

# NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P18



## Cyclist death prompts calls to fix intersection

Photo by Ajay Viswanath

Research fellow at Victoria University and president of cycling advocacy group BikeWest Dr John Symons is among a chorus of people calling for greater road safety along Footscray Rd-Dock Link Rd after a cyclist was killed at a dangerous intersection this month. *Full story on page 6.*

## Public housing offices reopen after residents felt “forgotten”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HOUSING

A year-long campaign to reopen housing offices in public housing buildings in North Melbourne, which left residents feeling “forgotten”, has finally been successful.

The offices, which allow residents to discuss housing issues with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) at their building, had been closed for more than two years following COVID-19 lockdowns, with Melbourne MP Ellen Sandell, along with residents, and community groups, advocating for the state government to reopen them.

“It was very difficult for residents. They were not able to directly see their housing officers to resolve their housing issues,” president of the Melbourne Somali Community Inc. Awil Hussein said.

“The phone calls to the maintenance centre or housing took a long time to answer, sometimes more than an hour or they get disconnected while you are on the waiting, or you don’t get to the right person.”

The offices based at Sutton St and Alfred St, as well as in Carlton, reopened their doors on January 16 for enquiries from Monday to Friday, between 8.45am and 5pm, without the need for an appointment.

Ms Sandell said during the time the housing offices remained closed, public housing residents were “left feeling forgotten and ignored”.

“Residents were forced to spend hours on hold trying to get support from DFFH, and sometimes couldn’t get through at all,” she said. “Residents and community groups had to campaign for over a year for these offices to be reopened. I’m glad I was able to represent them in Parliament and help get the offices finally reopened.”

Mr Awil said it was a relief that residents, many of whom are culturally and linguistically diverse, could now make an in-person enquiry to resolve simple issues like getting keys, fobs, painting and changing carpet.

“It’s very important because every time residents have housing maintenance issues, rent rebates and housing applications, and access to the buildings, they are able to go to an office and talk to the receptionist and their housing officer to get their issue resolved in a timely manner.” ●

## New vape shop sparks community concern

*Parents in Kensington are voicing their concern over the opening of a new e-cigarette and tobacco shop in the area, which also sells confectionery.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HEALTH

The store at 476 Macaulay Rd – which is frequented by primary and secondary students who use Kensington train station – is sparking fear among parents that its presence would “heighten the curiosity” in young people experimenting with e-cigarette smoking, also known as “vaping”.

“As a resident, I am extremely concerned by the increasing accessibility to vaping and tobacco products in this area,” a mother of two school children, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said, noting it was the second tobacco/vape store to open on the Bellair St/Macaulay Rd strip within a year.

“I take umbrage with the location of this new store in full view of minors and the unethical, misleading labelling of the word ‘confectionery’. Many residents feel the same way and will take it to the council.”

The store, which opened on February 11, has signs displaying “Kensington Confectionery Store” and “Discounted Tobacco”, while “Vapes-Lollies-Shisha Accessories” is also plastered across the shop’s front, along with various popular candy brands.

A cashier at the store named Sam, who asked not to use his surname, said all vaping products were locked behind a sealed cabinet behind the counter, and staff always checked identification before selling such products.

Sam said minors were also kept away from any cigarette papers, lighters, or filters, and shisha hookahs displayed on shelf.

“I tell them to stick to the lollies. I would never encourage smoking, vaping, or sell energy drinks to any kids, it’s just a no-no,” he said.

“I’ve got kids myself and I don’t want my kids drinking energy drinks.”

Sam said he and the business owner “can totally understand” the concerns of the community but they were committed to “doing everything” so the community was happy.

“It’s not about the money. We’re trying to not upset the community; I’m trying to keep everyone happy.”

“The third day I shut down and rearranged half the store,” he said, adding, “We’ve still got a lot more work to be done in terms of putting a lot more stuff away.”

“If the community feels like we haven’t done enough, please let us know because we’re always open-minded.”

In Victoria, it is illegal for any person to sell any type of tobacco e-cigarette products to a person under the age of 18. Vapes containing nicotine can only be sold by a registered pharmacy to adult smokers with a prescription.

University of Melbourne Associate Professor Michelle Jongenelis, from the Melbourne Centre for Behaviour Change, said e-cigarette use was becoming a critical public health issue and was “especially troubling” among adolescents.

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# HYPERLOCAL NEWS

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## New pedestrian crossings coming to North Melbourne, but residents concerned about safety at large intersection

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

New zebra crossings will be installed at busy intersections in North Melbourne to improve pedestrian safety.

The City of Melbourne will roll out six crossings in Canning St, including the intersections at Shiel St, Buncl St and Vaughan Terrace.

Various traffic calming measures have also been proposed, including narrow road humps, speed cushions and traffic islands to further slow traffic at the crossings.

However, the council said it would be necessary to remove a total of 12 car parking spaces in the affected streets, so drivers can better see pedestrians stepping onto the new crossings.

"Following community feedback, the proposed draft design has been adjusted to enhance safety and to allow for a faster installation," the council confirmed in February, adding the installation of the new pedestrian crossings was expected to take place during coming months.

"We will continue to work with the local community on further streetscape improvements which can be made to the area."

Long-term Shiel St resident Kaye Oddie said she welcomed the measure, but highlighted the issue of rat-running and drivers disobeying the stop sign at the intersection of Shiel and Canning streets.

"I'm all about improving pedestrian safety but unless you get effective enforcement, people will continue to ignore pedestrian crossings," she said.

Other residents expressed their concern about drivers not giving way to pedestrians at the zebra crossings at the Haines St/Dryburgh St/Shiel St roundabout.

Sandy Melnikoff said she was almost bowled over by a car while walking her dog in February about 3.30pm.



▲ Resident Sandy Melnikoff is concerned about safety at the Haines St/Dryburgh St/Shiel St roundabout.

"She wouldn't have even seen me, I thought 'Lady, are you serious? You're on the phone,'" she said.

"Had I not looked she would've collected me. She was going fast; I couldn't believe it."

Another resident Brendan Gleeson said he was alarmed about "how little regard drivers have for the pedestrian crossings" at the roundabout.

"I have several nearby my flat and I regularly hear screams from frightened pedestrians who have nearly been run down on a crossing," he said.

"Many drivers speed on the neighbourhood roads, compounding the danger."

"Police and the City of Melbourne need to urgently address the issue before there is a terrible accident."

Another resident said cars were unpredictable and she was always careful as the "ones that are in a hurry, they don't stop". ●



▲ A new tobacco and confectionery store on Macaulay Rd is stirring public concern.

## New vape shop sparks community concern

*Continued from page 1.*

"In addition to the health harms associated with e-cigarette use, there is a concern that use acts as a gateway to smoking," she told *North West City News*.

"We are concerned about use of any addictive substance but nicotine exposure in adolescence and young adulthood is particularly detrimental to the developing brain and can impact brain functioning."

Amelia Yazidjoglou, a research assistant at the Australian National University's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, said e-cigarettes were designed to be especially attractive to youth as they were brightly coloured and available in different flavours.

"There are efforts being made [around changing current laws] but at the moment we aren't protecting our youth, and this is a big concern and there are a lot more storefronts popping up in a lot of areas that are frequented by youth and adolescents," she said.

"Everyone has a right to be concerned. We do know that if you use a vape, you're three times as likely to take up combustible smoking, and that's another big risk that we're quite concerned about, too." ●

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# Love your North West City local

## Building confidence through the arts



▲ Lisa-Marie Parker.



Photos: Chris Parker Photography

“

*Lisa-Marie Parker is a highly experienced voice teacher and performer, but it is her love for seeing people express themselves confidently through performing arts that makes her Vocal Studio so unique.*

”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
BUSINESS

Through creating a specialised Kids Division that “prioritises process over outcome”, Lisa-Marie has seen children from the ages of four to 13 grow in confidence, find a place of belonging, and make friends all within a matter of eight weeks.

“We run performing arts classes, but our

structure is different because we only do eight-week terms and they don’t accumulate into an end of year concert, they are literally just an opportunity for kids to try something new,” Lisa-Marie said.

“We have had kids with varying levels of anxiety and learning difficulties, and it has been so rewarding to watch kids grow and become more confident, and at the end of the eight weeks we invite parents in for a mini, casual showcase just to show what they have been doing.”

The feedback from both students and parents has been so positive that this year the Kids Division of the business is expanding to include Saturday classes, with three new classes being launched on February 18.

Among the Term One classes still taking enrolments, and offering trial bookings, are *Sing Club! Group Singing*, *Drama Senior* (ages eight to 12), *Drama Play Time* (ages four to five), and *S.A.M Snr-Sing Act Move!* (ages nine to 13).

“All the classes have a similar structure but different content, so the drama classes for younger ones is more play-based, imaginative, and includes improvisation and confidence building, with some quick voice and movement content,” Lisa-Marie said.

“Whereas for the older kids, because they

get really good, they are analysing text and understanding what character adjectives are, which is essentially high school-level training.”

While adapting the classes to the strengths of the students is a priority, the highly trained teachers also ensure that they take the time to understand the needs of each individual student, organising the class structure and size in a way that allows for each student to feel supported.

Recently, the studio has also been running a diversity inclusion program, which stems from Lisa-Marie’s personal desire to help showcase more diversity on stage, something that wasn’t as common when she was a young Greek graduate applying for roles.

“Universities are now seeking further to find people of diversity to train, and we see that in the graduates and therefore in the shows, so I wanted to start thinking of ways we could help,” Lisa-Marie said.

“We have a diversity inclusion program where we allow families, who potentially can’t afford to add a creative activity to their child’s schedule, to apply for a gap in a class that suits the child, and then we offer complementary training for the eight weeks.”

“If we can start young and offer training to the children, then maybe we can also help contribute to who we see on the stage.”

In addition to having a love for introducing kids to performing arts and the power of using their voice, Lisa-Marie also offers more outcomes driven sessions for adults.

As a leading voice teacher and audition coach, Lisa-Marie specialises in music theatre technique and styling, audition preparation, acting through song, performance anxiety strategy and management, and career mentorship.

In the adult lessons, Lisa-Marie works extensively with actors wanting to extend and strengthen their voice training, and musical theatre performers needing to train their voices to navigate eight shows a week.

“Depending on people’s goals, every lesson is tailored,” she said.

But no matter your age, intentions or goals, there is one thing all students can be sure of when it comes to this North Melbourne Vocal Studio – it truly was formed out of “a labour of love”.

Lisa-Marie Parker Vocal Studio can be found at Level 1, 175 Arden St, North Melbourne. ●

**For more information:**  
[lisamariemarkervocalstudio.com.au](http://lisamariemarkervocalstudio.com.au)



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## CAPITAL WORKS IN 2023



Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece with local kids at Fawkner Park

### FAWKNER PARK OVAL

Keep an eye out for new turf, cricket wickets and irrigation on the southern sports field at Fawkner Park, a place 9000 locals enjoy each day. Works to enhance the Pasley Street North entrance are complete.



A new Food Hall is set to open soon at QVM

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The Greenline Project will transform the northern bank of the Birrarung

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Lord Mayor Sally Capp tours the new Munro Library site



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## New public art transports locals through Arden Station's history

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

After a number of weather-related delays late last year, local artist Michael Zampogna is very “happy” to finally present his completed public art project on Laurens St.

Chosen by the City of Melbourne, in partnership with CitiPower, Mr Zampogna was selected to produce detailed artworks on two electrical boxes that sit side by side.

His winning concept was for the two electrical boxes to represent two phases and stages of the area's history.

“One box displays the natural beauty of the area 200 years ago when the very vast Blue Lake with lots of surrounding wildlife used to exist [on the site of Arden Station prior to European settlement], and it is very organic with lots of flowing and cool lines,” Mr Zampogna said.

“It is then contrasted with the second box which reflects almost like the history of the manufacturing industry in the area, and there are more rigid lines and warmer tones.”

As well as being personally pleased with how

the project turned out, Mr Zampogna said it had also been very “rewarding” to hear locals’ feedback.

“While I was working on it, and when I was wrapping things up, people were walking past and giving nice comments, and it was very rewarding because all I can hope for is that the council and locals are happy with it,” he said.

“Locals are the ones walking past it, and driving past it, so if they can find a deeper meaning on their own through interpreting it in their own way, then that is awesome as well.”

Following what’s his first ever public art project, Mr Zampogna is hopeful to continue to produce more large-scale work in the public realm for the community to enjoy and reflect on.

And with the council keen to further cement Melbourne as an arts and cultural hub through the use of public art, many more artists will hopefully have the chance to follow suit.

“Our Public Art Framework aims to set Melbourne apart as one of the world’s leading cultural cities, with public art commissions that express the city’s unique identity,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said. ●

## Pet's Corner



### West Melbourne's cuddliest little dog

“

*Winnie is known to be the cuddliest dog around town. In fact, Winnie's owner Pat said if you even look at him, he'll “beg for a cuddle”.*

”

WORDS BY *Jemma Van Zaanen*

Adopted last April, Winnie is an almost one-year-old Toy Cavoodle who has a playful relationship with the family's bird.

“We have a pet bird, an Indian Ringneck. They like to play and torture each other around the house. They're very sweet together,” Pat said.

Winnie is also very obedient – he can shake his paw on command. ●

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## Historic site in North Melbourne gets “beautified”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ENVIRONMENT

An historic fire station in North Melbourne is in the process of becoming a green oasis after receiving \$14,000 as part of the City of Melbourne’s Urban Forest Fund Grant Program.

Built in 1894, the Curzon St fire station is now a residential building with 12 apartments overlooking a communal garden space in much need of rejuvenation.

Phase one of the project has already been completed after the building’s owners’ corporation (OC) received \$5000 as part of an earlier round of the program – the Habitat Grants 2020 program – and plans are now in place for phase two to begin.

“Building on the success of the first phase of the project, we’re expanding green cover to create a lush oasis for residents – enhancing the biodiversity and canopy cover of the area, while maintaining respect for its rich heritage,” the council’s environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said.

While phase one focused predominantly on the upper third of the garden, phase two will build on this with a targeted focus on the lower two thirds of the garden.

The overall project, once completed, will result in 59 square metres of new green cover, grassed areas, new garden beds, with a minimum of 60 per cent of plants being local Indigenous species.

Some 35 square metres of concrete will be replaced with a permeable surface, with the aim of reducing both rain run-off and heat retention.

While the project is part of an effort to create a greener, more sustainable city, the council is hopeful that this project in particular will help improve the mental health and overall wellbeing of the community when people can gather outside together.

“It’s great to see this historic site continue to be beautified in the heart of North Melbourne, thanks to further funding from our Urban Forest Fund,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“We know that Melburnians want to see more green space in their neighbourhoods, and we look forward to transforming this space into a communal garden for residents to connect and enjoy.” ●

## Cyclist death prompts call to make dangerous intersection safer

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

The death of a cyclist at a dangerous West Melbourne intersection has been labelled a “preventable tragedy” as community calls mount to make the road safer.

Angus Collins, 22, was struck by a truck while cycling at the Footscray Rd-Dock Link Rd intersection on February 2 at around 12.30pm and died at the scene.

Angus’s death has rocked the local community, with the Brunswick Cycling Club launching a GoFundMe campaign to help raise money for Angus’s family towards funeral and related expenses.

The campaign’s introduction states that Angus was “such a beautiful young man who always had a wonderful smile and brought energy and joy to all those around him”.

The incident has prompted a wave of calls from the community to improve safety at the intersection, with concerns a large concrete pillar built recently for the West Gate Tunnel construction was creating a “blind spot”.

Bicycle Network has called on authorities to urgently ban left turns at the crash location, with the organisation’s CEO Alison McCormack saying any death of a person on a bike was one too many.

“It has been a tragic start to the year on Victorian roads with far too many road users of all kinds suffering fatal or serious injuries,” she said.

“We have to turn this around, and quickly. Victoria has a proud history of being a global innovator in road safety, but we have become complacent. Our road safety strategies are



▲ Cycling advocacy group BikeWest president John Symons says dangerous intersections like Footscray Rd-Dock Link Rd need to be urgently fixed.

among the best, but progress is simply not fast enough.”

Ms McCormack said although there had been a parliamentary inquiry into road safety as recently as 2021, Bicycle Network would “back any new initiative with a chance of starting a revival of the state’s safety culture”.

Also joining a chorus of voices are The Greens who have urged the state government to establish a parliamentary inquiry into road safety for cyclists.

“This young man’s death was a preventable tragedy, caused by a government that gives too little care and thoughts to cyclists and pedestrians,” Melbourne Greens MP Ellen Sandell said.

“We must urgently investigate how to improve road safety for all Victorians to prevent cyclist and pedestrian deaths on our roads.”

Research fellow at Victoria University Dr John Symons, whose work includes the economics of road safety interventions, as well as advising United Nations bodies, said more needed to be done to fix dangerous intersections.

“Simple things like changing the geometry of intersections – one; you’ve got to get rid of

blind spots, that’s just madness with trucks and people riding bikes and people walking, and secondly, you’ve got to slow people around corners by having tighter intersections,” he said.

“The other thing you’ve got to have is traffic signal phases where you don’t promote conflict.”

Dr Symons, who frequents the Footscray Rd-Dock Link Rd intersection on his bicycle, said everything about its design was “wrong”, adding he was almost “cleaned up” himself in recent weeks where both he and the driver had a green signal.

“I’ve been through that intersection thousands of times because it’s my route from home to work. It is terrible,” he said. “It does everything wrong in terms of a protected intersection – the signal phasing is wrong, it’s got blind spots, it’s got large radius curves.”

He said any changes to the intersection “would mean slightly longer delays for everyone – but that is the question: what’s our priority? To not have to wait 30 seconds or is it to save someone’s life?”

Dr Symons, who is also president of cycling advocacy group BikeWest, said he understood collisions would happen no matter what road design, but not “so severe that someone dies or is seriously injured”.

“Not for a second will I say that any of these truck drivers deliberately try to harm people on bikes. This was the result of poor road design leading to a terrible tragedy.”

Victoria Police is investigating the incident, stating “the male driver of the truck stopped at the scene and is assisting police with their enquiries”.

They have urged any witnesses or those with dash cam/CCTV footage or information to contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au). ●

## Families in Parkville Gardens call for review into school zoning

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
EDUCATION

Residents living in Parkville Gardens are asking the state government to consider updating school zoning for their neighbourhood, with local students currently forced to contend with dangerous traffic conditions to access schools west of the Citylink freeway.

Students living in Parkville Gardens are currently zoned to attend both primary and secondary schools on the other side of the busy freeway and other surrounding major roads, meaning parents are forced to drive their children to school.

A school zone defines which school would be the local government school for students living within that area. For children living in metropolitan areas, their local school is usually the nearest government school in a straight line from the child’s residential address, however “a straight line” couldn’t be further from reality for students living in Parkville Gardens.

Melbourne MP and Deputy Leader of the Victorian Greens Ellen Sandell, who has been

campaigning on the issue for the past few years, said she’d written to the new Victorian Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins asking her to consider a zoning change.

“I’ve asked that she consider zone changes to help keep Parkville Gardens families safe and make it easier for families to walk and ride to school. Kids shouldn’t have to cross 10 lanes of traffic just to get to school in the morning,” Ms Sandell said.

Local resident and mother of two Monika Saunders told *North West City News* that her oldest child, who had recently started primary school, was currently enrolled at Moonee Ponds Primary School – some three-and-a-half kilometres from their suburb.

But while she said they would have preferred to attend a closer school, ideally Brunswick South West Primary School, the issues for many local families mainly related to secondary school options.

Parkville Gardens students are currently zoned to attend Mount Alexander Secondary College, despite being forced to compete with Citylink and other major roads which separates the former Commonwealth Games Village from

the school.

Ms Saunders said families didn’t feel comfortable allowing their children to walk or ride their bikes to school and would prefer to enrol at schools in neighbouring Brunswick, Brunswick West, and University High in Parkville.

“The schools [that we’re zoned to attend] are on other side of the freeway – you can’t walk around the neighbourhood and encourage bike riding when you have a large freeway in between, so it’s hard to let them go to school on their own and be independent,” she said.

“Maybe it’s time [for the government] to reconsider whether significant features such as a freeway are considered when zoning for schools to give better results for families. It’s at odds with what the city wants to achieve in promoting more walking and bike riding, where working and living is close, and you don’t need a car as much.”

A Department of Education spokesperson wouldn’t confirm whether the government would commit to a review but said assessment of the school zone for those living in Parkville Gardens did consider major roads and transport access. ●

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# Greens push for Maribyrnong flood inquiry

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
POLITICS

State Member for Melbourne Ellen Sandell and her Greens counterparts have introduced a motion calling for the Victorian Government to establish a parliamentary inquiry into last year's Maribyrnong River floods.

The Deputy Leader of the Victorian Greens said the community deserved a proper inquiry amid Melbourne Water's "limited review" into the floods, which saw many residents in Kensington, Maribyrnong, Avondale Heights and Ascot Vale left reeling.

A flood wall constructed along the Flemington Racecourse in 2007, which was supported by the then Bracks Labor Government, saw the racetrack left unscathed while homes and businesses dealt with the impacts of rising flood waters.

The Greens say their inquiry would help close the gaps left open by the current Melbourne Water review, which they say is too narrow in scope and has left the affected communities deeply disappointed.

In supporting a proposed inquiry by the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee, Ms Sandell said the Melbourne Water review was convenient for the Labor Government, "who wanted to avoid blame or criticism".

"Last year areas of Kensington and Maribyrnong were under metres of water while the Flemington Racecourse was kept dry by a flood wall, approved by a Labor Government at the expense of the community," she said.

"The flood wall around the dry racecourse, while homes went under water, demonstrates very clearly who the government is willing to protect and who gets left behind when it comes to climate change."

"This kind of thing can't be allowed to



continue, and the community are rightly outraged that the Labor Government seems to want to sweep important questions about the flood under the carpet."

"We urgently need a broader-ranging inquiry into these floods to explore why the flood wall was built in the first place, why early warning systems didn't work, and how we can better protect homes and lives during climate disasters, not just vested interests. Governments must do better when it comes to increasingly frequent climate disasters."

The Greens said that its proposed inquiry would investigate a range of areas, including whether the flood wall exacerbated flood impacts in surrounding areas, and the 2007 decision to build the wall made by then Minister for Planning Mary Delahunty, as well as the effectiveness of early warning systems.

Last year's floods hit 525 homes in Maribyrnong alone – four times the number affected during the river's last major flooding event in 1974 – while homes surrounding Riverside Park in Kensington were also badly impacted. ●

# From ramshackle ruins to this

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Behind the factory walls on Abbotsford St is a gallery that has gone quietly about its art business for 15 years.

Marita Smith is the director of GallerySmith and she spoke to *North West City News* about her approach to business.

"If I knew then what I know now I might have made a different decision," she said.

"You start your business as an idealist and over the years become a realist. A business doesn't operate on air and ideas."

Marita started out with 10 years' experience in curating but just when she decided on a building for the gallery the global financial crisis struck.

"Within months the stock market crashed, people stopped spending, new businesses were failing at an alarming rate, and other galleries in Melbourne began closing left, right and centre," she said.

She went ahead anyway, despite seeing the carnage both outside and inside the building.

"In 2007, I walked into this building, and it was a ramshackle dump," she told those attending the opening of an exhibition to celebrate her 15 years.

"I had three kids under five. But amid that most difficult time, I found myself parked out the front, staring up at a real estate sign and dialling the number on the bottom."

"Shortly after, I walked into this place. It was dark and had an inch of dust on the floor and the ceilings were black. The roof leaked. Actually, that hasn't changed. There were no lights and no lightness."

"But I saw something that day. By that stage of my life, I'd worked in the public sector of the visual arts as a curator for 10 years and when I walked in here, I saw possibility. I saw hope. And I saw my future."

Now the gallery is celebrating, after closing for 250 days during the lockdown, with an exhibition that includes 50 artists from their stable,



including five Marita first signed up in 2008.

She now has 20 artists in her stable and is careful about selecting new people. Three were signed up this year.

"Being an artist, by nature, is being an activist or being a storyteller," Marita said. "Some do it quietly, others shout: about environment, humanity, love, fear, politics, destruction, inhumanity, history and life."

While slowly getting the business side under control, with extensive online marketing, she said that handling the artists could be demanding.

"I think the delivery of the relationship between artist and gallery is something I've had to hone my skills in."

She refused to be drawn on any further details but supports the gallery system in which artists pay nothing up front and the gallery arranges exhibitions, promotion, catalogues and financial advice and takes a percentage from sales as a fee for service.

The exhibition, *PAST PRESENT FUTURE* chronicles the time between the global financial crisis to the corona virus pandemic. Some of the works we've drawn from the archives. Some have been "stolen" from studios, artists' parents' houses or borrowed from private collectors.

Some works here were made more than a decade ago, some especially for this show. Some are by young artists. The oldest artist is aged 84.

"They play the narrative of GallerySmith, from ramshackle ruins to this," Marita said.

*PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE*, GallerySmith, until February 25. ●



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# More than a dance dynamo.

Haileybury students are connected to their community and are always looking for ways to best serve them. Like Braya, who aside from having a strong love for dance and music – leading the School's Pipes and Drums band – loves the fact she can help train Guide Dogs as part of her passion for Social Justice. She exemplifies all that we love about our students, spreading that goodness beyond the school grounds.



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DISCOVER MORE

# Australia Day Awards

## Jenny's unwavering commitment to preserving political history

*Kensington academic, historian, and award-winning biographer Jenny Hocking has been awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2023 Australia Day honours list.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

The award recognises her significant service to the preservation of Australian political history, which she described as a "great honour" and "humbling".

As a Kensington resident of 35 years and an Emeritus Professor at Monash University, Prof Hocking said she was "really pleased" the prestigious honour acknowledged the importance of archives to the nation's history – which saw her research uncover the infamous "Palace letters" and the role in which the former High Court justice Sir Anthony Mason had in the dismissal of the Whitlam government in 1975.



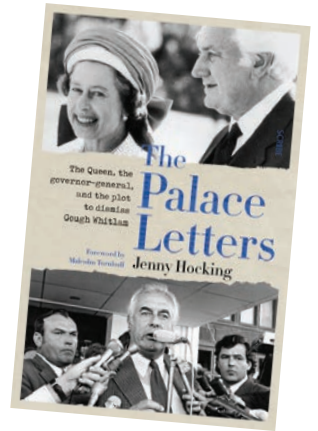
Prof Hocking took the National Archives of Australia to the Federal Court of Australia in 2016 seeking the release of the secret correspondence between then Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, and the Queen relating to the dismissal of the then Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

"They kept them secret for over 45 years, wrongly, as the High Court found and should always be a part of our history. We would've known that the Queen was well aware of Kerr's planning and also advised him on the nature of the Governor General's reserve's powers," she said.

It was only through Prof Hocking's diligent research that she discovered an "extraordinary document" that described in "extraordinary detail" Kerr's "many, many months of discussion and planning" with Mason to sack the PM, which prompted her court proceedings.

"It indicates collusion on a level we haven't seen before, but if we hadn't access to that single document we would never have known about Mason's role, and that's how important archives are to history," she said.

The court case, which ruled in Prof Hocking's favour in 2020 and resulted in the release of the letters, was made possible thanks to a crowd fundraiser that garnered hundreds of supporters.



"I thank them all – not just financially but in terms of the moral support and the view that Australians should know their own history," Prof Hocking, who also authored a two-volume biography of Gough Whitlam, said.

Speaking about her passion for Kensington, Prof Hocking said she loved the community which was "very welcoming and friendly" with many local identities.

"It's been a marvellous place to do the sort of work I do, a lot of interesting conversations over coffee," she laughed. ●

## Fred's passion for helping young people achieve their potential

*Fred Alale, a passionate member of The Huddle advisory committee at North Melbourne Football Club, says he was honoured to be appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).*

Through The Huddle, which works with some of the most iconic sporting clubs in the world to help young people learn, grow and belong, Mr Alale said he loved mentoring others "to achieve their potential and giving back to make the community".

"I am also passionate about showcasing the skills, talents and impacts of African Australians, among other multicultural communities, across Victoria and Australia," he said.

Born in Nigeria, Mr Alale emigrated from the UK to Australia in 2010, and has been "honoured, privileged and appreciative of the immense opportunities Australia has provided".

"It truly is a land of opportunities that I'm proud to call home".

His prestigious award recognised his enormous contributions to the African Australian communities in Victoria. He serves on multiple boards apart from The Huddle's advisory committee, including chair of the African Music and Culture Festival, and is the treasurer of Africa Day Australia Inc.

"I feel it is a privilege to work with an awesome and talented group of people on The Huddle advisory committee at North Melbourne Football Club as I get to contribute to making a real difference in the lives of vulnerable youths and young adults by helping them learn, grow and belong," he said.

"I am passionate about using my skills and experience to mentor others to achieve their potential, and giving back to make the community better. I am also passionate about showcasing the skills, talents and impacts of African Australians, among other multicultural communities, across Victoria and Australia.

Mr Alale added the AFL and sports in general was a great tool for social inclusion and to help "break down barriers between cultures as it promotes a common language or team camaraderie".

He encourages those who set a goal in life to adopt his mantra, "it is not how successful I am



▲ Fred Alale.

Photo: The Age.

“

*It [Australia] truly is a land of opportunities that I'm proud to call home ...*

”

or how far up I get that matters, it's how many people I can create similar opportunities for that is a true measure of success".

Alongside Mr Alale on the advisory committee of The Huddle and a committee member of the African Music and Cultural Festival, is Gary Lee who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the community through a range of organisations. ●

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTRE MELBOURNE.

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## Former councillor honoured for services to local government and environment

*Former City of Melbourne councillor and Kensington resident Dr Cathy Oke has always had a desire to contribute to her community.*

She held executive positions on a range of council advisory committees including the Water Reference Group, the Aboriginal Melbourne Portfolio, and the Melbourne Music Steering Committee, during her term as councillor from 2008-2020 – with increasing investment in biodiversity in the City of Melbourne being her biggest highlight.

On Australia Day, Dr Oke received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to local government, and to the environment.

“To be considered for the Order of Australia is obviously an honour,” she said. “I was a little taken aback, and then clearly thankful to whomever it was that nominated me, and to my family and colleagues for their support.”

But like many community-minded citizens, Dr Oke said, “individual awards are a little awkward, given the projects I have been recognised for are not achieved by one person alone.”

Ultimately, though, the recognition for her contribution to local government and the environment was very welcome.

While at the council, Dr Oke’s projects included the City of Melbourne’s Urban Forest Strategy and Nature in the City Strategy, Exceptional Trees Register, and Melbourne Music Week.

“Local government is the level of government closest to the action when it comes to climate and biodiversity responses, and cities are full of diverse and innovative people. So, highlighting the importance of other levels of government collaborating with cities and their citizens on



these critical issues is what drives me, as I see real opportunity for change,” she said.

Dr Oke, an enterprise principal fellow in Informed Cities, Melbourne Centre for Cities, Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, follows the footsteps of passionate family members who have also made a difference to their communities.

“I am proud to be the fourth Oke woman in my immediate family to be considered for an Order of Australia honour. My Nanna, Marjorie Oke, my mother Elizabeth Kay Oke and my aunt Linda Oke have all received an Order of Australia. So, my dad needs a nomination now because he is a champion too!” ●

## Yasseen makes a difference to the multicultural community

*Yasseen Musa, a passionate volunteer, who was named a multicultural ambassador with the North Melbourne Football Club, said he was “ridiculously flabbergasted” when told of his Australia Day honour.*



“I didn’t believe that this was actually happening. I’ve been heavily involved in community development for over 30 years,” he said, but added, “It’s never been my motive to do things for praise or awards but for the genuine benefit of the community as a whole.”

Mr Yasseen was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) as part of this year’s Australia Day honours list for his service to the African community of Melbourne.

He said it was a “humbling and exciting experience for myself and my family”.

“I took a minute to collect my thoughts and I thought about the way our Australian society has developed over the decades and I was pleased to feel that I’ve had an impact on this change for the betterment of our country.”

He was appointed North Melbourne Football Club’s (NMFC) multicultural community ambassador in 2020 and has been a key volunteer in the creation of the Team Africa AFL team and a member of the Multicultural Australian Football League Committee.

He said his role as an ambassador was aimed at bridging the gap between the community and NMFC.

“There were always waves of refugees from Africa coming in to live around the North Melbourne area and we took it upon ourselves to give guidance to the youth so they can grow and develop themselves to be future leaders

within the community,” he said.

“The North Melbourne Football Club and especially The Huddle provided an outstanding platform to be able to help us out with the kids by playing sport through the various annual footy tournaments which are held all over Victoria, merchandise, free tickets to games, homework club, basketball, soccer, providing us with their facilities to use and employing many of the community members.”

Asked what he loved most about serving the community, he said it was “the impact on people’s lives, the smiles on the families faces, the improvement of individual living standards and providing young leaders the tools to excel”.

“Through this, it creates a better environment and brings out the best in people.” ●



# Plan ahead for summer works

**!** From Wednesday 11 January to Monday 27 February 2023



This summer, crews are completing a series of works across the West Gate Tunnel Project that affects how you’ll move to and from the city.

There are 24/7 lane, road and ramp closures in place across the network. These works are part of delivering a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge.

### Locations

- Footscray Road (continues to June)
- West Gate Freeway lanes
- Williamstown Road outbound entry ramp
- Williamstown Road interchange
- Hyde Street, Douglas Parade and Simcock Avenue

**We understand that these closures are disruptive and thank you for your ongoing patience as we work as quickly and safely as possible to get the job done. Major delays are expected—please plan ahead.**

In partnership with:  
**Transurban**

Please note there may be other works happening across the network during this time. Visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au) for more information.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# CITY GARDENS GO WILD FOR WILDLIFE



Sign up for a free garden visit and become a champion for conservation

Melbourne is home to many iconic parks and gardens, from local reserves to vast open spaces like Birrarung Marr, Fitzroy Gardens and Princes Park. However, one open space people often forget about is in their own home.

Believe it or not you don't need a sprawling backyard in the suburbs to create a thriving natural habitat. Whether you live in a freestanding house, townhouse, or apartment, you can build your own natural space to promote and support local wildlife, right here in the city.

Gardens for Wildlife Melbourne is a free program that provides in-person or virtual walk throughs of people's home spaces with a trained gardening guide. Residents can receive expert advice and recommendations on how they can improve their spaces for local wildlife and build a beautiful natural habitat in their home.

Garden volunteers will request some images of your home space and book in a virtual or in-person visit to learn more about your space and goals. After the visit, you'll receive a personalised garden report with advice on how you can work towards your goals.

You'll also receive a voucher for free native plants from program partners Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare, who can offer even further advice and inspiration on what native plants will suit your space and goals.

Become a champion for conservation and support local wildlife by signing up for a free garden visit at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife)

Thomas' small Kensington courtyard features lots of concrete and plenty of sun. Thomas applied for a garden visit looking for advice on what kind of native plants would not only work well in the space, but provide flowers all year long for local wildlife to enjoy.

"The whole initiative surprised me. I don't know much in that field so it is very easy for me to be overwhelmed. Everyone appeared to be knowledgeable and the advice was logical. The garden report was very useful. It captured my needs well and provided plenty of recommendations for me to consider," Thomas said.

## TIPS FOR CREATING A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

- Planting banksia and grevilleas will help you attract large nectar-eating birds like rainbow lorikeets or red wattlebirds.
- Butterflies will only lay their eggs on specific plants, but adult butterflies will take nectar from lots of different types of flowers, native or exotic.
- You can attract smaller birds like the eastern spinebills by planting thick shrubs for them to hide from bigger birds, cats and dogs.
- If you're lucky you can attract blue-tongue lizards by growing native groundcover plants like nodding saltbush and ruby saltbush, which produce fruit the lizards love.
- Many small bird species like to build their nests using spider webs, fur and grass collected from all around. Keep an eye out for birds collecting nesting material and secure any plastics they might become tangled in.



### KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Artist's impression of green rooftops across the city

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS

**Melbourne is one of the most liveable cities in the world and we're working hard to ensure it stays that way for generations to come.**

That's why at City of Melbourne we're taking bold action on climate change and delivering on our promises for 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and zero net emissions by 2040.

City of Melbourne is a global leader on climate action and sustainability. To ensure we reach our sustainability targets, we're proposing to introduce new sustainable building design standards for all new buildings, major builds and additions that meet a certain size threshold.

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed move to more sustainable building design in the municipality.

Buildings are our biggest polluters and account for 66 per cent of emissions in our municipality. This means we must change the way we build our homes and offices to address the climate and biodiversity emergency.

The new best-practice standards are proposed to be introduced into the Melbourne Planning Scheme under Amendment C376. The standards relate to environmentally sustainable design, energy, sustainable transport, heat minimisation, urban ecology, water management, and resource and recovery.

The Amendment also proposes the use of the Green Factor tool, an online green infrastructure assessment tool designed by City of Melbourne that helps developers optimise the design of green infrastructure.

New design standards will improve the way we live, work and get around the city by helping cool our homes and offices, help us deal with flooding events or heatwaves and make buildings cheaper to live in and operate.

To have your say on the proposed standards, and join us in building a more sustainable Melbourne, complete a written submission between 2 February and 17 March. Join one of our information sessions at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c376](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c376).

### IN BRIEF

#### EVERYONE IS WELCOME

At the City of Melbourne, we believe in bringing people together. Whether you're here to live or learn, to earn or enjoy, we're making our city inclusive and accessible for all. We're a city of possibility – whoever you are, wherever you've come from, everyone is welcome. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/community](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/community) to learn more.

#### OUT AND ABOUT GUIDE

Are you an older person looking for free or low-cost activities, events, services and support in the City of Melbourne? Our 2023 Out and About guide is here to help. Pick up a copy today at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub. Or to download a copy visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople)

#### IMMUNISATION CHANGES

Our maternal and child health team provides holistic care for babies and parents. However, we no longer offer child immunisations during regular check-ups. To learn how to book these through one of our community immunisation sessions, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

#### FOOD AND GARDEN RECYCLING

More than 23,000 households are now participating in our food and garden organics recycling service, with 1900 tonnes of organics already collected. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste) to see how you can put your organics to good use.

#### REPORT IT ONLINE

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report issues online around the clock. Get in touch from your smartphone when it suits you and we'll get on the case. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus)

## IT'S COOL TO PREPARE FOR EXTREME HEAT

**Summer has finally arrived, bringing picnics in parks, poolside lounging, rooftop cocktails and the hottest live music.**

While we soak up the rays and explore the city, it's important to keep in mind the dangers of extreme heat, what you can do to prepare and how to stay cool when the temperature spikes.

By 2050, it's estimated Melbourne will experience 16 days above 35 degrees each year. This means more intense heat for longer periods.

At the City of Melbourne we're working to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat. We're already taking action through the Greenline Project, urban greening, introducing sustainable building guidelines and providing practical support.

Last year, we became the first city in Australasia to join the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center's City Champions for Heat Action – announcing our new Co-Chief Heat Officers, Tiffany Crawford and Krista Milne.

Our Chief Heat Officers champion City of Melbourne's heat-related preparedness, response and recovery actions, unify decision-makers and service providers, and raise awareness in the community.

But we can't do it alone – here are our top tips to help you beat the heat this summer:

#### Be prepared

Keep an eye out for Heat Alerts on our social media channels, set up a 'watch zone' on the Vic Emergency app or subscribe to the Department of Health's heat alerts and be aware of upcoming weather.

Make your home heat-ready by keeping curtains closed during the day, using an air conditioner or fan if you have one and opening windows when it's cool.

#### Find a cool place

If your home is too hot, try visiting an air-conditioned shopping centre, library, movie theatre, or jump in the pool at one of our recreation centres.

Find cool locations near you with our Cool Places map on our website and plan your journey with our Cool Routes map.

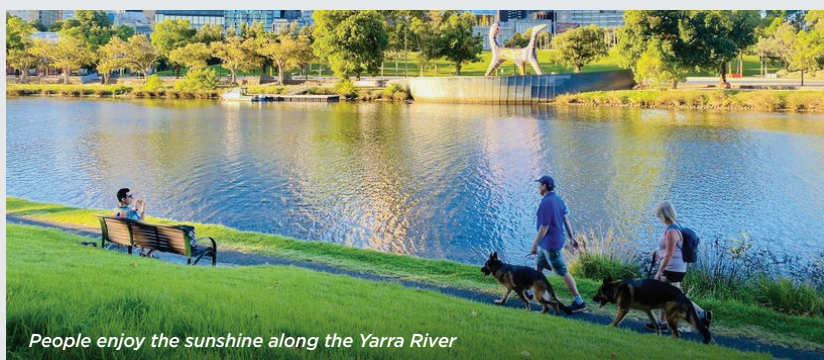
#### Stay Hydrated

Drinking water is vital during hot weather. Carry a water bottle with you and refill at one of our 60 hydration stations.

#### Look after each other – including your furry friends

Extreme heat can have severe effects on our most vulnerable, especially older people and young children. Check in regularly with your family, friends and neighbours, never leave children in cars and make sure your pets have plenty of water and a cool place to rest.

Find more tips at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves)



People enjoy the sunshine along the Yarra River

## Missing cat returns home after two years of adventuring

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*  
ANIMAL WELFARE

North Melbourne resident Sarah Gibbins spent two long years wondering if she would ever see her beloved cat Sleeves again.

Back in 2017, Ms Gibbins and her family were spending Christmas at their holiday home just outside of Swan Hill, a property Sleeves was very comfortable with, when they realised he was nowhere to be found.

Fast forward to today, Ms Gibbins can be seen cuddling up to Sleeves, who is living a life in the spotlight with his face plastered in The Cat Protection Society of Victoria (CPSV) "2023 Famous Felines Calendar".

Putting his miraculous discovery down to the fact that he was microchipped, Ms Gibbins said, "if we hadn't microchipped him, we would never have found him."

After Sleeves went missing near Swan Hill, he was mysteriously found more than two years later in Greensborough.

"We were so worried and not sure what happened, because he knew the space so well, but I feel it was just bad timing and something scared him, so he left," Ms Gibbins said.

"We kept looking for him and were doing everything we could. We put posters up on the street and hung around for weeks longer than we had intended, but we couldn't find him."

Ms Gibbins and her husband also went around to all their neighbours, leaving food with them in case Sleeves did reappear.

But, despite all their best efforts, and continuous searching when they returned on occasion, no news came.

Until one day, out of the blue, a call from the Cat Protection Society of Victoria (CPSV) came through to let them know Sleeves had been found.

"My husband got the call because his number is on the microchip, and when he told me, I said,



'quick, get in the car, we are going to Swan Hill', but then they told us he was at Greensborough," Ms Gibbins said.

"I don't know how he got there but he was still so well behaved and in very good health, and he integrated back into our household like he never left."

After going through a wave of emotions and feeling so distraught after losing an "integral part of [their] family", Ms Gibbins is speaking out about the importance of having pets microchipped.

Despite microchipping being a legal requirement within the state, CPSV reported that, last year, 68 per cent of the stray and surrendered cats and kittens that came to the organisation weren't microchipped.

"Microchipping is the most effective way to reunite lost cats with their owners. It is disappointing to see that in 2022 only 32 per cent of the cats that came into our care were microchipped," the CPSV's senior veterinarian Dr Peta Keown said.

"There is no way for animal shelters like ours, the local vet, or the council to find a cat's owner if they are not microchipped. It's a very simple procedure that any vet can do which sees a tiny chip implanted under your cat's skin."

While it may seem invasive, Dr Keown is quick to assure pet owners that the process "doesn't harm or hurt your cat".

"There is no recovery time needed, and kittens can be microchipped as young as six weeks old," she said.

Microchipping a cat costs about \$50, or \$125 when paired with a veterinary consult, and owners are asked to make sure they keep their contact details updated.

As for Sleeves, one of the lucky ones, while the mystery of his adventures may forever puzzle his family, they are just more than pleased to have him home safely.

And as for his adventures these days, Sleeves prefers them to take place within the confines of his North Melbourne home.

"He doesn't leave the house now," Ms Gibbins said. "You could leave the door open, and he will go out the front door, and then come straight back in."

To view the microchip database, visit: [petad-dress.com.au](http://petad-dress.com.au) ●

For more information:  
[catprotection.com.au](http://catprotection.com.au)

## North Melbourne heritage review moves forward

HERITAGE

City of Melbourne councillors will meet on February 21 to endorse an improved final version of the North Melbourne Heritage Review following public exhibition which took place between August and September last year.

Councillors are expected to recommend that Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny appoint an independent panel to consider all submissions received during the exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C403 before it's legislated.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the heritage review at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on April 12 last year, requesting then Minister for Planning Richard Wynne to release the review for public comment.

Conducted by architects Lovell Chen, the review recommended that 108 buildings have their heritage protection increased on an interim basis under Planning Scheme Amendment C402, while permanent controls progressed under C403.

The Minister for Planning approved Amendment C402 in 2022, with the amendment gazetted on October 6.

While the most recent heritage study of North Melbourne, which was completed in 1983, identified "almost exclusively Victorian and Edwardian era architecture", the latest review assessed existing controls in addition to considering interwar, post-war and postmodern buildings.

The council report tabled at the April 12 FMC meeting said, "the outcome of the review reflects the unique, diverse heritage character of North Melbourne", and recommended heritage overlays and statements of significance to four new places:

- The Albion Hotel, Curzon St.
- Hotham Gardens – Stage One (various sites), O'Shannassy St.
- Harris Street's Plane trees
- Flemington Bridge Railway Station, Boundary Rd.

A total of 23 submissions were received between August 11 and September 15, with the National Trust among eight declaring their overarching support for the permanent controls under C403.

While little is expected to change between the interim and permanent controls, the results of the submissions will see four properties along Boundary Rd removed, while properties at 8 Jones Lane and 588 Victoria St will have their statuses upgraded to "significant" and "contributory", respectively.

Many of the changes come following a detailed submission from local history group the Hotham History Project, which argued that the Jones Lane and Victoria St properties, as well as 38 Curran St and 40-42 Curran St, warranted heritage categories, while arguing 10 Canning St was not a significant building.

The group also expressed concern that two "landmark buildings" – the former Presbyterian Union Memorial Church complex and concrete silos in the heart of the former North and West Melbourne Biscuit Making & Flour Milling Precinct – were both at risk due to likely sale.

Five other submissions objected to a proposed heritage building category change from "not listed" to "contributory" for five properties at 680-684 Queensberry St, 6 Baillie St, 48-50 Baillie St, 59-63 Chapman St and 27-35 Leveson St.

Another submitter also objected to the proposed heritage category for 8 George St, arguing that there was "insufficient justification" for the "contributory" grading of what was a "relatively new" property. ●

## New poetry book explores a "soulful and satirical" view of Gardiner Reserve

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

From hats, coats, and shoes "left behind" at Gardiner Reserve, a new poetry book looks at how "we can find meaning, and even humour" in the "things we once held dear".

So says the author, Brendan Gleeson, a passionate North Melbourne resident, who has launched *The Records of The Loss Property Department of Gardiner Reserve*, a self-published book (Shiel Street Press) of "soulful and satirical picture poems, all baked in North Melbourne".

"I turned to the writing of poetry for the first time in my life as therapy for healing," he said while being away from work due to health reasons since 2021.

"So, from my own experience, *Loss Property* confirms the fact that we can suddenly lose even the things we thought solid and secure, like the ability to work."

Mr Gleeson said the use of the word "loss", and not "lost", was intentional as he hoped it "becomes clear in the reading of the book".

"*Loss Property* is a meditation on the question of loss, an unavoidable, even necessary, human experience," he said.

"In this book I explore that ever present, ever looming reality in poems about the 'left behind'



objects that I constantly encounter in Gardiner Reserve."

But he added, "all is not loss", and he hoped the book "conveys the prospect of hope in such circumstances: that we can find meaning, and even humour, in the losing of things we once held dear."

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, a friend, neighbour and colleague of Mr Gleeson, praised

the new book, saying it "reminds us all of the importance of self-reflection and the search for meaning".

"I highly recommend this new book to everyone. It is like yoga or a good massage for the spirit," he said.

"Brendan Gleeson is rapidly on his way to becoming a living treasure of Melbourne, he really is a wonderful soul." ●

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▲ Biggin Scott Kensington's Kylie Harrigan and Trevor Reynolds.

Photo: Ajay Viswanath

## Biggin Scott Kensington: "simple, ethical real estate"

*For Biggin Scott Kensington's Kylie Harrigan, real estate is her life.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

During a 20-year span, she has had just about every job you can imagine in a real estate office, from admin to owners' corporation, then to leasing, then property management, and finally, her true passion, sales.

Bucking the trend of your typical real estate agent, rather than relishing the limelight, Kylie likes to let her properties do the talking.

"I like to market my properties, I don't like to market myself," she told *North West City News*. "I love the way and process of negotiating, and I love getting the best price for my vendors."

"I have seen pretty much all there is to see in a real estate office, and it has equipped me with the skills to be the agent I am today."

Kylie's 5-star review average on real estate agent comparator website, [ratemyagent.com.au](http://ratemyagent.com.au), consistently lands her as one of the top agents in Kensington.

"Professional," "personal" and "highly knowledgeable" are some of the sentiments echoed across her 150 reviews – so too by her colleague and office director, Trevor Reynolds.

According to Trevor, around 70 per cent of their office's work is from referrals. In fact, they have often had instances where they have sold the same house several times, such is the relationship between their team and both vendors and buyers.

"The purchaser will come back to us and say

we love the way you dealt with us, and we know we paid top dollar for the property, and now we would like you to achieve the same result for us," he said.

"That respect and transparency is something Kylie and myself have worked very hard to gain."

Biggin Scott Kensington has stood on Bellair St for almost two decades.

For over 10 years of that time, Kylie has been serving the residents of Kensington and the surrounding suburbs and during that time, she has seen many changes in the market.

Kylie predicts that, although there has been a decline in the market over the past 12 months, 2023 will be a stable year with demand and prices expected to return to normal programming at the end of the year, with the potential of an interest rate decrease in the third or fourth quarter.

"We don't often see the same market volatility that other areas may see because of the make-up of the area," Kylie said.

"You have availability to just about everything, it's only two stops by train to the CBD, you can also get the tram or take the bike lanes down to Arden St. Citylink is also on your doorstep and gives you great access to the rest of Melbourne or regional Victoria."

"It makes it easy for us to love what we do, because we love our local community." ●

**For more information:**  
[bigginscott.com.au/office/kensington](http://bigginscott.com.au/office/kensington)



## What is brilliant teaching?

“

*It might be hard to exactly define brilliant teaching, but it's very easy to spot.*

”

In some of the best classrooms in the country, brilliant teaching underpins high-quality learning. It inspires the youngest, brightest minds and it sparks curiosity and embeds the concept of lifelong learning.

But what is the essence of quality teaching? How can brilliant teaching be defined and described?

For Haileybury CEO/Principal, Derek Scott, putting the key elements of brilliant teaching in to a short summary isn't possible. However, it's easy to recognise brilliant teaching in action when he sees it.

"The very phrase 'brilliant' teaching elevates teaching to go beyond more than 'good' teaching. However, what transforms good to brilliant is different for different people and it varies in different classrooms. That's actually a plus because we don't want all teachers and classrooms to be exactly the same," Mr Scott said.

"However, I do think that one key characteristic of a brilliant teacher is curiosity. I interview every staff member at their final interview stage, and I always look for curiosity and intellect because when you have bright, intelligent children and young people in your classrooms, you want bright, curious intelligent teachers in front of them."

As well as curiosity, Mr Scott highlights engagement, passion and the ability to build relationships as essential ingredients in the brilliant teaching mix.

Deputy Principal (Teaching & Learning) Anna Sever agreed that a number of factors combined to create brilliant teaching.

"In some ways, brilliant teaching is intangible. It is a culture of high expectations, hard work and collaboration underpinned by our philosophy that 'every student matters every day,'" she said.

"It's a desire to always be better and to find the one percenters and marginal gains that will allow students to be successful. Always being restless, always asking why, and seeing the world through the lens of excellence make a teacher 'brilliant'."

Since 2011, Haileybury has offered a bespoke coaching program to focus on continuous teaching improvement. Coaches are available at each campus to support teachers in professional areas ranging from time management and student feedback to questioning skills and instructional management.

The school has also created an innovative *Brilliant Teaching* series where teachers have access to world renowned experts and where lessons of Haileybury's very best teachers are recorded and placed on a purpose-built Canvas course. Teaching insights are shared and discussed, and educators can observe their colleagues in the classroom and give and receive feedback.

"When you build a strong collaborative culture, you build a capacity for teachers to leverage off each other and to never accept they've reached the final point in their own development. We want our teachers to reflect that continual improvement that we seek from our students," Mr Scott said.

When all these elements and concepts come together, students, teachers and school communities can enjoy the many benefits that brilliant teaching delivers. ●

**For more information:**  
[haileybury.com.au](http://haileybury.com.au)



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## CRITIC



▲ Paul Dalla Rosa at the Premier's Literary Awards.

## Celebrating the short list

A North Melbourne writer has been short-listed for the annual Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and joins an illustrious crew of those nominated for prizes.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Paul Dalla Rosa was short-listed for the fiction prize for his book of short stories *A Vivid and Exciting Inner Life*.

He was at the awards ceremony, held at the Edge on February 2, with a who's who of literati.

The big prize is the Victorian Prize for Literature, worth \$100,000 and the richest in the country. Dalla Rosa was in the running.

The Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos announced the prize-winners.

Dalla Rosa was more confident than last year, combining talk of global city states with his own personal story of identity, having grown up a young gay man.

Dalla Rosa's collection deals with multiple identities and the memorable scenarios at work that both create and oppress the vanities that keep us going in a sometimes-cruel world.

His collection did not win the prize for fiction. That honour went to Jessica Au, for *Cold Enough for Snow*, a modest novella about a journey to Japan.

When the wife of the Premier, Catherine Andrews, announced that Au had also won the big prize, this signalled the value placed on fiction in the community, particularly by this state government.

"I feel slightly ill," Au said. "This is a staggering honour. Something like this is a life-changing moment."

Then, in typical writerly style, she began processing the news from the point of view of a writer rather than the recipient of a staggering \$125,000 for her second novel.

"Prizes ... they fade, and you're left with an ordinary life," she said. "I'll be lucky if out of this some writing comes."

It was an apt comment, given the rapid rise to stardom that has been her fate.

Dalla Rosa has had a similar but not quite as steep trajectory. He won *The Times* prize for a short story in London and his collection was published soon after.

Others on the fiction short-list were also present at the ceremony, including Sophie Cunningham and Gail Jones.

Jones says that prizes are great, and she was hoping for many more opportunities to be on short lists.

Her books have been on 23 short lists and nine long lists, with some wins along the way.

In the past not all short-listers have been as gracious as those who turned up, even though they'd been advised ahead about the winners.

At the Miles Franklin award ceremony in 2019, won by Melissa Lucashenko for *Too Much Lip*, three runners-up failed to show. ●

## ARTS HOUSE

## Arts House's month of dynamic dance and motivating stories

For the month of March, North Melbourne's Arts House will be home to the inaugural FRAME: A biennial of dance, with five vivid and diverse works already on the line-up.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Warning: This article relates to performance which references suicide.

As a new festival, presented by art organisations, companies and independent artists in Victoria, FRAME is a chance to showcase Melbourne's leading dance performers, artists and creatives.

"Our arts sector is critical to a vibrant and eclectic city and this festival responds directly to the needs of artists – working collaboratively with more than 17 organisations and diverse people across cultures, genders and dance forms to create a festival like no other," the City of Melbourne's creative portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said.

Coming to Arts House first, from March 1 to 4, are performances *Two*, by Raghav Handa, and *MOHINI*, by Raina Peterson.

*Two* will focus on a traditional Indian Kathak and contemporary dance, and will playfully explore the intimate bromance between a dancer and a tabla musician playing Indian percussive instruments.

*MOHINI* is an experimental dance-theatre work which draws on a classical Indian dance form known as Mohiniyattam, which means "dance of Mohini".

Sound and visual artist Marco Cher-Gibard has designed laser and projection visual effects, and will be performing both pre-recorded electronic music and live music on a guitar.

Described as a psychedelic feast for the senses, creator Raina, who is a transgender Hindu practitioner of Mohiniyattam, said it was hoped that the audiences would "find renewed respect for the magic and power of transgender people".

"Transformation is a theme within the work, and *MOHINI* is crafted with the intention to take audiences on a transformative journey too," Raina said.

"This may sound like a tall order and slightly



outrageous, but I hope audiences have a spiritual, visceral, transformative experience."

Following the closing of the first shows, *The Honouring* by Jackie Sheppard will then be performed at the Arts House from March 15 to 18.

As a mixed media performer, storyteller, dancer, and facilitator, Jackie focuses on work that explores taboo and complex topics relative to Blak lived experiences, with this latest solo physical theatre work focused on death, trauma and grief.

Through using movement, dialogue and puppetry, Jackie's work explores the "visceral depth and complexity of Blak deaths", in the hopes that broader audiences can "allow it to move [them] into action".

"For Indigenous people, and many other oppressed demographics that exist in our cultural landscape, storytelling is a necessity that responds to our most urgent and present matters that affect our livelihood," Jackie said.

"In a world where we are dying at the hands of the colonial system that is intent on keeping us subjugated, to tell our stories with truth is an act of defiance. It is the process of integrating, releasing and healing."

While the creative project of *The Honouring* started as a "healing journey" after Jackie struggled to deal with the deaths by suicide of many Indigenous friends, it has become a personal work, from her perspective, with many layers for audiences to unpack and process.

"For my Mob, I would encourage you to attend with the knowledge that I'll be landing



on some complex, and visceral depictions of living in the colony, and the depravity that manifests through its dehumanising nature," Jackie said.

"I'm posing some challenging questions around death, pain, and our potentials for both self-destruction, and positive transformation; I work towards safely unveiling what lies in the shadows, to be brought into the light and looked at."

"For the broader audience, I encourage you to bear witness to this story. To allow yourselves to sincerely reckon with the visceral depth and complexity of Blak deaths. To allow the uncomfortable feelings to motivate a sense of empathy and healthy outrage!"

Following *The Honouring*, Restless Dance Theatre will be performing *Exposed* from March 22 to 25, with an ensemble of deaf and disabled artists and allies, who will, through movement, delve into topics of vulnerability, uncertainty and risk.

*Somewhere at the beginning* by Germaine Acogny, who is known as the "mother of contemporary African dance", will then wrap up the festival at Arts House with an acclaimed autobiographical solo work, from March 29 to April 1.

FRAME: A biennial of dance will also have talks, films and workshops for audience members to attend throughout March. ●

For more information:  
[artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au)

## MELBOURNE ZOO

## Elephant calf trifecta for Melbourne Zoo

Melbourne Zoo is celebrating the safe arrival of three Asian elephant calves in as many months, making now the best time to plan a visit.

The newest calf – a female named Kati – was born at 11.25pm on January 1 to mum, Num Oi. She joins siblings Aiyara (female) and Roi-Yim (male), who were born in November and share the same father. Melbourne Zoo trail of the elephants life sciences manager Erin Gardiner said mum and bub were progressing well.

"We are over the moon to have another healthy female calf join the herd," Ms Gardiner said. "Num Oi is an experienced mother and is being well supported by the other female Asian elephants in the herd, who are all keeping a watchful eye on young Kati."

All the three calves born at Melbourne Zoo since November were conceived naturally to sire Luk Chai, who arrived from Taronga Western Plains Zoo in December 2020.

"We began planning these births years ago, so to see natural biology play out at its best has been a real privilege," Ms Gardiner said. All calves are being raised by the entire herd, naturally creating herd cohesion and providing social development.

"Young elephants learn their behaviours in a social context by observing the other herd members," Ms Gardiner said.

"We are already seeing the three calves mimic their mothers' and aunties' behaviours by manipulating their trunks and attempting to pick up leaves and branches throughout their habitat."

"Just like human siblings, the young calves are also learning from one another through play, which is critical for building their confidence and negotiation skills."

Zoos Victoria is part of a regional breeding program for Asian elephants, which are classified as endangered in the wild by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. We've also maintained an international partnership with Fauna and Flora International, which is undertaking fieldwork in Vietnam to establish wild elephant numbers and better understand the threats Asian



Elephants face in the region.

As previously announced, the entire Asian elephant herd – including the calves – will move from Melbourne to Werribee Open Range Zoo in 2024, following completion of an \$88 million expansion funded by the Victorian Government. ●



Rhonda Dredge  
JOURNALIST  
R.DREDGE@HOTMAIL.COM

# News from Parkville Gardens

*Christmas celebrations, sporting galas, the Lunar New Year and school holidays have all passed by, and it's back to school and back to work.*

Summer still invites ease and Parkville Gardens remains an attractive and congenial place to live.

It's a world away from the catastrophe of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and the brutality of war in Ukraine. Our hearts go out to local residents who have relatives and friends in these disaster zones.

On the home front there's good news to kick off the working year. Thanks largely to the efforts of former local member Tim Read, the 505 bus service began extra services on Monday, February 13.

There are 13 additional weekday services, including two in the morning peak and four in the afternoon peak (Saturday and Sunday services remain unchanged). The weekday service between 9am and 2pm will run every 40 minutes instead of once an hour.

Everyone is encouraged to check the timetable or call 1800 800 007 for a copy. Most importantly, please take advantage of the extra services. After such a long battle to secure them, we don't want to lose them again for lack of patronage!



Timetable:



Another item of good news is that, thanks to support from our Neighbourhood Partner, Nas Mohamud, the City of Melbourne has granted the Parkville Gardens' Residents Association (PGRA) funding for a new noticeboard.

The present one, on Cade Way near the heritage building, was once in the centre of the neighbourhood, but as more high-rise

apartments have been built that has changed. More than half of us now live along Galada Ave. Our preferred location for the new noticeboard is close to the barbecue area and children's playground.

On the other side of the ledger, there have been reports of thefts in the area. Outdoor furniture and delivered parcels have been stolen, and items taken from parked cars. Residents are advised to be vigilant and, above all, to report thefts immediately to the police.

Don't call Triple 000 for this – that's for emergencies only. Call the Brunswick Police Station on 8378 600, the Melbourne North Police Station on 8379 0800, the Police Assistance Line 131 444 or use the VicPol Online Reporting site.

The PGRA Committee had its first meeting for 2023 earlier this month. We have a number of events in mind to bring local residents together this year. There'll be more news about this next month.

In the meantime, please share your ideas, suggestions and concerns with us via [president@pgra.org.au](mailto:president@pgra.org.au) or [secretary@pgra.org.au](mailto:secretary@pgra.org.au).

We look forward to hearing from you. ●



Tom Knowles

TOM KNOWLES IS THE PRESIDENT OF PARKVILLE GARDENS ASSOCIATION.

[PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU](mailto:PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU)

## METRO TUNNEL



## Victorian-first platform screen doors installed in Metro Tunnel

*Platform screen doors are being installed in the Metro Tunnel's five new underground stations as the project's all-important milestone of train testing in the tunnels is fast approaching.*

Work to install the doors is under way at Arden Station, boosting safety and helping keep trains running on time when the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025.

The toughened glass sliding doors will open and close in tandem with the fleet of Melbourne's new High-Capacity Metro Trains – preventing people and objects from falling into the path of oncoming trains by creating a barrier between the track and platforms.

Crews also recently fitted the final doors at Parkville Station, while work is continuing at Anzac Station and will soon start at State Library and Town Hall stations.

Platform screen doors are a hallmark of world-class rail systems, like those in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Paris – and are a first for Victoria.

The technology has been tested in a series of rigorous trials over several years, both in virtual development and at a test platform at the Pakenham East train depot.

Sixty doors will be fitted at each station, with 300 to be installed across the project – enough to stretch from Queen Victoria Market to Flinders Street Station.

Through the twin tunnels, crews are laying the 18 kilometres of track alongside the world-class signalling, communications and power equipment that will allow test trains to begin running through the Metro Tunnel in the second half 2023.

The first 165-metre lengths of steel rail were laid at a section between Arden Station and the tunnels' western entrance in Kensington in November.

Rail installation is expected to be finished by May 2023.

Once complete, the Metro Tunnel Project will deliver more trains, more often – creating capacity for more than a half a million extra passengers each week during peak times and saving people up to 50 minutes every day.

Metro Tunnel services will also run direct from the heart of the CBD to the airport when Melbourne Airport Rail opens in 2029. ●

## HISTORY

# Shirley Andrews: 1915-2001

*Shirley was born in Sandringham and completed her secondary schooling at St Michael's Grammar School in St Kilda before enrolling in a science course at the University of Melbourne in 1934.*



WORDS BY Felicity Jack  
HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT

Subsequently she lived and worked in the vicinity of North Melbourne and in her later years she settled in a house that she built in Shiel St.

Her first job was at the University's Veterinary School (1937) before taking up the position of research officer at the CSIRO in 1947. She was a skilled professional, but her employment was jeopardised by her membership of the Communist Party.

Shirley was passionate about human rights, and she was committed to working toward a more just and equal society. Shirley never saw herself as a revolutionary, but the party gave her the means of contributing to many worthwhile causes through which she could pursue her vision.

Shirley was a skilled folk dancer and she was a member of the Unity Dance Group which performed at events of the Australian Communist Party. She was interested in early forms of Australian dance and her research continued with the Victorian Dance Assembly until shortly before she died.

In 1951 she joined the Unity Dance Group in a trip overseas, and she visited Berlin for the World Youth Festival. She subsequently travelled in Eastern Europe for six months. She found it difficult to obtain a job on her return because of her membership of the Communist Party but in 1953 she was employed at the Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital where she worked

with Dr John Cade who was working on the use of lithium for the treatment of bi-polar mood disorders. She retired in 1977 after a highly successful career.

Shirley was a founding member of the Council for Aboriginal Rights and later its secretary. She was on the committee of the Federal Council for Advancement of Aborigines and took a major role in advocating for the passing of the 1967 referendum on including Aborigines in the census. She resigned from the organisation in 1968, believing that Aborigines should take the lead role in fighting for their advancement.

Shirley did not seek the limelight and never achieved public recognition. She was hindered in her professional life through being a woman and a left-leaning, unmarried one at that. But her vision and commitment contributed to the world becoming a better place and, as the referendum of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament draws closer, it is fitting to remember her.

This article is based on a PhD thesis written in 2011 by Jennifer A Hibben titled *Shirley Andrews: A Prismatic Life*. ●



For more information:  
[hothamhistory.org.au](http://hothamhistory.org.au)

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

# A new Victorian Housing Minister

*I welcome the appointment of Mr Colin Brooks as the new Victorian Minister for Housing and look forward to him improving public housing by first assessing in detail the programs of the Andrews Government.*

Early signs, though, are that Minister Brooks has let Homes Victoria press on with its harsh treatment of remaining residents at the Barak Beacon estate. They have all been given a notice to advise what they are doing about relocation offers or be evicted! Follow what is happening here and join the residents Facebook group to be in solidarity with them: [facebook.com/groups/1210658333087123](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1210658333087123)

### A national plan to meet the housing affordability crisis

Already in January we are seeing signals on the deepening affordability crisis for millions of people across the country.

A film was recently shown on ABC TV (after its release last year) that documents the housing insecurity and homelessness of more than 400,000 older single women was clear on the depth of the crisis:



Last year I worked with other tenants to successfully secure security doors in all units in a block in Carlton and it has been great to see new maintenance projects announced for five estates and that local residents will be involved in overseeing their roll out.

I strongly urge Minister Brooks to meet with the not-for-profit design and research design team which have completed "Retain, Repair and Reinvest" studies on the Ascot Vale and Barak Beacon (Port Melbourne) estates to demonstrate how these estates and others can be retained and have more public housing built.

To date all we have seen from the federal government is a start to its social and so-called affordable housing program with a grant to a South Australian government project on a public housing estate demolished years ago. It has been curiously branded a "Build to Rent" project:



With the Commonwealth Games being held across Victorian regional centres in 2026, the federal government has already offered funds to build games housing. There are fears in these communities that private rental housing will become even more unaffordable and that there will be a new drive to demolish public housing estates and redevelop for games accommodation needs.

A new plan is needed with the following key elements:

- Legislate in all Australian parliaments the right to secure, affordable housing for everyone;
- Return to investment in public housing. Don't demolish it. Retain, repair and reinvest using the OFFICE concepts;
- Withdraw the \$10 Billion invested in the Future Fund that will now only deliver under \$600 million a year instead of Labor's election promise of closer to \$1 billion a year and spend it all on new public housing over the next three years while a plan for ongoing spending is put to the federal parliament; and
- Introduce mandatory inclusionary zoning in private housing developments to secure land to build public housing in all states and territories. ●



*Cory Memery*  
CITY OF MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020  
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KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

# A year of reckoning – 2023



*The year is upon us. On behalf of the Kensington Association, greetings to all North-Westies.*



For me, and I guess for many, the year doesn't feel properly under way and "normal" until schools go back.

But what is "normal" now? Some talk about a "new normal" post-COVID. But we are not really "post-COVID"! Let's just say that we are all, adults and children, grappling with a new set of circumstances and conditions.

The "bread and butter" issues for the Kensington Association (KA) concern the protection and enhancement of the existing amenity in Kensington, as well as the monitoring of development proposals affecting our built or natural environment. We often act as a conduit between government and community. That being said, our effectiveness in speaking for the community depends on participation from our community. We work in close partnership with other community organisations and with our Neighbourhood Partner from the City of Melbourne, Melanie del Monaco.

We have a monthly newsletter and a website, also regular column in the *North West City News* as well as the *Flem-Ken News*. We hope that our "information tree" provides enough opportunity for community members to participate and to be informed and empowered.

I'd like to share with the community what I see as the "agenda" for KA during 2023.

- As usual, on the top of our agenda is the need to scrutinise new developments; those around Macaulay Rd in particular. We can advocate, lobby, advise or make enquiry about issues that concern residents. Dealing with developers is challenging, and we sometimes feel relatively powerless, but we know we are listened to. We can

strengthen any individual voices and provide good support and information. Most of the new large developments have commercial premises on the ground floor; we can certainly help advocate for community needs to be considered for these premises, and those in any other commercial developments.

- We will continue to monitor and advocate in relation to any ramifications from the Metro Rail Project (around Kensington South Station) and the Westgate Tunnel Project. The machinations around Moonee Ponds Creek are also something we continue to work on.
- We have resolved to keep a closer eye on the Future Melbourne Committee business.
- We have involvement in the Kensington Reconciliation Action Group, supporting the action for Voice and Treaty.
- We will be seeking to increase our social media presence, in particular to increase the action on our Facebook page to improve information flow.
- We will continue to work to increase our profile and active membership.

We know we do important work for the community; what I have said above needs emphasising – "our effectiveness in speaking for the community depends on participation from our community". We know many people feel passionately about this part of Melbourne. We also know that some parts of Kensington are changing fast, and we need to adapt to emerging needs. We treasure community feedback! We want to know what is important to community members in the "new normal" of 2023. ●

**Contact us:**  
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[kaincchair@gmail.com](mailto:kaincchair@gmail.com)



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KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



# Kensington Community Fresh Food Market

*If you live in Kensington, you probably know that locals have been interested in sustainability and climate focused projects for many years. Kensington is also a place where locals are passionate about caring for their community and ensuring a just and equitable neighbourhood.*

WORDS BY *Esther Sadek*

Our latest initiative is the Kensington Community Fresh Food Market.

Residents can bring locally grown fresh produce from their backyard or from community gardens and sell it, seek a donation for it or share it for no charge. A team of volunteers run the market day. Funds generated go back into the community gardens or to the locals if they contribute produce for sale.

The market builds on 11 years of local efforts to establish food gardens and food distribution programs to build food security and resilience in our community. The market is an important next step to ensure locally grown fresh food is accessible by all, carbon emissions and food waste are reduced, and people are connected to their food source and community.

The Kensington Community Fresh Food Market is part of a larger project funded by the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, called "Empowering Local Communities to Address Climate Change". It's a partnership between Kensington Neighbourhood House, Unison Housing, Transition Town Kensington, The

Venny, Living Learning Australia, the City of Melbourne and Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places.

How to get involved:

- Growers: bring your produce down to the market.
- Supporters: come to the market and purchase, give a donation or share in the locally grown produce
- Volunteers: help us with the set-up, running and pack-down of the market

The market runs once a month on Saturdays from 12, at Skinny Park, Bellair St, Kensington, opposite the train station. The pilot, from November 2022 to March 2023, sees its last market on Saturday, March 4. The hope is to continue the market beyond the pilot. There has been a lot of positive energy with people embracing the idea of sharing locally grown produce ... "If everyone gives a little, we all get a lot. It's beautiful, I love it".

We need more volunteers to help run the market, so if you are interested in being involved, please get in touch. Contact us via our Facebook page, Kensington Community Fresh Food Market, or call Kensington Neighbourhood House on 9376 6366. ●



# Investing in local waste programs

*The Kensington Community has been successful in receiving a grant from the Victorian State Government's Circular Economy Communities Fund for a waste program.*

The grant provides funds towards an investment of \$80,000 in a local program to reduce waste in the community. This figure includes various in-kind support from individuals, groups and organisations.

The program is a collaboration driven by Transition Town Kensington, Kensington Neighbourhood House and Unison Housing and builds on existing activities that a number of individuals, groups and organisations have established and supported including the Venny Inc, Kensington Association, The Kensington Network, Flem Ken Rotary with some funding from the City of Melbourne.

The program includes the expansion of the local composting hubs which began with the first one built at the Kensington Town Hall. Since then, three more have been built to process local waste and deliver the compost created, back into local food growing programs. These hubs are situated at the Venny Adventure Playground, The Kensington Child Care Cooperative and Unison Housing. Each of these sites is processing approximately 85kg of organic food waste per week (this is an approximate figure as not all the waste is currently being tracked).

Households walk their organic waste down to these local hubs; this organic waste is then processed using the natural breaking down



process fueled by the sun and microorganisms and various life inside a compost bay. No fossil fuels are used in the process. This compost when finished is then used back in local food growing initiatives. This entire system is happening within a five-kilometre radius with minimal CO2 emissions.

Through recovering this valuable resource (biomass) reduces the need for compost to be bought, processed elsewhere, packaged and transported into the community.

Included in this program is the ongoing Kensington Repair Hub, which has been operating for a few years and has successfully kept around 500 kilograms of waste out of landfill last year.

A number of repair sessions including the

Kensington Community Bike Workshop will be run to educate community on how to undertake their own repairs using a library of tools and materials with supervised guidance.

Ongoing education is always key in changing behaviour. By providing information on current behaviour regarding waste and its impacts on life on our planet a series of *Waste Wisdoms* newsletters and workshops will provide information and guides on how individuals, groups and a community can move towards reducing waste.

When we submitted our application, its focus was on implementing a program of initiatives that made a practical difference and provided actual tools for our community to actively participate in taking responsibility for managing their waste locally. ●



**Jacqui van Heerden**  
CO-CONVENER OF TRANSITION TOWN KENSINGTON  
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## NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

# The Roundtable arrives in North Melbourne

*There is something new in the Errol St Reserve in North Melbourne; a seven-metre diameter public table filled with edible plants.*



The installation titled the *The Roundtable* was originally short-listed for the 2021 NGV Architecture Commission and has been adapted to suit the Errol St Reserve.

The idea for the project came about during the dark winters of Melbourne's lockdowns and was borne of a deep nostalgia and longing for the social. The table is the original common space, an object that celebrates coming together, seeing each other, and sharing food.

Most cultures include some form of communal surface, to meet around, to eat, to share stories and company. This takes many forms, but the coming together is consistent, a space within the home and the city that serves as a hub in increasingly divergent lives.

Tables are where deals are made, bargains struck, fortunes won and lost. Society operates both above and below the table, with the legitimate and illegitimate defined metaphorically as above or below the "board". The enfranchisement of our communities and the ability to participate in decision making is marked by a seat at the table.

The table is the repository of memory – a childhood spent hiding behind the tablecloth – a summer afternoon meal with friends.

This table encircles a productive garden of

native and introduced plants intended to be eaten. Plant species have been selected for their appearance, scent and taste – visitors are welcome to pick, smell and taste the plants, but also to think of others when they do so.

The installation will be in the Errol St Reserve for the next several months, after which it will be disassembled, with the construction materials up-cycled for use in other projects and the plants made available to find new homes with members of the community.

*The Roundtable* is a collaboration local architecture practice Common and landscape architects Enlocus and is supported through the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a partnership of the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne. ●

**For more information:**  
[the-roundtable.online](http://the-roundtable.online)



**QUIRKY CORNER**

## Lost turtle winds up in North Melbourne

*A turtle captured having a shell of a time strolling the streets in North Melbourne is lucky to have been rescued before making its way towards a busy road.*

"I took it to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital as he was heading for the road, and I didn't want him to get squished!"

While the turtle's circumstances remain unknown, questions have been raised whether it may have been heading to a local Shell service station ... but one thing is for sure: any investigation is likely to run at a slow pace. ●

The odd sighting was photographed by a local where the turtle was spotted in an alley behind IGA on Errol St on January 19. "Maybe it is someone's pet?" a resident wrote on Facebook.

Got something quirky or unusual to share? Email it to [admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au) to be featured in next months the *Quirky Corner!*

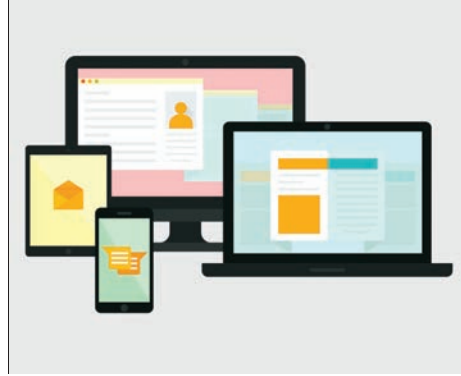


# What's On: February 2023

## Community Calendar



UNTIL DECEMBER 18  
**Kensington Market**  
 Kensington Market is returning to Kensington Town Hall, highlighting the produce and artwork of this wonderful inner-city makers community. Be sure to come down as you'd be sure to find something you love, from designer fashion, homemade treats, coffee, homewares, jewellery, kids wear and art.  
**Kensington Town Hall**  
 30-34 Bellair St, Kensington 3031



UNTIL MARCH 23  
**Connect Cafe - Tech and I.T. Help**  
 Learn new skills on your mobile, tablet device or laptop - open up new horizons!  
 One-on-one tech and I.T. help for people 55+ with a trained and skilled Lively Tech Helper.  
 A light morning tea provided. Bookings essential - 9658 9190  
**Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre**  
 91-11 Melrose St

UNTIL DECEMBER 5 - FREE  
**Preschool Storytime**  
 Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at storytime, with stories, songs, rhymes, and activities.  
 Every Tuesday, from 10.30am to 11.15am.  
**North Melbourne Library**



UNTIL FEBRUARY 25  
**PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**  
 This exhibition chronicles the time between the global financial crisis to the Coronavirus pandemic.  
 Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm.  
**GallerySmith**



UNTIL DECEMBER 7 - FREE  
**Stompers**  
 Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music, and most of all, fun. Ages 18 months to 3 years.  
 Every Thursday, from 10.30am to 11.00am.  
**North Melbourne Library**



**Threading Stories**  
 Aimed at residents over 55, this program is an opportunity to learn or practice creative skills (such as knitting, sewing, craft, painting), while forming connections and exchanging ideas and stories.  
**Kensington Neighbourhood House**  
 89 McCracken St, Kensington  
 Call 9376 6366 to find out more

**Parkville Tennis Club**  
 Parkville Tennis Club is a small friendly tennis club located just outside the CBD on Royal Parade. Individual, student, concession and family memberships are available.  
 151 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052  
 Monday - Sunday - 6am - 11pm  
[tennis.com.au/parkvilletc](http://tennis.com.au/parkvilletc)



**Kensington Community Bike Shop**  
 The Kensington Community Bike Workshop is a community-run not-for-profit bicycle workshop that runs a supervised space with tools, parts and expertise for bike repairs.  
**Bill Vanina Pavilion, JJ Holland Park**  
 For February dates 9376 6366



# Business Directory

## Health & Fitness

## Precinct

## Politician

## Real Estate

## School

## Shopping

# Rendina

SELLING HOMES IN ASCOT VALE | ESSENDON | FLEMINGTON | KENSINGTON | MARIBYRNONG | MOONEE PONDS | NORTH MELBOURNE | STRATHMORE | WEST MELBOURNE



**2402/15 EVERAGE STREET, 3**    **MOONEE PONDS**

- Luxurious Sky Home positioned on the 24th floor
- Panoramic city views, floor-to-ceiling glass
- Vast open plan living/dining domain

**AUCTION** Saturday 4th March 10am  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950

**208/80 SPEAKMEN STREET, 2**    **KENSINGTON**

- Open-plan living/dining leading to large balcony
- Kitchen with stone benches and S/S appliances
- Euro laundry, secure entry & gym on site

**SOLD \$495,000**  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271  
 Jack Curtin 0435 828 955



**2/20 WESTBOURNE ROAD, 2**    **KENSINGTON**

- Modern kitchen, stainless steel appliances
- North facing deck & courtyard, plus carport
- Heating & cooling, floorboards & off-street parking

**FOR SALE**  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



**26 GREENHAM PL, 3**    **KENSINGTON**

- Modern, open plan design, basking in natural light
- Private courtyard and low-maintenance garden
- Brand new kitchen with luxury inclusions

**SOLD \$911,000**  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



**1/7 MUNRO STREET, 2**    **ASCOT VALE**

- Open plan living, plus balcony & terrace
- Intercom entry & off-street parking
- Walking distance to all amenities

**ONLINE AUCTION** Saturday 4th March 11am  
 Jack Curtin 0435 828 955  
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



**55 FRANCIS LANE, 2**    **KENSINGTON**

- Spacious Contemporary Living
- Set over two levels, plus open plan
- Heating & Cooling & transport nearby

**SOLD \$675,000**  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271  
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950

**WHAT IS MY HOME WORTH?**

**SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT!**




**2/19 AFTON STREET, 4**    **ABERFELDIE**

- Designed by the award winning Wellard Architects
- Luxury features at every corner
- Nestled on the cusp of the Maribyrnong River

**PRIVATE SALE**  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



**53 STUART ST, 2**    **MOONEE PONDS**

- In the same family for over 50 years
- Live in as is or extend or renovate
- Floorboards throughout

**AUCTION** Saturday 10th March 2023  
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415

**ANYTHING WITH OUR NAME ON IT SELLS®**

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