NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

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Keeping it in the NABE *Photo by Ajay Viswanath*

Founder and director of NABE Studios Zoë Blow has breathed new life into a former Ormond St fish and chip shop by re-imagining it as a community arts space for all Kensington locals. *Full story on page* 7.

Brotherhood Books in Kensington up and running after being devastated by floods

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees* COMMUNITY

Brotherhood Books, a Kensington-based social enterprise, which sells second-hand books online to raise money for community projects, is back in operation after being ruined by flood waters last October.

The flooding, which occurred when the Maribyrnong River burst its banks, caused extensive damage to the warehouse on Hobsons Rd, and destroyed more than 20,000 books or a third of its stock.

Brotherhood Books manager Greg Simpson said it was a "pretty epic clean-up job", with crews spending about four months refurbishing the office and clearing the mudsoaked floors in the warehouse, which had been 60cm deep in flood waters.

"There's nothing anyone could've done about it. You

can't control it. It was pretty powerful stuff and they had to get out of here basically while the cars could basically be driven – it was that intense," Mr Simpson said.

He said they were unable to have volunteers in the warehouse for two months, while the clean-up was carried out by professionals.

Mr Simpson said some members occupied an upstairs space and did the "best we could to get by" while the downstairs office had carpet, plastering and power boards replaced.

But in late February, the team was able to resume their normal operations, with about 100 volunteers back in full swing; moving trolleys and sorting books in the warehouse

While the floods had been devastating, Mr Simpson conceded it "could have been a lot worse, we weren't put out of business".

Continued on page 7.

Residents at wits' end over parking chaos

Residents in Stanley St, West Melbourne, are growing increasingly frustrated over a lack of parking in their street, arguing the City of Melbourne is not doing enough to fix the issue.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The street has become a hotspot for parking congestion, with people from all over the area – including tradies from nearby apartment complexes – using the street as a convenient parking spot, while ignoring time limits and residential permit restrictions.

North West City News spoke to several residents who said the situation had become worse with many unable to park in their own street, leaving them no option but to park up to three blocks away from their homes.

Resident Steven Tu, who has lived in the area for 20 years, has been urging the council to act for the past five years, including circulating a petition signed by 50 residents, but to no avail.

He has reported illegally parked cars to the council on several occasions, which had "fallen on deaf ears", and was further disappointed by its response which said because he was "making multiple complaints daily, this is starting to interfere with our coverage of West Melbourne".

"Mellow down and stop ringing" otherwise "we will stop attending", read an email sent by the City of Melbourne to Mr Tu.

But Mr Tu said he was not asking for much and believed council should be sending parking inspectors to Stanley St regularly to crack down on illegally parked cars, and to change parking signs on one side of the street to resident permit zones only.

"There is a lack of care. No-one's



▲ West Melbourne residents gather in Stanley St in March. Photo: Ajay Viswanath

doing their job. And no-one's holding them accountable," he said.

Mr Tu addressed councillors at their Future Melbourne Committee meeting on February 28, when he asked what was being done to fix the issue.

In response, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said council officers patrolled the West Melbourne area daily, including Stanley St, and advised that since December last year 105 parking fines had been issued to people breaching the parking rules, along with 344 fines issued in the six months from July 1 to December 31 last year

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North Melb Town Hall undergoes restoration





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PUBLISHER Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd ABN: 57 623 558 725

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The deadline for the April edition is April 8.

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Residents at wits' end over parking chaos

Continued from page 1.

Cr Capp said the council's director of parking services had spoken to the foremen at the nearby construction sites to discuss the parking behaviours of their staff and contractors, and reiterated that "council is committed to the ongoing daily patrols and the conversations with local stakeholders on how to share the area as equitably as possible".

But according to Mr Tu, educating workers on construction sites was not having any effect because they were "serial offenders".

"We park several blocks down, and I have to walk my two little kids, sometimes in the rain, carrying shopping bags, and I just get into a foul mood," he said.

"It's absolute joke and, not to mention when there's a major sporting event at Marvel Stadium or Hillsong [at the former Festival Hall] on a weekly basis; forget it, people just park everywhere in the street."

"In all seriousness, we are looking at moving out, that's how bad it is."

Mr Tu said he had received parking fines because he was unable to find parking in a permitted residential zone but when he objected, a letter from the council stated, "this isn't sufficient grounds for us to withdraw a fine".

Residents have been told that the council would consider installing parking meters, but they believe this won't be effective as "people will park anyway".

Another resident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said they had made "numerous complaints to the council, but they don't pay any attention".

"They park all day, and they do it with impunity because they know the council is not enforcing it," the resident said, adding "during the day you will see them [tradies] doing musical chairs with their cars" to avoid parking fines.

Magdi Yatim, owner of Westend Automotive at the corner of Stanley and Adderley streets, said the lack of parking was "squeezing" him out of business.



▲ Residents are up in arms over tradies and visitors parking in their street.

Photo: Ajay Vishanath.

"Workers at construction sites start at six to seven o'clock in the morning and they take every parking spot," he said, leaving nowhere to park his clients' cars.

"It's very hurtful for the business because we can't take work. We're a small business, we try not to abuse the street. Sometimes you put a car outside, you can't move it anywhere, you get stuck," he said.

Council releases plan to improve parking

In March, the City of Melbourne unveiled a draft *Parking and Kerbside Management Plan* which aims to improve the use of the city's limited on-street kerbside space.

The plan will be considered by councillors at their March 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting. If endorsed, the plan will go to community consultation from March 22 to April 19 via the online Participate Melbourne portal.

"We want to ensure that everyone who needs to drive into the city understands their options and has the best chance of finding a park either on-street or off-street," Cr Capp said.

The council says that the draft plan will help inform decisions on parking availability and is focused on boosting business by identifying a range of potential improvements to parking management, including:

- Simplified signage;
- Consistent layouts and durations;
- Education to improve knowledge of onstreet and off-street parking ontions; and
- street and off-street parking options; and
 Investigating data-led measures to boost

availability, such as demand-based pricing. The draft plan does not propose any increase to the current maximum \$7 hourly rate. It's estimated that measures to simplify parking signage and conditions could result in a 10 per cent decrease in parking fines. •

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What a great service, we love the fact we can order by 10am and get delicious, market fresh produce delivered to our door on the same day. It's so fun to open the box that is packed so nicely with no plastic and all of our favourite market goodies.

– Kate

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March 2023, Issue 24.

Love your North West City local



Alpha Lewis: a sign of good business



Creating unique and captivating signage is a high priority for the team at Alpha Lewis Signs, but it's the business's strong family values that continues to see it thrive.



WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

At the heart and soul of the business are husband and wife, Paul and Kim Lewis, and their son Nic, all of whom are determined to continue to add years of service to the multi-generational family-owned business.

Started by Paul's father John who was an experienced ticket writer, Alpha Lewis Signs was established in 1969 and has spanned three generations.

"We actually really love what we do, every day is so different, and we get to work with such a diverse group of people and businesses, and be surrounded by creativity," Kim said.

Among its long list of custom services and products are wall graphics, banners and digitally printed signage, vehicle signage, 3D signage, lightboxes, neons and illuminated signage, window film and vinyl cut signage, directional and wayfinding signage, retail and corporate branding, and traditional signwriting and murals.

Signage consultancy is an additional service the Alpha Lewis team is also really promoting.

"It's a really big thing we are pushing because there is a gap in the market of people knowing how to get their signage to where they want it," Kim said.

"The fun part of the job is we work



backwards with them and deliver end to end signage solutions, and design, manufacture and install innovative signage that elevates their brand and message."

Examples of why dealing with a family business can be so special is seen through Alpha Lewis Signs' long-standing relationships with a number of clients.

The company enjoys an ongoing partnership with North Melbourne Football Club, which it has supported with signage for the past 40 years, while it has also worked alongside the family-owned business Lombard The Paper People since 1984.

"Both North Melbourne Football Club and Lombard The Paper People are celebrating a long history, and we like to celebrate our longstanding relationship with them both and the fact that we are all still here after the last few years." Kim said.

This dedication to providing a service and celebrating the achievements of clients was recognised by the City of Melbourne in 2021, with the business receiving a Lord Mayor's

Commendation.

Awarded a Silver Commendation for more than 25 years of business in the municipality during the pandemic was a "pretty amazing" achievement for Alpha Lewis Signs and served as a reminder that the work the team does matters.

"We have been around for a very long time, and so we come with a wealth of industry knowledge, experience and expertise, and we are family run which means the care factor runs deep," Kim said.

"We are very passionate, caring, proactive and creative, and we offer a full service on a wide range, which is a big thing and quite unique."

Alpha Lewis Signs can be found at 242 Dryburgh St, North Melbourne. ●

For more information:

alphalewissigns.com.au



ADVERTISEMENT Your City of Melbourne community update

TAKING GREEN WASTE SERVICE TO NEW HEIGHTS



Do you live in a high-rise apartment? You could be eligible to make use of the City of Melbourne's Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service.

In an Australian-first, we're offering the service to residents of participating apartment buildings six storeys and above - giving more people the opportunity to act more sustainably, reduce waste costs and improve the environment.

This includes access to on-site dehydrators, used to reduce the volume of waste by up to 80 per cent - and process organic waste into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser.

About 70 per cent of City of Melbourne residents live in highrise apartments, making this service a crucial step forward in the municipality's sustainability goals.

The pilot program supports Melbourne's circular economy by converting fertiliser into high-quality compost for use in parks and gardens across the municipality - improving the health, fertility and productivity of our city's greens spaces.

Residents will also be able to use a portion of fertiliser created in their own gardens.

Six high-rise buildings have been selected through an expression of interest process to take part in the 12-month pilot. The pilot has been designed to meet the individual design and needs of each building.

The high-rise trial follows the successful rollout of FOGO collection to more than 23,000 households and low-rise apartments across the municipality. This has seen more than 2,368 tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill.

The high-rise pilot is being delivered in partnership with Enrich360 and Eco Guardians, as part of Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to divert 90 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030.



For more information and to join the next high-rise pilot project, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste

ACCESS FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AT OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Free period products will continue to be available from six City of Melbourne community facilities until 30 June.



We're continuing our mission to alleviate period poverty with the extension of our free period care pilot

The free service aims to support people who menstruate go about their daily lives without the fear or stigma of managing their period.

By providing pads and tampons free of charge, Council hopes to improve the health, comfort, dignity and inclusion of Melburnians.

We've dispensed more than 6,700 period care products from vending machines across six Council-owned facilities since the trial program began in September 2021.

Period care products can be found at:

- · Library at the Dock
- City Library
- · Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets (on Collins Street)
- North Melbourne Community
- Kathleen Syme Community

We'll continue to explore options to expand the program across additional sites, working with the State Government to accelerate the rollout across the municipality.



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Friendly parrot may be banned outdoors after ruffling the council's feathers

WORDS BY Brendan Rees COUNCIL AFFAIRS

VB, a chatty rainbow lorikeet, loves to greet his West Melbourne neighbours from his cage, and has done so for the past five years.

The loveable parrot's home is at Phoenix Window Cleaning Services on Stanley St, but his carer Mick Douglas, who also works at the business, likes to roll his cage to the side of the footpath every day for locals to enjoy.

But his good nature has not won over the City of Melbourne, which Mr Douglas labelled as the "fun police" after telling VB's owners to put his cage indoors because it was deemed a "hazard" on the footpath.

According to the council, a permit is required for "items placed in a public place" under the Activities of Local Law 2019.

"Permits are required to ensure safe access for all. They are also important for businesses given the public liability risk of placing items in a public place, should an incident occur," a council statement said.

Mr Douglas said he couldn't believe the council was "having a go at a bird" with their request being a "little over the top".

"The locals like him, they come past saying hello to him because he says, 'how are ya?'" Mr Douglas said, adding VB was "not hurting anyone" and "he's out of people's road" and would continue to have him outside.

"I know they're doing their job, but I think they're going overboard."

Mr Douglas said VB always had access to food and water, and that his cage was locked at all times and its wheels secured with bollards. There is also a sign displayed on the cage saying, "Please stop to say: 'How are ya' but please be careful of cars in the driveway".

"I feed him every day, and I even come in on Sundays and let him out," he said, adding "if it



gets too windy, we put him inside anyway."

Mr Douglas said that when he spoke to council staff, "three of them" had "come down making a big scene out of it".

He was further disappointed because he had also created a little community garden outside the business premises and regularly weeded the surrounding area.

"We try to respect the place, and they just seem to be out to get us in general."

Mr Douglas also pointed to a neglected garden in the median strip of Stanley St, which had not been maintained in years, but couldn't understand why the council was not addressing this but had instead "gone mad picking on a bird"

North West City News was also made aware of potential hazards in the street including an uneven section of footpath near where VB's cage is set up, as well as an exposed gas meter box with





a broken door at a nearby building, which had a broken door – which Mr Douglas believed were more problematic than a bird cage, which still allowed plenty of room for people to walk by.

Brendan Rees

JOURNALIST

BRENDAN@

HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Calls to improve Canning streetscape

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*COUNCIL AFFAIRS

North Melbourne residents are calling for the streetscape along a section of Canning St to be improved after one described it as looking "degraded".

Long-term resident Kaye Oddie said a section of the street between Vaughan Terrace and Melrose St had begun to deteriorate, particularly around the front of Woolworths where rubbish and trolleys were regularly dumped.

She said the nature strip near Woolworths also needed new grass after being worn down by people walking over it.

"I guess you could say the whole streetscape is becoming quite degraded. There are lots of trolleys left there and dumped stuff coming out of the flats, which are above the Woolworths complex."

The City of Melbourne said council contractors and local laws officers regularly patrolled the municipality and responded to reports of dumped rubbish.

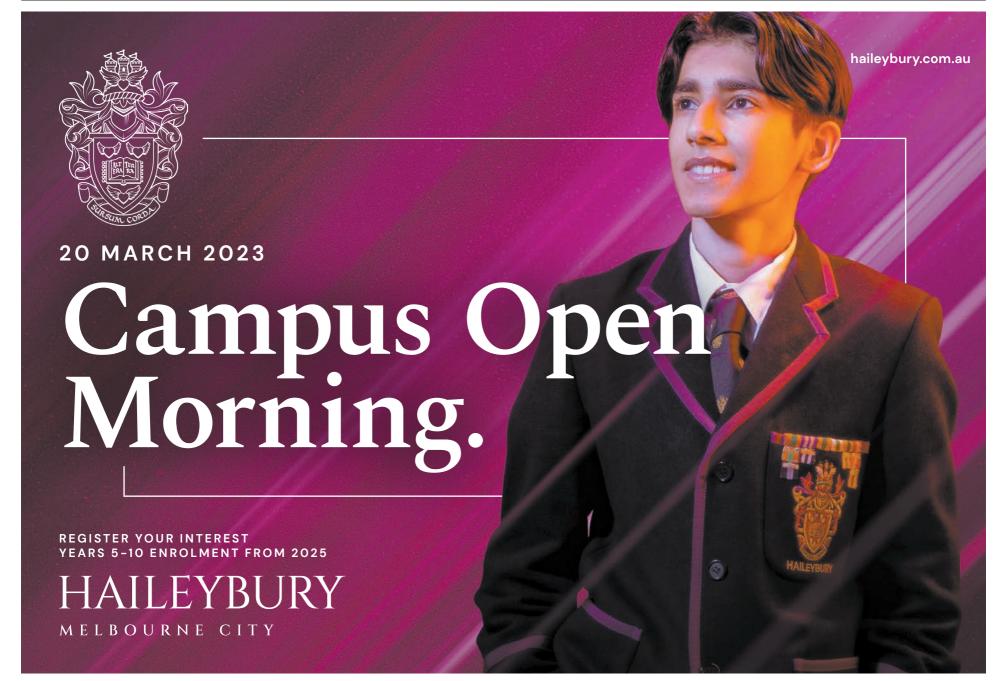
It also noted properties on Canning St, between Melrose and Buncle streets, were a mixture of private and public housing, and the council was working closely with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DHHS) to educate residents, and deter dumping in the area.

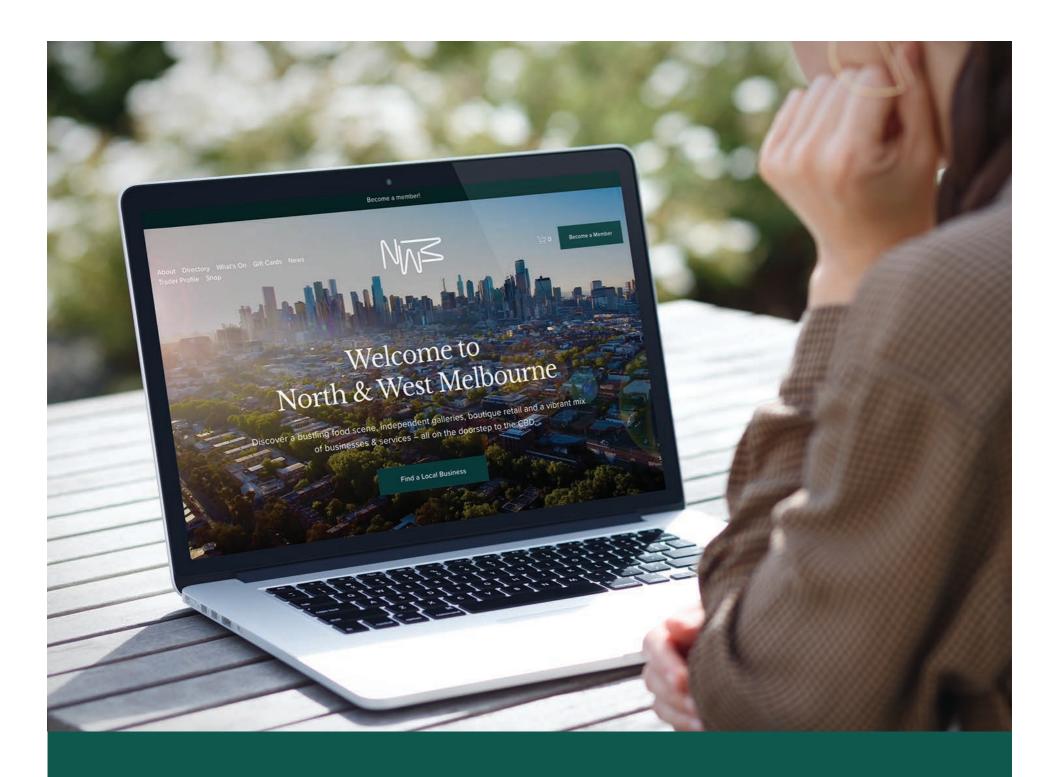
Ms Oddie said if the area was kept clean people would have "second thoughts of dropping their litter".

In addition, she said a "step in the right direction" would be to put in a grass median strip on Canning St to improve the visual amenity.

Illegally dumped rubbish can be reported, and hard waste collections can be organised by private residents, online: melbourne.vic.gov.au

Public housing residents can organise collection via the DHHS.





The NWMPA has partenerd with industry leading experts 'The Digital Picnic' to provide social media training for our local business members.

Valued at over \$1,000, join us for 2 X free masterclasses held on Monday 27th March and Monday 3rd April, from 1pm - 4pm at The Larwill Hotel in Parkville.

The training will focus on successfully leveraging key social platforms to grow brand affinity and build engaged communities through a strategic understanding and approach to social media.

Non-members are encouraged to join the NWMPA through our website for just \$60 to take advantage of this free training.

For more information or to RSVP, please email info@northwestmelbourne.com.au

northwestmelbourne.com.au





Kensington's new NABE-ourhood arts space

Words by $Sean\ Car$ photography by $Ajay\ Viswanath$ community

Ever wanted to have a crack at arts and crafts, but never found that perfectly comfortable space to begin your journey? Or simply wanted a mental break away from your busy life to find a creative outlet ... ideally, in your neighbourhood?

Well, people of Kensington, rejoice! Founder and director of NABE Studios Zoë Blow has reimagined a former fish and chip shop on Ormond St as just the sort of community space you're after to get those creative juices flowing.

With a passion for creative education, Zoë's background in community arts had always led her to want to open such a space, and since recently stepping away from a role in the commercial arts world, the time had come to realise the vision for NABE.

With its name derived from the slang term for "neighbourhood", as well as the Japanese hot pot "where everything gets chucked in", NABE Studios is what Zoë described as a community space with a "hodgepodge mixture of anything goes".

With the deep fryers now gone and the creative forces moved in, NABE Studios is breathing new life into the former fish and chippery, with two artists already setting up in its studios, and with other shared spaces available to rent.

Focused on being a space for all Kensingtonians, NABE Studios will also host weekly events ranging from sustainable craft workshops, life drawing and family arts sessions through to open group exhibitions which locals can apply for.

The space is also available to hire for a range of community events – creative, or not. Whether it be an exhibition, an open-mic night, a film screening or even just a humble evening of cards with your friends, Zoë said the space was open to all.

"It's a real community space," Zoë said.



Gallery.

time when as a 14-year-old, her mum had sub-

mitted her artwork without her knowing in

an open arts contest run by the Brunswick Art

She said that the excitement she felt when she

"They're shared studios, so it's just trying to create a nice sort of community vibe that people feel comfortable in."

"I think when I was younger and sort of just starting out making my own artwork, there were so many galleries that just all seemed such awkward spaces and that were so intimidating."

"This is literally the place next door. It feels like you're walking into someone's house, and you literally are walking into a house and an old fish and chip shop!"

And, with that same community spirit in mind, NABE is now gearing up for its big opening event on April 1 – "The NABE Studios Small-ish Art Prize" – an all-ages art competition at \$35 an entry where Zoë said, "anything goes."

"The opening event is April 1, and all entries will be accepted, and there'll be judges and prizes. We'll have music, sustainable crafts, and family-friendly workshops, and that will be our 'hello and welcome' and chance to meet everyone," Zoë said.

"The whole sort of vision with this is to give people the confidence to participate."

Zoë shared with *North West City News* the

saw her piece in the gallery's window had given her aspirations as a young artist a real boost. It's something she hoped both the "small-ish"

It's something she hoped both the "small-ish" prize and NABE itself could similarly inspire in opening creative windows for other people, and not just in art.

"It's really about a mindset shift – creativity is not just drawing or painting. Once you've had a crack, you could then go home and go, 'maybe I could get out in the garden', or 'I could tinker with the car'," she said.

"It's all meant to be a building block to give you the confidence, and when you leave the space going, 'do you know what? I feel a little bit zingy'."

To pursue that "zingy" feeling, make an enquiry or just get in touch for a chat, head online via its website or Facebook. ●

For more information: nabestudios.com.au









▲ Les Robinson (seated) in Brussels, December 1918.



▲ Volunteers at the Brotherhood Books celebrate returning to normal operations.

Brotherhood Books in Kensington up and running after being devastated by floods

 $Continued\ from\ page\ 1.$

"There are people a lot worse off than us so it reminds you to be grateful for what you do have"

Brotherhood Books, which is part of charity Brotherhood of St Laurence, is one year into its five-year lease at its Hobsons Rd location.

All profits from book sales go towards numerous Brotherhood programs, including refugee support to the HIPPY Australia program, a free, home-based parenting and early childhood learning program and a breakfast club, which allows children to enjoy a nourishing meal every weekday before school, and take part in fun, learning activities.

Mr Simpson said while they were slowly rebuilding their database, there was one particular item – a World War One diary – found by a volunteer, that left him speechless.

"We didn't believe for a second that anyone would give that away deliberately," he said.

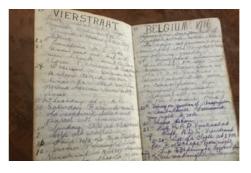
The diary was written by James Leslie Robinson, known as Les, a stretcher bearer and ambulance driver, who was just 19 when he enlisted for service in 1915.

After putting a callout to Robinson's family through an article published in *The Age*, Mr Simpson was astonished when he received a call from Robinson's niece Jenny Robinson, 80, within 24 hours.

Jenny travelled from Apollo Bay, in Victoria's southwest, to collect the diary from Mr Simpson at the warehouse on March 7.

Speaking to *North West City News* just days after having the diary returned to her family, Jenny said was thrilled and couldn't thank Brotherhood Books enough.

"What is in my mind, is very much is how great the people are at Brotherhood Books. Within all of their books, they found it; and they took the time, through the media, to get the message out that they were looking for the family, so I think all credit to them," she said.



▲ Les Robinson's World War I diary.

Jenny said she believed the diary had mistakenly been placed in a box of donations after her family home in Glen Iris – where her parents had a significant collection of books – was sold about three years ago.

"Other things got dispersed to family members, so I kept thinking, 'oh, maybe somebody's

got it', so it was all a bit of a mystery," she said.

"My family has always loved history; we're family of teachers and we taught history. I've got nieces and nephews who are really interested in family history, so the diary is a huge stimulus for them and their family heritage."

Jenny said Mr Simpson's mother Rosemary kindly transcribed the diary, which, on reflection was a "reminder of how horrific wars are".

"Uncle Les was a very beautiful uncle. The amazing thing in reading through his diary is despite the work he did as a stretcher bearer, what he saw, what he experienced, there's no emotion, there's no kind of explanation of his reaction to anything, no matter how terrible."

"To me it's even more of a miracle that Uncle Les kept one and he wrote in it, just so regularly and that it actually survived with him 'til the end of the war, despite all the mud and, and all the rain and all the conditions, so to me that's really amazing that the diary got through the war."

Faces of north-west city





What brings you to our part of Melbourne, and why do you like it?





BELINDA

I am from Bendigo and came along to watch my son training today. Everyone at the club is so friendly, it's a great ground, and everything in North Melbourne seems so easy and accessible, and it has a little bit of everything.



YEMING XIE

My wife is studying at Melbourne Uni, so I take the baby out when she is working. I am doing remote work temporarily to take care of the baby. I am from China, but I enjoy life here. I live in a big city normally which is very stressful and not healthy for me, but the work life balance is awesome here and there is lots of green grass to picnic or walk the dog.



NAP

I am a massive North Melbourne Football Club supporter, so I came here to watch training and see how the young blokes are going and who is looking good in the pre-season. I also think Arden St is a beautiful and really nice part of the world.



SONIA

I am originally from the United Kingdom but am here on a two-week holiday visiting my daughter who has been over here for seven years, and who has just had a little girl. I absolutely love it here, it's a beautiful place and we have been walking 10 miles a day, just around and about, getting to know the area.

West Melbourne loses a gallery

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*ARTS & CULTURE

A small independent gallery in Chetwynd St is being forced to close after three years, reducing the number of galleries in West Melbourne to two.

The directors of Meow, in an unmarked terrace at number 16, received an eviction notice on March 8.

"We're pretty disappointed," gallery director Hana Arles said. "We've had to cancel shows. We're booked up until November."

The façade of the heritage cottage will be retained but the rest demolished to make way for a box-like structure containing two units.

Ms Arles said they were considering moving the gallery to Berlin where one of the directors lived.

"It's much cheaper in Berlin than here," she said. "They have a different culture around renting. Tenants have more power, and the culture is not moving towards development."

Meow is one of a group of small galleries that has opened to cater for a younger group of artists coming out of college.

"There are a lot of new spaces that show really good work in Melbourne in the past five years. It's been a really exciting time," Ms Arles said.

The impetus has been a mistrust of the older artist-run spaces which generally receive grants and charge as much as \$1000 a week for artists to show.

"They're not really accessible to artists of our milieu. The curating is more admin than it is artistic."

She said the closure of Meow would put artists in a precarious situation for "more artists are seeing the glamour of doing something yourself and the freedom".

The gallery attracts those "who don't conform to a set of guidelines", she said. The property, which was deemed unliveable, was found by searching for storage spaces in the inner city that could double as studios.

The one downside in terms of viewing art is that Meow was only open on Saturday afternoons. Its last exhibition will be from 6-8pm on Saturday, March 18.

At the other end of the commercial spectrum is the West End Art Space in Adderley St, which occupies the foyer of an apartment block.



▲ Hana Arles at Meow with paintings by Grace Anderson.



▲ Bus Stop by Johnny Romeo.

An exhibition *Cloud 9 Paintings* by Johnny Romeo opened on March 8, which the gallery is promoting as "visually accessible pop culture".

Johnny Romeo lives in Sydney and Los Angeles and is not averse to self-promotion. His large jokey works are unashamedly slick and offer a pastiche of references.

Bus Stop, for example, combines a portrait of David Hockney with an umbrella from a famous 1958 Magritte painting and references the song by The Hollies.

Cloud 9 Paintings, Johnny Romeo, West End Art Space, until March 25. Hana Arles & Anabel Robinson, Meow, 6pm to 8pm, March 18. ●







Preps at St Michael's Primary make fabulous start to school journey

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees* EDUCATION

Preps at North Melbourne's St Michael's Primary School have been all smiles during their first weeks of school.

They have shaken off any sign of first day nerves to enthusiastically embrace an array of exciting learning activities.

"It's been a fabulous start to the year for our 2023 Prep class," the school's community engagement leader Fiona Dunne said.

Celebrations for the first day of school included making crowns, playing games together and building Lego, while other highlights were a teddy bears picnic, sport and art lessons and a visit to the library.

"The children were so excited to have an activity called Body Investigators from The Drama Tool Box," Ms Dunne said, adding they had a fabulous time learning about the different organs in the human body and how they worked.

"The children were taught about how neurons and axons send messages to our body. The Drama Tool Box used role play to engage the children."

"It was so much fun! I loved dressing up and being the blood cells!" Prep student Cyndii said.

Tahlia, one of the Prep classroom teachers, said teachers had been so impressed with the transition for all children.

"Our Prep children have been amazing! We have loved watching them come to school each morning with huge smiles on their faces! We are so proud of them all," she said.

When asked what the best thing about school was, Alex P replied, "I love playing in the yard with my big brother", while Izzi said, "I really like helping people at the doctor's surgery". ●

Community housing build starts in North Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees* HOUSING

Construction of a nine-storey community housing complex in North Melbourne is under way as part of the Victorian Government's "Big Housing Build" blitz.

The 78-apartment development at Shiel St is being funded by Homes Victoria with Housing Choices Australia, an independent, not-forprofit housing provider, to own and manage the homes when completed.

At least 75 per cent of all new homes will be offered to applicants who have established a priority need for housing including those experiencing homelessness and people with special housing requirements.

The development is expected to be completed in mid-2024 after early works started on site in June 2022.

A Homes Victoria spokesperson said the property would have one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, which were designed to Liveable Housing Australia's Silver level, 5-Star Green Star and 7-Star NatHERS ratings.

"Through this development and the continuing investment in the Big Housing Build, the government is creating a pipeline of modern, fitfor-purpose social homes for those Victorians experiencing housing stress," the spokesperson said.

Community consultation was held over a three-week period in 2021, which followed some residents voicing concern that the development was exempt from normal planning conditions as part of the "Big Housing Build".

As reported by *North West City News* in October 2021, the housing units, at the time of the proposal, were subject to final approval by the then Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, meaning they did not need to be assessed under the mixed-use zone and overlay requirements, according to urban planner Andrew Thornton.

Mr Thornton, representing

Tract Consultants, which designed the building with Claire Cousins Architects, said there was no opportunity to appeal the decision at VCAT.

Residents expressed concern over the development's bulk and scale, as well as its setbacks, brick façade, safety around vehicle access, soil contamination and lack of consultation.

These concerns were also contained in Tract's community engagement report, which also stated potential impacts on privacy of existing residents, car parking, increased traffic, and the relationship to the neighbouring State Archives site.

In response, the report noted several changes were made as part of the documentation for lodgement of the planning application, including a setback to the top floor of the building to reduce visual impact and allow for additional communal space and integrated landscape, and a reduction of five apartments at the top floor of the building, which had also formed as part of the City of Melbourne's feedback. •



▲ Councillor Rohan Leppert at North Melbourne Town Hall last month. Photo: Ajay Viswanath.

Last chance to make flood submissions

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge* PLANNING

There's a timeless quality to the patch of riverbank down near the old stock bridge in Kensington but experts are warning residents not to be complacent.

Nicole Kowalczyk has prepared a submission for the Melbourne Water review into last year's disastrous flood. She's blaming overdevelopment of flood plains for the surge and is keen to "let rivers be rivers."

As an ecologist and Maribyrnong Officer for the Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association, she's opposed to flood walls and extensions to existing buildings.

She says that those who bought into one of the affected areas, the apartment block at Riverside Place south of the old stock bridge, probably had no idea of the flood risk.

On October 14 last year the Maribyrnong burst its banks and a surge of muddy water engulfed the building, writing off an estimated 100 cars in the basement, after destroying homes further up the river.

The 2022 event was a 50-year flood, Ms Kowalczyk said, and authorities predicted it would be similar to the one in 1974.

"If you look at aerial footage the water levels are extremely similar," she said, "so were the flow rates and the rainfall. You can directly compare the water's distribution."

Since the 1974 flood, the increase in impervious surfaces and development created massive flash flooding and a stormwater surge that was twice as high as expected.

Riverside Place is just a few hundred metres south of the controversial flood wall built at Flemington Racecourse in 2007. The water rushed up Hobsons Rd, then up Bateman St, leaving a high-water mark on the wall of the apartment block of about one metre.

"If it was a 100-year flood the first floor would have been wiped out," Ms Kowalczyk said. "It's in a flood risk zone. You assume planners have done their homework if



▲ Maribyrnong officer Nicole Kowalczyk outside Riverside Place.

you buy a unit."

Ms Kowalczyk is encouraging those affected to make submissions to the Maribyrnong River Flood Event Independent Review which closes on March 17.

In her submission on behalf of the Maribyrnong and Waterways Association, she says that early warning systems could be improved.

"Two days before there was a general warning. It was downgraded the day before. At 8.24pm on October 13 a warning was issued that it would have a moderate peak. At 2.25am an emergency flood warning was sent by text. A peak of 2.9 metres was expected. It reached 4.18 metres."

She said the warning system was imperfect and that many residents missed out on the text. Others were not "flood literate" enough to heed the warnings.

"I want Melbourne Water to err on the side of caution and issue a moderate warning and that people have more notice."

She said they need to know that if it's been raining for a week, the banks will overflow. "We should have rules of thumb. We should be aware of the risks. What are the signs? Where can they find more information?" What do they do in an emergency?" •

North Melbourne Town Hall undergoes restoration works

Words by *Kaylah-Joelle Baker* Photography by *Ajay Viswanath* HERITAGE

North Melbourne Town Hall is currently receiving a "much-needed facelift", after works to restore the façade of the notable building began in late-February.

Evident from the scaffolding that is currently in place and impacting surrounding footpaths, the restoration started on the Queensberry St side of the building.

When this section is finished, the scaffolding will be moved to the Errol St side and the 26-metre clock tower.

"North Melbourne Town Hall is one of the most iconic buildings in our city. Built in 1876, it is a landmark that takes pride of place in our neighbourhood," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We're giving it a much-needed

facelift, with work on restoring the façade of the building well under way."

As part of the council's strategic objective and commitment to setting the standard on climate action and taking urgent action to reduce emissions and waste, detailed in the Council Plan 2021-25, the works on North Melbourne Town Hall have been carefully considered.

In harmony with the Emissions Reduction Plan for Council Operations 2021-26, all gas services in the building will be changed to electrical, and new heating and cooling pumps will be installed.

Restoring the façade of the Victorian-era building has also been well timed, with the prominent structure being only three years shy of its 150th birthday.

North Melbourne Town Hall's external restoration project is expected to be completed in May. ●



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Your City of Melbourne community update

BEYOND THE BOOKSHELF: SEVEN WAYS OUR LIBRARIES TRANSFORM LIVES



Our libraries are places full of joy and creativity, where the future is now.

Local libraries have evolved in many ways over recent years.

Demand for books remains high, and use of digital resources like ebooks, audiobooks, films, music and games surged during lockdowns. But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our library offerings can't be contained by walls or websites. They pop up across the central city and hit the road to visit people in their neighbourhoods



Here are seven special ways to engage with our library services:

 Look out for our Mel-van mobile library visiting public housing, community hubs and festivals near you with books, workshops and wi-fi in a suitcase. We also bring our 'Books and Biscuits' program to older people, with curated preloved books and discussions about short stories, poems, essays and articles

HOMELESSNESS ZINE

Pick up a copy of the *Need to Know* zine – made by people with lived experience of sleeping rough – from our libraries and community hubs.

 Find pathways out of homelessness thanks to library social worker Erin McKeegan. She helps people in need access the support services they need amid the welcoming, non-clinical library environment.

- Watch the new Munro Library take shape in close consultation with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal artists. This epic library will be located opposite the iconic Queen Victoria Market.
- Use state-of-the-art creative technology for free in our makerspaces. Devotees have designed games, 3D-printed lizard skeletons for museum exhibits and prototyped groundbreaking medical devices.
- Share your love of reading, practice
 French and learn how to do your
 tax at online and in-person events.
 Our book clubs, conversations
 clubs and life-skills workshops
 build community and counter
 isolation.
- Borrow technology kits to make your life easier, cheaper and less wasteful. We have microphones, guitar pedals, robotics equipment, laptops and accessibility tools like the C-Pen Reader, which reads text out loud.



7. Co-work, run meetings, tinker on a creative project, shapeup your startup or just make a cuppa at Micro-Labs, a vibrant, flexible space on Bourke Street. Drop by to enjoy a curated library collection, mini makerspace, kitchenette, movable furniture, pop-up shop and cosy courtyard.

Our permanent and pop-up library locations include the central city, East Melbourne, Carlton, North Melbourne, Docklands and Southbank. Head to our website to view the locations and browse catalogues and events.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

LOVE FOR THE MEL-VAN



'It's magic. It means a lot to people. Books and Biscuits is an incredibly stimulating activity that opens up people's minds to new ideas, great chats, and digressions into other fantastic conversations. It's very meaningful and we create real connections through the group interaction and topics.'

Irene, South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre 'The Mel-van brings us books in our language that we can't find anywhere else. They bring games and painting and help us with digital technology like our phones and the internet. The library is very important and we feel very close to the library. We've never had a library visit us every week before.'

Stella, North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre

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ADVERTISEMENT Your City of Melbourne community update

IN BRIEF

WEST MELBOURNE COUNCIL MEETING

We're holding the second Future Melbourne Committee meeting of each month in community locations across the municipality.

This month, join us in West Melbourne on Tuesday 21 March at 6pm at the West Melourne Baptist Church and Community Centre.

We want to make it easier for people to engage with councillors and staff and shine a light on the unique needs of each neighbourhood.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

SCRUBBING THE CITY

Did you know that the City of Melbourne carried out more cleaning in 2022 than ever before, removing the equivalent of nearly eight MCGs of graffiti in the past year?

Council's Rapid Response Clean Team removed a record 150,000m² of graffiti across Melbourne in 2022 - a 121 per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

More than 87,000m² of graffiti was proactively cleaned, and another 63,000m² was removed following reports from the public.

Council has also stepped up its efforts to remove dumped rubbish across the municipality, collecting more than 4,500 tonnes in the past 12 months - and an additional 100 tonnes of discarded mattresses.

CITY ECONOMY SNAPSHOT

Do you run a business in the city? Harness Melbourne's new rhythm with the latest city data to boost your business.

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot is a new free seasonal activity guide for businesses that reveals where people spend their time and money in our city.

Our first edition shows a record \$1.1 billion was spent across the city in December. Friday and Saturday are now our busiest days, weekday spending is as strong as pre-pandemic and our night-time economy continues to flourish.

To access the Melbourne Economy Snapshot, visit **melbourne.vic. gov.au/business**

STAY CONNECTED

Be first to know about what's happening in your neighbourhood – from amazing events to new community facilities – with our City of Melbourne newsletter. Sign up today at melbourne.vic. gov.au/subscribe to get the latest news straight to your inbox.

REPORT IT ONLINE

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

Melbourne Award winning peer support group, Transfamily, is leading conversations that help the family and friends of trans or gender diverse people by providing a safe, welcoming space for them as their loved one transitions.

Supporting loved ones who are trans or gender diverse can create a lot of questions and changes for families, friends and partners.

Transfamily provides a warm, welcoming and non-judgmental environment where people can share their experiences and find guidance.

For Megan, Co-convenor at Transfamily, helping families make sense of the changes in their dynamics means helping create safe, welcoming spaces for family and friends as their loved one transitions.

"If we can help families cope, then the trans and gender diverse person can keep a roof over their head and feel safe as they transition," Megan said.

Run by a committee of eight dedicated and passionate volunteers, all with lived experiences supporting a loved one who has transitioned, Transfamily has been operating across Melbourne since 2014.

"We have a wonderful committee who triage enquiries, run support meetings and are passionate advocates for trans and gender diverse people," Megan said.

"There is no other group like this in Victoria. We are proud of the support we offer and the work we do to make a difference in everyone's lives."

The importance of peer support

Families play a significant role in establishing a safe and nurturing environment for loved ones as they transition, however support for families during this time is also vital.

"The family go through an adjustment of their own and this adjustment process takes time," Megan said.

"Family members need to re-establish their relationship with their transgender loved one and the transgender person needs to reinitiate into family activities in their redefined gender." Megan explained that rejection from family and loved ones can lead to poor mental health outcomes for trans and gender diverse people.

Concerns about losing family relationships often impact a person's decision to transition, or the ability to transition safely.

"Research has also shown that poor, or derogatory comments from family members affected self-esteem more than insults from non-family members," Megan said.

"Basically, the need for support from the family members is heightened because both the transgender person and family members transition differently and concurrently."

Recognition for vital services

We recently recognised Transfamily in the 2022 Melbourne Awards. They won the LGBTIQ+ category for the important services they provide for local families.

Megan said that the acknowledgment of Transfamily's work has allowed the team to reach more families seeking help to navigate changes in their lives.

"Winning the Melbourne Award means we get to spread the word further. It has provided us with a platform to explain how we can support those who support trans and gender diverse people," she said.

"There is a strong LGBTIQ+ community network, but we are one of the few organisations that help those who are not necessarily LGBTIQ+ themselves but love dearly an LGBTIQ+ loved

Are you seeking support?

For people supporting a trans or gender diverse loved one, attending meetings themselves can be quite nerve-wracking.

However Megan said people can be assured that Transfamily is a supportive, safe and respectful environment.

"You can come to Transfamily in confidence," she said.

"Our meetings are not for the trans and gender diverse person so you can speak openly about your experiences and it will not be told to anyone outside of the group.

"We are there to support you as you navigate the changes happening to your loved one."

Face-to-face meetings are available once a month at different locations across Melbourne.

They run for about two and a half to three hours, with around 30 to 40 people attending each meeting. Online options are also set to launch in the near future.

"This is an extremely supportive group who all come with lived experience," Megan said.

"We get it. You didn't sign up for this disruption in your family and yet, here you are.

"Transfamily does help to normalise what you are going through and you meet others who have gone through it, or are going through their family changing, also. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to support their loved one."

For Megan, knowing that there are services available out there, whether you're a trans or gender diverse person or a supporting family or friend, is incredibly important to creating safe and welcoming community.

"For those exploring their own gender – be brave and strong. Know that support is there for you to live your life in the gender you align," she said.

"For those who have a loved one who identifies as trans or gender diverse - the role you play in supporting your trans and gender diverse person is important.

"You also have to be brave and strong and know organisations like Transfamily are there to help you navigate that change in your family dynamics."

To find out more about Transfamily or enquire about attending a peer support group meeting, visit transfamily.org.au

Discover the full list of 2022 Melbourne Awards winners at melbourne.vic.gov.au/ melbourneawards



Supporting our new arrivals

WORDS BY Felicity Jack
COMMUNITY

Local community groups now have a chance to offer support and friendship to refugees arriving in Australia through a program backed by government and run through Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA).

Groups are being set up around the country through the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot. At present there are around 15 in metropolitan Melbourne that are either already formed or are going through the process.

There are strict guidelines and protocols ensuring that groups provide appropriate care and maintain respect for the rights and dignity of those they support. Training is mandatory, and there is a requirement that at least five community members are committed to support a refugee family for one year after their arrival in this country.

Accommodation, both short- and long-term, medical care, and employment and education for both children and adults are among the responsibilities of welcoming groups, as well as provision of basic necessities such as food and clothing on their arrival.

Groups need to fundraise a sufficient amount to demonstrate that they have the financial means to support a family for 12 months. Fundraising is a good way to initiate groups working together and getting to know each other in a meaningful way prior to the next phase of welcoming a family and offering active support.

Families are selected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the basis of need, and are matched with local groups. The countries from which they are likely to arrive include, amongst others, Iran, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria Ecuador and Ethiopia.

Requests for financial aid made by philanthropic agencies bombard us almost every day through the mail, email, and television, but this program gives us the opportunity to help at the grass-roots level. It has been demonstrated that refugees who receive a high level of support on their arrival are more likely to adjust more quickly and easily as they settle into a new and productive life.

Some groups are ready-made from existing friendship groups and networks. Others are brought together through CRSA or by word of mouth. The basic requirements are time, energy and a real commitment to helping others.

The program gives us an opportunity to share our knowledge and skills to enable refugees to participate fully in Australian society while at the same time allowing group members to develop experience and knowledge within a cohesive group setting. •

For more information:

refugeesponsorship.org.au/whatwe-do/crisp

Housing volunteer humbled after being honoured with multiple awards

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees* HOUSING

North Melbourne public housing resident and fierce community activist Deepa Gupta has made history after being honoured with five awards at this year's Social Housing Volunteer Awards.

Ms Gupta, an active member of resident action groups, who is passionate about improving the lives of public housing residents, said she was humbled and overwhelmed in receiving the multiple awards – the first individual to do so at the annual awards ceremony.

The awards, hosted at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons on March 1, recognised public and community housing tenants who had contributed to their community by working as volunteers.

Ms Gupta took out the Frances Penington Award, for her outstanding voluntary contribution to the community, as well as the nominee shield for the Molly Hadfield Award, two nominee shields for the Frances Penington Award, and a Special Commendation in the Molly Hadfield Award.

"I was in tears," Ms Gupta said, adding she was not normally "short of words on a stage" but was speechless during the presentation.

But she noted the awards also "belonged to the peers and community which worked with me"

"Receiving the awards is a beginning of the journey and not the end. Too much remains undone regarding improving the conditions of public renters and the handout given to them," she said.

"The government needs to address the increasing homelessness, thousands of which were vulnerable old people with barely any means to survive, many others facing domestic violence, lived experiences and women with small children having to sleep on the road unable to afford rent or a house, facing abuse daily and living on a day-to-day basis. This is not expected of a first world country."

Ms Gupta, who hails from India, has 30 years of experience in public service and is a chartered accountant, as well as the CEO of



▲ Deepa Gupta is presented with her awards at the Social Housing Volunteer Awards.

not-for-profit organisation Marg Foundation.

She is a committed advocate for her community, working alongside the Paving the Way Forward program to improve the lives of public housing residents.

This was highlighted particularly when Ms Gupta publicly responded to the Victorian Ombudsman's report last year into the hard lockdown of the North Melbourne and Flemington towers in July 2020, which found human rights had been violated, saying it "was never too late" for the state government to say sorry over the "unjust" measure which saw 3000 residents detained in their homes "like criminals".

In recognising her contribution to the community, the awards panel said, "Deepa is a ray of hope, advocating fearlessly for the rights and wellbeing of marginalised people in her public housing community".

"Her list of contributions is long: she advocates for the homeless; provides food parcels from her kitchen; cares for people after a hospital stay; and has stood like a rock with women experiencing family violence."

The Frances Penington Award honours the late Frances Penington, a Commissioner of the Housing Commission and the first woman appointed to the board of a statutory authority in Victoria. She was a strong advocate for public housing tenants, particularly for women living in housing estates. ●



Fans queue for collectable cards in Kensington

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sam Kriesel*EVENTS

Card collecting enthusiasts have packed Kensington's Melbourne Pavilion for the annual Hobby Hangout card trading show.

The sold-out event saw more than 1500 people crammed into the venue with basketball, Pokémon, and film cards at more 70 stalls being

the most sort after, according to the event's co-director Andrew Perumalla.

He said there had been a spike in interest following the pandemic with the March 5 event bringing the "online world to real world".

"It was a really nice day out, with loads pf people bringing their family," he said, adding some collectors were willing to pay tens of thousands of dollars for cards, including rookie basketball player cards such as Michael Jordan and LeBron James. •

Council proposes bold action to green city buildings

WORDS BY Brendan Rees

The City of Melbourne is set to draw inspiration from world leading cities like Singapore to create greener buildings across the city under new planning rules to improve sustainability.

The Sustainable Building Design Amendment proposes to introduce stronger planning controls for developments – covering everything from improving energy and water efficiency, increasing the uptake of renewable energy, and more greenery on roofs and walls.

According to the City of Melbourne's data, buildings are the biggest polluters in the city, accounting for 66 per cent of all carbon emissions in the city – compared to 25 per cent in other municipalities.

"Developers can find clarity and confidence in these amendments to know they are contributing to long-term sustainability, while the buildings' tenants will receive the benefits of cheaper operational costs," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

The proposed new amendment – which is open for submissions until April 17 – would also encourage the creation of vertical gardens and the installation of solar panels in what the council said would "transform Melbourne's skyline".

According to council, benefits of the new rules include reducing the urban heat island effect, improving energy efficiency, and addressing water shortages and resource recovery.

"The amendment includes policy, mandatory and optional controls, and will apply to particular types of developments," the council said.

The City of Melbourne's planning portfolio chairman Nicholas Reece said the city would become a "world leader" in sustainable design and green urban environments by drawing inspiration from the success of cities like Singapore, Vienna, and Copenhagen.

"We know buildings contribute 66 per cent of all emissions in our city – that's why we need to work alongside developers and property owners to combat climate change, which will also reduce energy costs for businesses and homes," he said.

Under the changes, the council's commitment to power the city with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and to reach zero net emissions by 2040 would also be accelerated.

In addition to greener buildings, this would be achieved by cutting back on waste generation, increasing electric vehicle infrastructure and bicycle parking, and boosting the number of trees.

To help comply with the new environmental standards, which will be put to the Minister for Planning for final approval, developers will have access to the council's Green Factory Tool online green infrastructure assessment program

The online tool is the first of its kind in Australia, allowing designers, architects, developers, builders, and the community to consider and optimise the inclusion of green infrastructure in building design.

The Property Council's Victorian executive director Cath Evans welcomed the amendment, saying Australian building owners and developers had been at the "forefront of sustainable building performance, and great sustainability outcomes are being increasingly sought by tenants, occupiers and residents".

"We encourage building owners and developers of all sizes and sectors to read the detail of this important work and provide their input to this consultation," she said.

For more details, to make a submission, or attend an information session, visit participate. melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c376 •



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ARTS HOUSE

Arts House to launch first iteration of curatorial project

Arts House is in the process of preparing for the opening of its new Equity-Building Curatorial project, and first to overtake the space will be visiting Dalit artist-curator Vishal Kumaraswamy.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Over a period of six years, Art House will invite three curators of varying marginalised identities to utilise, convert and subvert the spaces to hold multiple activations and exhibitions.

"Marginalised communities, globally, from a range of backgrounds suffered the greatest of consequences [of the pandemic] due to the enmeshed but lingering effects of capitalism, racism, imperialism, colonialism and casteism," Arts House co-artistic director Nithya Nagarajan said.

"Given this context, our invitation to Vishal Kumaraswamy was to flip our home in a colonial building inside out and place the community at the very centre. As a Dalit artist-curator, Vishal draws from an anti-caste lens and uses a range of methods, processes and relationalities in exhibition-making."

Vishal's curatorial project is titled *Okkoota*, (alliance, gathering, assembly), and is brought to fruition through the efforts of 12 local and international artists who have worked hard to re-envision what we expect, see, and do in a civic space.

When researching in preparation for his multi-format curatorial takeover, Vishal wanted to break away from only using the spaces where Arts House generally showcases its performances.

The discussions about using multiple spaces for further engagement, across a variety of formats, access levels and artistic forms then led to further exploratory conversations with artists.

"I had been developing a multi-format curatorial engagement for a few years, looking at how artists of marginalised backgrounds across multiple geographies were organising themselves and finding community while also dealing with difficult socio-economic living conditions," Vishal said. "I wanted to find ways to bring together artists across a range of career levels to interact and exhibit alongside each other and utilise the exhibition event as a space to foster meaningful connections between artist peers and institutions."

Through the wide range of Australian and international works, in practices of film, performance, sound, installation, text and participatory activities, Okkoota will explore



a range of themes dealing with several critical and conceptual inquiries around indigeneity, caste, race, labour, technology and history.

The public program aspect of the project also includes communal meals, created by artist Lara Chamas, with Vishal telling North West City News that the community building effort signalled "a shift in how art spaces can be made more inclusive and welcoming".

Other projects include:

- Artist Subash Thebe Limbu will present his internationally acclaimed Adivasi Futurist film Ningwasum, a Yakthung science fiction documentary film/video work narrated by Miksam, time traveller from a future Indigenous Nation.
- designed 16-channel custom 3D-sound spatial audio installation of an experimental composition by Nikhil Nagaraj that draws from the ways in which caste dictates the performance of South Indian classical music.
- Acclaimed Australian artist Sancintya Mohini Simpson's three-channel video In fields of cane will share the unacknowledged history and experiences of women taken from South India to South Africa as indentured labour during the late 1800s and throughout the early 1900s.
- · The relationship between residents and their local tip in Kyneton will be explored through Eugenia Lim's Shelters for Kyneton.

In preparing for the works to go live, Vishal described the artists and cultural practitioners of the work as people who "contribute to a collective voice that resonates from the inside out thereby signalling a significant moment of departure in the history of the programming of contemporary art spaces".

Okkoota, (alliance, gathering, assembly) will be held at Arts House from April 11 to 23, with communal feasts held on Saturdays, April 15 and 23. •

BUSINESS



▲ Simonds Catholic College principal Peter Riordan.

Major development at Simonds Catholic College



Wednesday, February 1 was an historic day in the history of Simonds Catholic College as, for the first time, all Year 7 to 12 students and staff were located on the one campus at 273 Victoria St, West Melbourne.



WORDS BY Peter Riordan PRINCIPAL

It was the beginning of an exciting chapter in the story of Simonds Catholic College. The move to a single campus will provide the impetus to further shape the school culture and the very fabric of our school.

To begin the school year the entire school community assembled in the beautiful parish church of St Mary Star of the Sea to receive a blessing from the parish priest, Fr Anthony Bernal. The College Principal, Mr Peter Riordan and the College Captain, Christian Tringali, also addressed the college community on this momentous occasion.

The school's recent \$9.5 million acquisition of 52-58 Chetwyn St, West Melbourne will see an end to more than a decade of logistical challenges, with the amalgamation of both campuses to one inner-city location in West

As well as the acquisition of the property in Chetwynd St, there has also been a major refurbishment of a number of the existing buildings to give students and staff state-of-the-art facilities and resources.

Over the coming months within the shell of this recently acquired building the college will be constructing a STEM centre with physics, chemistry and biology laboratories, as well as general purpose classrooms, a massive passive recreation deck, staff work areas and parking.

Simonds Catholic College is one of only a few inner-city schools, who are experts in educating boys in a multicultural and multifaith environment and take students from all over Melbourne.

The upgraded facilities will further enhance the vision statement of the college, which is to develop confident, well-rounded young men who have hope for the future. •

For more information: sccmelb.catholic.edu.au



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North West City Local

The North Melbourne artist confronting ageism

Local North Melbourne artist and So50 founder Magno Barros is using his skills in photography and artificial intelligence to challenge traditional views around ageing.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

The inspiration for the *Ageing Reframed* series came about after Mr Barros began to notice a pattern of people facing discrimination simply because of their age.

It was this perception and curiosity around his own age from other people that originally spurred him on to inspire others to live life their own way, no matter their age, through his organisation So50.

"It took me a while to realise that society has certain expectations about how one should look at a certain age, which can be damaging and cause angst for many people," he told *North West City News*.

"Ultimately, my goal with this [Ageing Reframed] work is to promote greater appreciation for older adults and to inspire positive change in the way we think about ageing."

"By giving a face and a name to the many stories about ageism that we hear about, I hope to challenge people to rethink their perceptions of ageing."

Through interviewing a number of people who connect with So50, and taking their photos, Mr Barros has challenged negative stereotypes, while also celebrating the beauty and strength that can come with age.

"Contrary to the standard depiction of older adults as frail or in decline, my subjects are portrayed as confident and independent. They proudly display and celebrate the physical signs of ageing, such as grey hair and wrinkles, rather than concealing them," he said.

"The jewellery worn by my subjects is also symbolic, representing the richness and gifts that come with their life experiences."

While Mr Barros has become deeply connected to all his works, two that have stood out are *Ellie* and *David*.

As a 70-year-old widow, Ellie is described as being full of life and eager to find love again, although due to her age she has faced "prejudice and resistance from her own children".



Through her powerfully fierce image, Mr Barros strives to challenge the concept that love, and finding love, is only for the young.

David's image on the other hand, serves to represent that at a certain age, older people can be treated as less than capable, rather than being respected for their wisdom and expertise.

"David's story is a powerful reminder that ageism doesn't just affect those who are retired but can impact people at all stages of their professional and personal journeys," Mr Barros said.

"Both portraits are based on real-life experiences and are meant to spark conversations and raise awareness about the harmful effects of ageism."



Despite not having a studio yet, Mr Barros has made the most of the garage at his North Melbourne home by turning it into a dedicated workshop.

As a proud North Melbourne resident, having a studio to display his works in is a dream that he is hopeful will come to fruition, although he did express concern about limited spaces often "favouring younger artists".

"I love living and working in North Melbourne. It's a characterful and peaceful neighbourhood, with lush gardens, fantastic local businesses, and a super-friendly community," he said.

"I would love to show my work in a gallery or studio space in North Melbourne. The area boasts stunning heritage spaces that would make perfect venues for displaying my art, connecting with other artists and creatives in the region and engaging with the local community."

Mr Barros' Ageing Reframed works can be enjoyed online through his website, otherwise they can be viewed in-person at a number of upcoming art shows in Bendigo, Kilmore and Frankston. •

For more information: so50.org/stories

WE LIVE HERE

The monster eating Melbourne

Local councils are fighting back against the short-stay behemoth that's causing chaos across the city.

Melbourne councils suffering with short-stay issues want the state government to codify the powers needed for basic regulations to manage the virtually uncontrolled short-stay industry.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Steve Holland has reportedly called on the state government to give councils stronger powers over short stay operators.

Speaking to the media, the Mayor said, "we get the complaints, so our feeling is we're best placed to deal with some of these problems."

The council is seeking the powers to ban short-stay operators from listing properties with repeat problems. The issue is large scale – Mornington Peninsula has about 5000 properties just on Airbnb, according to insideairbnb. com, a site that monitors the platform. The council says almost 4000 people are on the public housing waiting lists and an estimated 1000 are experiencing homelessness.

Recently Mornington Peninsula introduced a \$311 registration fee for short-stay listed homes. While the council can revoke an operator's registration, its powers are limited and enforcement costs are greater than the fees collected.

Meanwhile, Warrnambool City Council has introduced a registration scheme, charging operators \$400 for properties listed as short stays.

City of Port Phillip is also under pressure to implement regulations, with a registration system being the bare minimum. Residents in the municipality have been contacting We Live Here to express their frustration. Here are some examples of the *vox populi*:

- "The reformed rules at the VCAT regarding short terms looks great on paper but are actually very weak when it comes to a legal process. It takes years to follow the process, meanwhile neighbouring residents sell up or move on because their apartment is unbearable to live in."
- "These unregulated short-term rentals are affecting the wider community in terms of homelessness, affordable housing purchase and rental availability for people who want to live here."
- "Victoria needs to wake up and understand how this unregulated business is destroying neighbourhoods and implement laws like WA, TAS and NSW by making it compulsory for short term providers to register their business with the local council and limit any short-term rental to 180 days a year."
- "Imagine living next door to a venue that does not have to answer to anyone in terms of sound pollution, number of patrons, age-limits or operating hours. This is in fact what goes on across our suburb."

The state government claims that its short-stay bill "limits disruption" caused by short-stays. We have been campaigning against this anaemic, unworkable Airbnb bill for six years – we are unable to find a single case where VCAT has ruled in favour of residents.

Let's change this, Minister Pearson. •



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleson

LEARN MORE AT: WELIVEHERE. NET



MELBOURNE ZOO

Kangaroos chill out in new bush habitat



As any Melburnian can attest, there is much delight in a cool change, and the kangaroos at Melbourne Zoo appear to agree.



The lucky mob of eight Kangaroo Island kangaroos, including two joeys in the pouch, have been busy exploring their new bush habitat, which features a fully landscaped garden with a wallow, an ephemeral creek, new shelters and 1600 sqm of new turf.

While the macropods love to nibble on the grass, it is not only a food source. It also provides a cool space on hotter days.

Melbourne Zoo Australian Bush Keeper Adam Lee said the upgraded facilities would enrich the lives of the kangaroos.

"The recycled water irrigation system will make sure the grass stays lush and cool, and it's much closer to the natural habitat that these animals enjoy in the wild," Mr Lee said.

"The grass also forms a natural part of their diet, so it's important. But they also enjoy stripping the bark off the trees and eating leaves."

"Kangaroo Island kangaroos are the puppy dogs of the species; they are very relaxed. Zoo visitors will be able to see them hopping about or chilling out on the new turf."





Kangaroo Island kangaroos are a sub species of the Western Grey kangaroo and are common across Kangaroo Island in South Australia.

Visitors to Melbourne Zoo can see the new kangaroo habitat along the Zoo's Australia Bush

Melbourne Zoo visitors are reminded that all tickets must be pre-booked online at **zoo.org.** au.

Zoos Victoria Members no longer need to book but are required to scan their membership card for entry. ullet

For more information: zoo.org.au/melbourne

New contemporary art exhibition reveals the making of the Metro Tunnel

As the opening of the Metro Tunnel draws closer, an upcoming contemporary art exhibition will offer a unique glimpse into the incredible feat of engineering taking place deep under Melbourne.

Commissioned by the Metro Tunnel Creative Program, the *Making the Metro Tunnel – reflections by contemporary Australian artists* exhibition aims to explore and celebrate the massive rail project that will transform how people move around Melbourne when it opens in 2025.

Artists, including painters, ceramicists, and sculptors, have taken inspiration from archaeological digs that took place before construction, heavy machinery, and the aesthetics of worksites and workers' equipment to produce their own portrayals of the project.

Paintings by Troy Argyros depict several important objects discovered during the project's archaeological digs that are now under the guardianship of Heritage Victoria.

Kenny Pittock's ceramics playfully represent items found in the digs that were not deemed significant but still contain clues to Melbourne's social history, from old beer cans to straws.

First Nations artists Jenna Lee and Iluka Sax-Williams with Dan Bowran have transformed



fragments of post-European settlement objects from the digs into contemporary artworks.

Michele Hamer's intricate cross-stitch works use a warm material to translate photographs of the concrete-lined tunnel and giant digging machines called roadheaders into art.

Harley Manifold's atmospheric oil paintings capture the activity – above and below ground – of construction sites busy with machinery

and industry as workers build the tunnels and stations. Chelsea Gustafsson's paintings pick up the common visual references that tie all the diverse workers on the project together—the highly recognisable protective equipment such as hardhats, high visibility vests, steel-capped boots and safety glasses.

The fascinating exhibition is a unique way of capturing the making of the Metro Tunnel,





according to project director Linda Cantan.

"The Metro Tunnel represents a fundamental shift in the way all Victorians will connect and move around the city and state," Ms Cantan said.

"It's wonderful to see this transformative project being captured and brought to life by these talented artists."

Making the Metro Tunnel – reflections by contemporary Australian artists opens April 1 and runs until May 7, at Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Royal Botanic Gardens. ●

For more information: bigbuild.vic.gov.au

PARKVILLE GARDENS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Autumn arrives in Parkville Gardens



The lawns and parks of Parkville Gardens stayed green throughout the summer of 2022-23. Maybe this pleasant sight made summer seem cooler and wetter than usual, but Bureau of Meteorology statistics show that Melbourne temperatures and rainfall were close to average for the season.



Mark Twain once wrote, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics," but facts are facts in the end.

Perhaps the occasional cold spell we had gave us a false impression. In any case, we're into autumn and soon Parkville Gardens' few deciduous trees will display their brilliant colours.

Schools, colleges and universities are in full swing. We don't have the stats to prove it right now, but we believe there's been a welcome return of international students to Parkville generally. The Parkville Gardens Residents Association (PGRA) really wants you to feel at home. We'll keep doing our best to connect with you.

Our social housing provider, Housing First, is stepping up its engagement with its residents in Parkville Gardens and with the community generally.

The good news is that, in conjunction with Frasers Property, they are planning an Easter

Family Fair on the Galada Ave Reserve from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, April 8. There'll be food, music and a range of activities, especially for kids. There'll be more information soon for local residents.

Housing First would love you to RSVP by calling Ruby on 03 9536 7830 or email **community@housingfirst.org.au**.

In the meantime, the work of the association goes on behind the scenes. One of City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp's initiatives has been to host two-monthly meetings of the presidents of residents' associations like ours. It's an opportunity for her, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, council staff and community groups to engage with each other and exchange information, concerns, hopes and plans.

Issues focussed on so far include safety, planning and traffic. Some of these pose more acute challenges in other city neighbourhoods, but they affect us also, so it's great to have a forum in which we can be heard.

Another helpful forum is the Police Community Consultative Committee. This too meets every two months. Representatives from various groups and organisations in Carlton, Parkville, North Melbourne and Kensington meet with the police at the North Melbourne Police Station.

Understandably the issues discussed in this setting have to do with crime and safety. Once again, while Parkville Gardens is not spared theft and antisocial behaviour, we are fortunate to enjoy a high level of community safety.

Assuming all goes well with the weather and the logistics, next month's wrap will happily report on a splendid Easter Family Fair. Don't forget to RSVP! ●



Tom Knowles

TOM KNOWLES IS THE PRESIDENT
OF PARKVILLE GARDENS
ASSOCIATION.

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In memory of Angus Collins, we need to protect cyclists and prevent further tragedy

The tragic death of Angus Collins, who was killed in February by a truck while he was riding his bike in West Melbourne, has shaken our community. To family and friends of Angus, I'd like to extend my deepest condolences.

Angus was killed by a truck turning left into the path of cyclists on the corner of Dock Link and Footscray roads – an area dominated by West Gate toll road construction.

A huge concrete pillar blocks trucks and cyclists from being able to see each other, and they both get a green light at the same time, sending them on a collision course. It's an absolutely disastrous design.

The state government and West Gate Tunnel Authority were warned about this intersection by community members numerous times, but nothing was done.

What makes this death even more tragic is that in 2021, the coroner handed down a report into a similar incident which resulted in the death of a young woman, Arzu Karakoc, who was killed by a truck riding her bike in the western suburbs.

The coroner's recommendations included changing lights to ensure cyclists and heavy vehicles weren't in conflict, providing alternative safe bike lanes during construction projects, and fitting trucks with protective barriers. If these recommendations were followed, Angus would likely still be with us today. But they weren't.

At this particular intersection, some quick, sensible changes could make it a lot safer, such as making sure vehicles have a red arrow when cyclists get a green light, so they aren't on a collision course with one another.

In response to this tragedy, the West Gate Tunnel Authority promised to put in more



signage and send traffic controllers to the intersection. Yet when I went down there at peak hour, the traffic controllers were nowhere to be seen, and many commuters told me they're either absent or not willing to do anything to assist at the intersection.

I've contacted the Ministers and authorities responsible and raised this matter in Parliament. I'm calling on the Victorian Government to urgently fix this intersection to ensure no more senseless deaths occur, and to look more broadly at making our streets safer, especially for those who ride or walk.

With this path closing soon due to the West Gate toll road works, we'll also need to make sure the alternative cycle path – which I'm told will be Dynon Rd – is made safe. But I know that paths right across this area of the city are unsafe, so we need a broader review and for the government to make safety on our roads a priority. •



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
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The Victorian Government supports private market rate rents

The Big Housing Build absorbed the original Public Housing Renewal Program (PHRP), which included up to 11 public housing estates.

The PHRP's original plan was move residents out with threats of eviction if relocations were not accepted – demolition; redevelopment by community housing organisation and private developer partnerships, with around 30 per cent of new dwellings being retained for community housing management and 70 per cent for private sale to investors and homeowners.

This plan was an extraordinary failure, with less than half of the estates receiving bids from such partnerships at Abbotsford St, North Melbourne; Walker St, Northcote; Oakover Rd, South Preston; and Gronn Place, Brunswick West. Those that started up are running late on final completion dates that will be four years after tenants were relocated.

Other estates like Dunlop Ave, Ascot Vale

and Tarakan St, Heidelberg West have seen Homes Victoria fund the full demolition and redevelopment costs. Bardia/Bell streets estate at Heidelberg West was demolished but no construction has started.

Following this failure, the model was changed to a redevelopment mix of community (aka social) housing; so-called affordable rent, and full market rent dwellings. This is model being pursued at the Barak Beacon estate in Port Melbourne. See below:



To ensure investors get a guaranteed return for their investments, full and 90 per cent local market rents will be charged for the larger proportion of the new dwellings, with tenants having no recourse to challenge rent increases as local market rents go up.

The 10 per cent discount was originally 20 per cent but was halved by retiring Minister Richard Wynne early last year. Labor was defeated in his lower house seat of Richmond last year – a good measure of his legacy as both housing and planning minister.

Calling this an affordable housing program is a travesty in public policy.

The Big Housing Build is embedding market rents as the benchmark for rent setting in its projects.

Selecting tenants for the so-called affordable housing

The prospective tenants will not have to be on the Victorian Housing Register.

They will be chosen through a ballot process, which literally means that if you are accepted as an eligible applicant household you will go into a pool where a random selection process will prevail. There is no indication if urgency in needing stable accommodation will feature in eligibility assessment, nor if the essential worker classifications – nurses, fire and rescue workers, childcare workers, teachers – will be part of the assessment criteria. Drawing on its infinite wisdom Homes Victoria has selected a company called Snug to run the ballots. A *Guardian Australia* investigation found that for other landlords:

"Snug's opaque and potentially discriminatory use of applicants' personal data to 'score' them against properties, giving them a higher score when they offered to pay more rent. Privacy experts, academics and renters' advocates expressed concern after analysis of Snug's patent application suggested its intention was to collect wide-ranging information from users, including friend lists, social media networks and ratings on third-party platforms such as Airbnb and Uber, and to develop a kind of rental credit system." ●

Read the article here:





COTY Memery

CITY OF MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020

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KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

R U OK ... with change?



Yes, I know, a big question ... too general. There's so much that is changing, some change we welcome, but other change we resist ... even fear. The speed of change (ref. Future Shock by Alvin Toffler 1970) is often the biggest challenge! Resisting, monitoring, or advocating for change is core Kensington Association business.



Since the inception of *North West City News* I, and other association members, have written much about change in our built environment. Community stories and experiences about building are manifold. The southern residents of Rankins Rd, near to Kensington Station, strongly resisted the change to the park east of the station, but now it's established, they love it. Just a stone's throw further east, the hapless residents of Barnett St are having to cope with a gigantic apartment development over their back fences. A happy outcome for them is very hard to imagine.

The association has recently become involved with the Kensington Reconciliation Action Group (KRAG). Maybe it's only a personal feeling, but the impending vote on "the Voice" and constitutional change has heightened my awareness of Indigenous rights and history. I remember a conversation I had with David Tacey (Latrobe academic and author) in the late '90s. He had lived in an Indigenous community for a while, and wrote about "contemporary spirituality"; he felt strongly that Australia wouldn't "grow up" until it came to grips with its Aboriginal heritage. That perspective rang true to me then, and today it seems to have been considerably amplified.



Since KRAG is an "action" group, it throws up an obvious question; what can we do to further reconcile with the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work? Well, we are starting with a small, local, but significant issue. Those who have visited the "Conference Room" at the Kensington Town Hall will have seen the "honour boards" hanging in that room. We (Kensington Association) have asked how appropriate some of these boards are since they date from an era steeped in "white Australia" thinking. Next month (in this column) Kate Kennedy (an association member) will delve more into the issues surrounding this potential change.

Over recent years we have been asked – R U OK with same-sex marriage? On a more personal level, some parents are being asked – R U OK with your child telling you they are gay or questioning their gender identity? We have had elections, so we have been asked – R U OK with our representative governments? In this paper, Kensington Association articles – without directly asking a question – are actually asking – R U OK with, for example, with the level of development along Macaulay Rd?

Particularly if our answer to an "R U OK" question is negative, I believe it's important to carefully reflect on what follows. What action can you take? What action do you take? What happens if there is a residue of "non-acceptance" which persists over time? Do you know or understand enough? Who have you been listening to? If you need to vote, how will you yote?



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Your North & West Melbourne Precinct

We are thrilled to introduce you to the North & West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA), a volunteerled organisation consisting of passionate local business owners who champion the precinct and local businesses.

Words by $\it The NWMPA Team$

Our mission is to enable a thriving local economy by promoting and supporting our community's businesses.

During the past 12 months, NWMPA has been busy organising several successful events, including the "Spin To Win" competition, which ran alongside the "Dance This Way" festival as part of the City of Melbourne's City Activation Grant. The competition incentivised customers to shop locally, and more than 50 participating businesses joined in, making it a resounding success.

During the festive season, we organised 10 days of fun, including live music, entertainment, a visit by Santa, Christmas raffle prizes, and free "Aussie Christmas"-themed gift wrapping (designed by the clever member Fabric Drawer) with purchases from local retailers.

We have seen also seen a great response the local community for the launch of the "Roundtable", an initiative from our member Common and partner Enlocus, proudly supported by the City Activation Grants program.

We're proud to announce that NWMPA collaborated with the City of Melbourne on a greening trial along Errol St, something that the community had been requesting for years. The trial aimed to gather feedback from residents and business owners on the temporary tree placements, with the hope of implementing a permanent greening solution along Errol St.

During the past few months, our business members were interviewed by a digital marketing expert, accompanied by a professional photographer who beautifully captured the people behind the businesses. The interviews helped us create a series of Trader Profiles aimed at increasing their SEO ranking and exposure on social media. You can help support by visiting our website or socials and watch as they emerge.



▲ NWMPA members gathered for a catch-up at The Roundtable in North Melbourne in February.

We have partnered with industry-leading experts, The Digital Picnic, to provide free social media training to NWMPA members, with non-members welcome to attend by joining NWMPA for just \$60 for 12 months. Join us at the end of March for two half-day sessions. This training is valued at more than \$1000, so please RSVP. We've also planned a series of workshops and networking events for the coming months, including gin masterclasses, where members are encouraged to make their own gin with selected botanicals with the master behind "Here's Looking at You Kid Spirits".

There is an adult drama workshop with Lisa-Marie Parker Vocal Studio, owner of Kid's Division, an event where business owners can let their hair down and their inner child out (yes, there may be wine involved!).

These workshops are not only educational but also enjoyable opportunities for members to network and connect with fellow local business owners

At NWMPA, we believe that we all share a passion for this distinctive corner of Melbourne and its people. We encourage all businesses to join our community and help each other thrive. Our funding is based on each membership, and renewals are due by the end of March.

We're excited to have you on board and look forward to working to achieve our mission of promoting a thriving local economy.

For more information: northwestmelbourne.com.au

A history of composting in Kensington



Kensington community has embraced composting since the establishment of the street composting bins founded by local, Michelle Twyford.



Since then, the Kensington Town Hall Compost Hub was established followed by a further three hubs built at The Venny Inc., The Kensington Community Child Care Centre and The Kensington Estate.

These hubs are important in allowing locals to process their own organic waste within their neighbourhood providing a valuable resource to local community gardens.

We also have been able to secure funding to establish two more compost hubs in our neighbourhood, a further one at Kensington Estate and one at Christ Church in McCracken St.

Each of these hubs are at various stages of development. The longest established one is at the Kensington Town Hall and its experience provides us with valuable learnings for the others.

Below is an update from Dave Goodman from the Kensington Town Hall Compost Hub

"After some disruptions adapting to the ongoing pandemic, our community compost



hub behind Kensington Town Hall reopened in December 2020."

"We are increasing the volume of organic inputs that we process and the quality of the finished product. We are working to create even more opportunities for people to get involved in closed-loop, organics processing."

"Our compost method is working well, with food and garden scraps (greens) layered

between carbon (browns) from local businesses. Liquid runoff is returned to the compost pile to conserve water. Cafe coffee grounds are a great 'activator' and the piles become active quickly and heat up to around 60 degrees."

"After a few weeks each pile gets 'flipped' into the next bay to mix up materials and add oxygen, this compost then goes to community gardens. Last year we made five batches using

this method, about a third of what is possible."

"We currently have more than 300 registered composters, most are from Flemington and Kensington. A core group of volunteers meet at least once a month to manage the compost and make the site more sociable and enjoyable."

"After COVID precautions were lifted in 2021 new signups have continued but appear to have slowly tapered off after the City of Melbourne kerbside FOGO rollout launched. While we support the council's efforts to make composting accessible to everyone, our focus is on building a community culture to keep compost nutrients local and support food growing and food sharing opportunities."

"The massive benefit of 'community powered composting' is that it can be TOTALLY fossil-fuel free. It's a community and an environmental win compared to trucking resources out of our community and filling the pockets of corporate shareholders."

We would love to show you around the compost hub, sign up below for more information. •

For more information: jotform.com/ KensingtonCompostHub/ registration



Jacqui van Heerden

CO-CONVENER OF TRANSITION

JACQUIVANHEERDEN@GMAIL.

Pet's Corner



French gentleman-like Philippe



Emma and Harvey usually walk their miniature
Schnauzer around Kensington and Flemington as the little pal could explore the local area.



words by $\it Violet Li$

"If we go out for dinner or cafe or something like that, we just take him along because it's a walk for him and then an outing for us as well," Emma said.

The one-and-a-half-year-old Schnauzer, a breed that originated in Germany, now lives in Australia under the French gentlemanly name "Philippe" because his owners believe he looks like one because of his moustache.

Philippe loves the area as the presence of other good dogs always provides for fun playtime and company and the dog parks are a natural treat.

"He loves other dogs. He isn't crazy about other people. He is a bit apprehensive but," Emma said.

The couple took Philippe home during peak COVID lockdowns, so the French gentleman never really got to socialise with people much.

"But with dogs, he did. Because we got to at least take him to dog parks and although we weren't socialising with people, he was able to meet the other dogs," Emma said. ●

NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

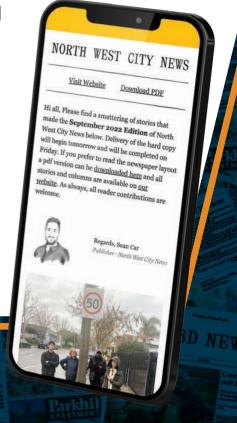
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HYPERLCALNEWS







No. 021

Quiz



- Approximately how many known species of mosquitoes are there?
- Which member of the Swedish pop band ABBA married into royalty?
- 3. Maribyrnong River's name comes from the Aboriginal phrase Mirring-gnaybir-nong: what does it translate to?
- There is a historic fire station in North Melbourne; when was it built and what is it used as now?
- **5.** What year did the North Melbourne football club start becoming known as 'the Kangaroos'?
- **6.** What is a shapeshifting fox (pictured) referred to in Japanese folklore?
- Which film won the first Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2001?
- Which 1861 American merchant ship mysteriously reappeared without any of its passengers on board?
- True or false: nomophobia is the fear of being without a mobile phone?
- 10. Located in Nepal, what site is commonly believed to be the birthplace of the Buddha?
- 11. Kensington historian and professor Jenny Hocking was known for uncovering the infamous 'Palace Letters'. What has she recently been awarded?
- 12. Approximately how many kilograms of waste did the Kensington Repair Hub keep out of landfill last year?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

12. 500 kilograms. 7. Shrek 8. Mary Celeste 9. True
10. Lumbini II. Member of the
Order of Australia (AM) 1. 3000 2. Frida 3. I can hear a ringtail possum 4. Built in 1894 and now a residential building 5. 1950 6. Kirsune 7. Stept 8 Marri Glassa

5x5

No. 021

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words - five reading across the grid and five reading down.

C		E		K
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E		Ι		E
	E		R	
E		S		S

SOLUTIONS

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PUZZLES AND PAGINATION ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD PAGEMASTERS.COM Mar, 2023

Sudoku

No. 021

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

	4	2	8					1
8					9	3	2	
9		1	6	2				
				6			4	
4				8				3
	8			8				
				4	6	9		7
	7	6	5					2
1					2	6	8	

HARD

8 7		3		4	7			
7						4		
	2		1		6			5
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	8						9	
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5			4		3		6	
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SOLUTIONS

EASY										HARD								
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ŀ	6	Z	3	9	8	2	7	9		9	ŀ	6	Z	Þ	2	3	9	8

Wordfind

Theme: Homes

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

M	L	В	L	C	E	Α	В	F	D	L
0	U	L	Α	D	U	A	R	R	0	С
G	Ε		A	L	T	В	A	Ε	Н	Н
С	Α	С	R	Н	L	Y	I	Α	Α	I
Y	R	L	R	0	T	R	M	С	L	M
Α	R	0	L	R	T	В	0	Α	L	N
D	0	Α	U	Ε	Ε		U	0	M	Ε
M	Ε	0	R	R	R	N	D	Y	M	Υ
R	С	N	P	В	D	Υ	G	U	L	Α
F	L	0	0	R	I	N	I	В	Α	С
D	R	Α	Υ	T	Ε	L	I	0	T	N

ARCADE **CUBICLE AREA** DEN **AUDITORIUM FLOOR** BALLROOM **GALLERY BATHROOM** GYM CABIN HALL **CELL** LAUNDRY LIBRARY CHAMBER **CHIMNEY** TOILET COURTYARD YARD

Secret message: Floorplan

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Betrayal (9)
- 6 Bird of prey (5) 9 Leave out (7)
- **10** Flow from (7)
- 11 State of maturity (9)
- 13 Remove from clothesline, perhaps (5)
- **14** Alarm (7)
- **16** Painters (eg) (7)
- **18** Gesture of
- 19 Playground
- 20 Commanded (7)
- **21** Tests (5)
- 23 Cabinet
- **27** Incomplete (7)
- 28 Move to music (5)

DOWN

- 1 Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 2 Hearten (9)
- Woo (5) 3

- Cleared (9) 6
- Seize (5)
- **14** Dangled (9)
- 15 Convert to another
- 16 Embellish (5)

- 13

- agreement (3)
- items (7)

- members (9)
- **26** Far (7)

- **29** Rummaged (9)

- - Needle hole (3)
- 5 Surrender (5) **17** Showing
- 8 Stimulated (9)
- **12** Lays bare (5)
- language (9)
- (a film) (9) SOLUTION
- 22 Fire-raising (5) 23 School subject
- (coll) (5) **24** Wait on (5)
- **25** Cold dish (5)
- 27 Vegetable (3)



No. 021

Codeword

PHBFDNJRWXSMY

9-Letter

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".

Reference: Collins Concise **English Dictionary**

No. 021 Today's Focus: 16 words: Good

24 words: Very good 32 words: Excellent

SOLUTIONS stilt, sunlit, tilt, tilts, unlit, until linetus, lint, list, lung, lust, lusting, lutist, SCUTTLING, silt, sling, slit, slug, slung, cling, clings, cling, clung, cult, cultist, gilt, glint, glints, guilt, guilt, guilts, insult,

What's On: March 2023

Community Calendar



EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM - 3PM

Kensington Market

For a market that highlights the produce and artwork of its wonderful inner-city makers community, be sure to come down as you'd be sure to find something you love.

From designer fashion to homemade treats, coffee, homewares, jewellery, kids wear and

Kensington Town Hall



TUESDAY MARCH 28, 10AM - 1PM 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

A light morning tea provided. Bookings essential - 9658 9190

Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre 91-11 Melrose St

EVERY TUESDAY, 10:30AM - 11:15AM

Preschool Storytime

Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at storytime, with stories, songs, rhymes, and activities.

North Melbourne Library 66 Errol Street



SATURDAY MARCH 25, 11AM - 5PM

Spanish Language Fiesta

Join The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne to celebrate the culture, tradition and language of Spain and Latin America through music, dance, food, art, literature and entertainment.

58 Errol Street, North Melbourne



SATURDAY - 25 - MARCH - 2023

NORTH MELBOURNE



EVERY THURSDAY, 10:30AM - 11AM

Stompers

Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music, and most

Ages 18 months to 3 years.

North Melbourne Library



SATURDAY MARCH 25, 11AM - 3:30PM

Holi by MARG Foundation

Splash in colour, indulge in the best of Indian food, rock to bollywood music and enjoy Indian cultural performances.

Green Gardens of 33 Alfred St outside North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre



OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 6AM - 11PM

Parkville Tennis Club

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 MARCH 20, 6PM - 7PM

Lighthouse Foundation Need Foster Carers

Join Lighthouse Foundation for an interactive and informative online session, and help assist with the urgent need for carers in the Northern suburbs

eventbrite.com.au/e/559116030097



Business Directory

Health & Fitness



Precinct



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St Brigid's 10-12 | 20 York St,

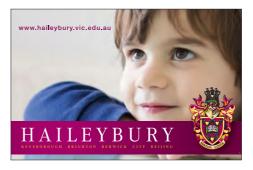
Politician



Real Estate



School



Shopping

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday with plenty of affordable parking.

QVM.COM.AU

Rendina

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



46 ATHOL STREET, MOONEE PONDS

- Incredible outdoor entertaining with cinema
- Open plan living/dining area with bi-folds to deck
- Entertainer's kitchen with premium Smeg appliances

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Tues 28th March 4pm

0418 525 415 Lou Rendina Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



4 3 00 4

1 2 1 00 1

71 DONCASTER STREET, **ASCOT VALE**

- Grand family entertainer
- Prized allotment with panoramic views
- Enhanced living areas

SOLD IN 24 HOURS

0418 525 415 Lou Rendina Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



5 1 00 4

- Imposing façade & refurbished interiors
- Mix of heritage charm & contemporary style

- Brand new kitchen with butler's kitchen

AUCTION Saturday 25th March 2pm 0418 525 415 Lou Rendina Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



53 STUART STREET, MOONEE PONDS

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

SOLD AT AUCTION

Frank Mammone 0447 441 950 0418 525 415 Lou Rendina



106/62 ALTONA STREET, **KENSINGTON**

- Large bedroom with BIR

- Stainless steel appliances

- Oversized courtyard
- **FOR SALE**

Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



2402/15 EVERAGE STREET, 3 2 2 2 **MOONEE PONDS**



- Luxurious Sky Home positioned on the 24th floor

\$1,630,000

- Panoramic city views, floor-to-ceiling glass
- Vast open plan living/dining domain

SOLD AT AUCTION

0418 525 415 Lou Rendina Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



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





- Secure carpark, intercom & storage
- Incredible location

FOR SALE

Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



2/20 WESTBOURNE ROAD, 2 1 1 1 1 1





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

FOR SALE

Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



Frank Mammone 0447 441 950

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