 9.30am Christmas Day Service, with Eucharist  
*Normal Services for Sundays after Christmas: 10.00am*

**Melbourne North Police in conjunction with Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee**  
**Christmas Toy and Food Drive**  
Drop toys or non-perishable food items at these collection points and help put a smile on someone's face this Christmas!  
The Centre, 58 Errol Street; Commonwealth Bank, 53 Errol Street; or Melbourne North Police Station, 36 Wreckyn Street  
**by Tuesday 17 December**  
This year's gifts will be distributed to Ronald McDonald House in Parkville and The Venny children's support service in Kensington. There is no need to wrap the toys, as children choose their own.  
**Enquiries: Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis, 8379 0800**



# Lanes were alive with spring fever

Words and photographs:  
Catalina Gonzalez

It was another great year for the Spring Fling Street Festival. Thousands of local residents of all ages, backgrounds and talents wandered the laneways and streets on Saturday 19 October. Visitors enjoyed roving circus entertainment, market stalls, food, the suitcase market and events run by local businesses, as well as some great performances on the Alexkarbon Stage.

The family space at Lithuanian House hosted some energetic kids' activities, including hula hooping, hopscotch and tower building. There was a wealth of information about community groups and services at 54 Errol Street coordinated by the North Melbourne Agency Collective.

The City of Melbourne hosted a pop-up survey and consultation about the North Melbourne Heritage Review.

I have been involved in the festival since I moved to North Melbourne in 2012. I've been a visitor and I've taught Zumba and traditional Afro-Latin dancing. I was the MC at the community stage last year and this year MC at the main stage.

My favourite moment of all my time at the festival is the dog show! Next up on the stage this year was Sessi Sessi with a foot-tapping display of West African drumming. There was no shortage of volunteers when the band invited members of the public to join in and learn the beats.

It has been great to see the festival reinventing itself with different set-ups, entertainment options, activities and partnerships. What is always constant is its purpose: to bring the North and West Melbourne community together for a great fun day, rain, hail or shine.

I congratulate The Centre and the team who year after year gather to create the Spring Fling Festival and I am honoured to be involved in the Spring Fling.

I am grateful for the support of the City of Melbourne, State Government and the sponsors, businesses, organisations, schools, visitors, residents and volunteers who get right behind the festival every year.

See you again next year!

Catalina Gonzalez was the MC at Spring Fling 2019.

