

NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P14



Queensberry Cup roars back for 2023

The Queensberry Cup returned with a bang for 2023, with more than 8000 in attendance to enjoy the fun and fanfare of live music, food, arts, culture, and of course, the billycart race that stops North Melbourne.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*
EVENTS

Fifty fearless billycart racers took on the new Errol St course, with Orly Furlong retaining his title as the Queensberry Cup king, taking out both the Open and the 7-to-11 age categories, only seconds ahead of his sister, Leni. Levi Haydon-Wimmer was the victor in the 12- to 17-year-old category.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp and former ABC News host and North Melbourne identity Virginia Trioli tried their best on the new track as part of the annual "Celebrity Race".

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Public housing residents win campaign to enrol at North Melbourne Primary School

“
Families at North Melbourne’s public housing towers are rejoicing as they can finally gain enrolment access to North Melbourne Primary School.
”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EDUCATION

But while the state government said North Melbourne Primary had “sufficient capacity” for enrolments, it has yet to make changes to the school zone boundaries to include the residents of the towers at 12 Sutton St and 33 Alfred St.

A school zone consists of a designated neighbourhood government school or schools known as a “local school”, which in case of the housing residents was limited to Debney Meadows Primary School.

Parents have the choice to seek enrolment at a school that is not their local school, but if the school has limited spaces available, applications are considered using the “priority order of placement”, which prioritises students “who live within the school zone and out of zone siblings”.

Public housing tower residents began a compelling campaign last year to have the school zone include North Melbourne Primary School



▲ *Awil Hussein will enrol his daughter Fatima at North Melbourne Primary School next year.*

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

as the exclusion not only limited their educational opportunities but also left families sending their children to schools further away.

Parents also said getting to Debney Meadows was an unsafe commute involving crossing busy roads and Citylink on and off ramps.

It’s also not known how many families would secure enrolment at North Melbourne Primary or how long the measure would last until the school reaches capacity.

But in a significant step forward, families at the towers could now apply to enrol their children at North Melbourne Primary School and its newly opened Molesworth St campus, which currently had “sufficient capacity to accept these enrolments”, a Department of Education spokesperson said, but made no mention as to whether this would see changes to the current school zone boundaries.

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The deadline for the November edition is November 10.

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▲ Kensington Association spokesperson Simon Harvey (left) with Cr Rohan Leppert (right). Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

New open space proposed for Kensington

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Georgie Atkins*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

An old warehouse next to the Moonee Ponds Creek in Kensington could be knocked down and the site turned into a vibrant green space under a City of Melbourne proposal.

Community input is currently being sought about a new open space at 70-90 Chelmsford St in what would create 350 square metres of new greenery and pedestrian amenity.

“New open space is required in Macaulay to meet the needs of current and future populations, providing opportunities to relax, exercise, play and connect with nature,” the council said.

“The Chelmsford St open space will be the first new open space delivered in Macaulay and an integral part of the future open space network.”

An estimated budget of \$7.71 million has been allocated towards the project including costs for feasibility, design, and construction with the latter expected to begin in 2025.

Under the plan, which is detailed on the Kensington Neighbourhood Portal through the council’s Participate Melbourne website, the open space would replace an existing warehouse, which occupies land the council purchased in 2021.

As part of the project, the council has proposed to repurpose seven car parks near the intersection of Chelmsford St and Bent St.

The council has pledged to include Bent St and the Moonee Ponds Creek edge as part of the design development for the proposed open space “to ensure these sites can be integrated in the future, providing a precinct that celebrates place, ecology and community, and incorporates stormwater management and flood mitigation”.

The council also saw the new open space as a “unique opportunity” to celebrate and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Traditional Owners’ connection to Moonee Ponds Creek.

A poem titled *Ripples of Life – Moonee Moonee* has been written, commemorating the history and cultural significance of where the future open space will be, while also highlighting the importance of the creek and “the life that it brings”.

A draft concept plan is expected to be released early next year.

Spokesperson for residents’ group the Kensington Association Simon Harvey expressed his enthusiasm for the project.

“Thank goodness this was already in the pipeline; public open space is facet of community development which can easily be brushed under the carpet in an atmosphere of development panic,” he said.

“They [the council] have rightly begun by consulting Indigenous members of the community. Opportunity for wider input into the design is now on our Neighbourhood Portal.”

Community consultation closes December 17.

Council launches community engagement for renewal of Royal Park

The City of Melbourne is inviting the community to have its say on the Royal Park Master Plan as it enters the first stage of engagement, with the two-year process beginning in November.

The council is collaborating with various stakeholders such as Melbourne Zoo and Melbourne Sports Centre Parkville to review future priorities, actions and management of Royal Park over the next 20 years.

“The last Master Plans for Royal Park were endorsed in 1984 and 1997 and they have served the city well,” the council’s environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said.

“We now have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to consider everything that Melburnians love about Royal Park so that the legacy of this extraordinary place continues.”

The initial engagement stage will begin with a discussion paper shared via Participate Melbourne, seeking feedback on high level ideas that will inform the draft of the plan.

The council will also run in-person, pop-up community events until December 2 for local residents to voice their recommendations and any potential concerns they may have.

Residents can also respond to the draft Master Plan in an online survey and through mapping activities once the draft is finished. ●

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

- /chelmsford-street-open-space
- /royal-park-master-plan-review



Public housing residents win campaign to enrol at North Melbourne Primary School

Continued from page 1.

“Every Victorian student has the right to enrol at their local government school,” the spokesperson said.

“A school zone enables parents to identify their local government school but does not restrict a student’s choice to seek enrolment at other government schools outside their zone.”

Community advocate for the North Melbourne housing estate and parent Awil Hussein said there was now “a choice now for diversity and safety for students living in these towers to enrol at their local North Melbourne primary and high schools”.

“This is a great win for public housing residents.”

As reported by *North West City News* last year, Mr Hussein said the zoning for Debney Meadows included the towers in Flemington and two of the towers in North Melbourne, creating a “ghetto”.

The move to include North Melbourne Primary School as an alternative choice has been seen as a step towards breaking barriers and ensuring every child had access to quality education and to be a part of the “mainstream society”.

Among the delighted parents is Alfred St resident Halimo Hussein, who said she was “so happy” to enrol her 11-year-old daughter at North Melbourne Primary School next year. She said the commute, which involves a 13-minute walk to the school, would be a lot easier.

Ms Hussein said her daughter Aaliyah would start Grade 6 next year after attending Ilim College Glenroy campus in Hadfield, which was a 20- to 30-minute drive. She said Ilim College Glenroy, a private school, was their preference over Debney Meadows.

State Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell, who supported the residents’ campaign, said she was pleased the government had changed their decision, making it fair for all families.

“Local parents campaigned to ensure that all North Melbourne residents – whether they live in public or private housing – have access to the same local schooling and ensure public housing residents weren’t cut off from the rest of the community. I was pleased to join them and help get a positive outcome,” she said. ●





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TRADER PROFILE

North and West Melbourne Precinct Association

Making your home at Udom House



Udom House is not your average West Melbourne café.



WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS



“Thai coffee culture is huge back home, and it is served in every café in Thailand, but we didn’t have it here. So, I thought, I might bring it over and it is doing really well. People are keen to try different types of coffee that they might not have heard of. It’s a bit more creative and a bit more fun.”

“It has been awesome introducing people to different Thai foods like jaffles with pastry. It’s something that is served in Thai 7-11s, and it is seriously my favourite thing in the world. When I go home, I go straight to 7-11 to get this type of jaffle.”

For Aum, hospitality is in “my blood”, but it wasn’t a career to pursue a future in, until she moved to Australia.

Now, with a cult-like following, which sees crowds flock to her Victoria St café, Aum couldn’t see a future anywhere else. ●

At this Thai café, a favourite among locals and visitors, you can trade in your eggs on sourdough for Pandan Kaya, a Thai toast delicacy of coconut-egg jam on regular white bread, and you can trade in your ham and cheese toasty for a chilli paste and pork floss jaffle, made from pastry and inspired by a dish from ... you guessed it, 7-11.

On the coffee front, you’ll find your typical “Melbourne-style” options alongside Thai café stalwarts like Dirty Coffee, creamy milk with double ristretto, served in a frozen glass, or Es Yen, a cold Thai coffee drink shaken in ice with sweet and mellow silky foam on top.

Aum Phithakphon is the brains behind Udom House who “fell in love” with North and West Melbourne after working for locals, Mörk Chocolate.

“We are famous for street food in Thailand. You can find something to eat basically anywhere. When I moved here, it wasn’t easy to find authentic Thai food,” Aum said.

“Melbourne was serving Thai food, but it wasn’t very Thai. I just wanted to share that Thai food is really, really good when you do it properly.”

“There has been a lot of change since I arrived here 17 years ago, and we are starting to

do it right. Put more herbs, more garlic, more spice and make flavours stronger.”

This past year, Udom House has continued to branch out from a predominantly snack menu, adding dishes like Isan-style Mhok Moo Yang with pork mince, banana blossom, spring onion, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaf, dried chilli, shallot, and dill, and Gai Tom Bai Makarm chicken soup with tamarind leaves, served with jasmine rice (a perfect hangover cure).

“We have a lot of local customers who have become our regulars,” Aum said. “We are seeing some awesome Asian-inspired cafes opening in the area and we love being a part of it.”

For more information:
[instagram.com/udom.house](https://www.instagram.com/udom.house)

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A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

**NORTH MELBOURNE
IS A HOME AWAY
FROM HOME FOR OUR
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Connan Goh takes a break in between classes at University of Melbourne.

Melbourne is Australia's best student city and the fourth best in the world. The QS World University Rankings also named Melbourne the second-best in the world for student experience.

With university students making up 16 per cent of North Melbourne's population, the demographic is vital to the city's community and economy.

The City of Melbourne welcomes students from all over the world to Melbourne to study, and provides a range of programs, events and support.

Ahead of International Students Day on 17 November, hear from North Melbourne-based international student Connan Goh about her first impressions of Melbourne and what she loves about the neighbourhood.

Having grown up in Malaysia, Connan found it easy to make friends in Melbourne.

"It wasn't hard to meet friends when I moved here. I was basically living within a student community and sharing common areas at a residential college so you have to make friends," Connan said.

The 19-year-old became a My

Melbourne Student Ambassador - a program run by City of Melbourne - and said it has not only helped her to meet new people but to support others.

"I would say one of my most memorable experiences so far was going to Melbourne airport as an ambassador to hand out flyers to new students," Connan said.

"When I first came here I didn't know what My Melbourne or The Couch International Student Centre was. Now I know that these programs have been set up to help people just like me, but there's still a lot of people who don't know. Being able to help newcomers has been a great experience," she said.

Coming from an island, Connan's early years were very different to her life in North Melbourne.

"I moved to Australia when I was

17 from a small island in Penang, Malaysia. I grew up with my parents and two younger sisters and life was very different there. My school was on a mountain and my mum used to drive us up a winding road to get to school," Connan said.

The University of Melbourne student is studying a Bachelor of Commerce and hopes to do her Masters when she finishes, or take up the opportunity to use her two-year visa extension to stay in Australia.

"I enjoy my life in Melbourne. Back in Malaysia on the island where I'm from it's very hard to get anywhere without a car. Here, the tram system is great. I can go grocery shopping every week on the tram and it's very convenient for a student like me," Connan said.

"I don't miss going out for Malaysian food as there are so many different foods to try in Melbourne. I like Korean and Japanese mostly. If I meet up with friends we will usually go out for frozen yoghurt in the city."

Find out more about My Melbourne and The Couch at melbourne.vic.gov.au/internationalstudents

WHY WE LOVE NORTH MELBOURNE

With an abundance of places to visit and community events on offer, there's always so much to see and do in North Melbourne.

- The Peter Mac Men's Shed at 3 Bedford Place, North Melbourne is the first shed in a Victorian hospital precinct and is open between 10am-3pm every Tuesday and Thursday.
- North Melbourne swimming pool is open for its summer season from 6am-8pm Monday to Friday, and 8am-7pm weekends. Enrol online for adult and children's swimming lessons.
- You can borrow games or toys for free with your City of Melbourne library card. Visit Hotham Hub at 113 Melrose Street. Open Tuesdays 9.30am-12.30pm, Thursdays 2-6pm, and Saturdays 10am-2pm.
- Recent public consultation is helping inform draft designs for a new intergenerational multi-purpose community centre on Melrose Street to serve North Melbourne's growing population in the Macaulay urban renewal precinct.
- Want to be more active in your community? Apply for a City of Melbourne Connected Neighbourhood Small Grant of up to \$2000. Visit the Neighbourhood Portals for more.

Want to connect with your neighbourhood? Contact your North Melbourne neighbourhood partner, Tallia Gilary, through the Neighbourhood Portal participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/northmelbourne

Discover your Neighbourhood Portal

We're working to better understand and respond to community needs in a highly localised way through a neighbourhood model.



Explore the Neighbourhood Portals and City of Melbourne neighbourhood priorities at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods



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Trio of buildings with affordable housing approved for West Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has endorsed an \$80 million mixed-use development plan in West Melbourne that would include offices, food and drink venues, apartments, and affordable housing.

Under the proposal, developer PDG would construct three buildings at 559-577 King St, a site now occupied by an Audi dealership.

The development would include a nine-level building at King St, a six-storey building at Roden St and a 10-storey building at Stanley St.

A total of 287 dwellings are proposed as part of the development, which would also see six per cent of units dedicated to affordable housing that would be in line with the West Melbourne Structure Plan.

According to the plans, which were lodged with the state government earlier this year, rent for the affordable housing would not exceed 75 per cent of the market rate and be no more than 30 per cent of household income.

The proposal also includes a pedestrian link connecting Roden St to Stanley St through the proposed development that would be open to the public between 7am and 6pm in what is described as a “genuine public benefit”.

Addressing the council’s October 31 Future Melbourne Committee meeting where the plans were unanimously endorsed by councillors, Tract Consultants senior principal Daniel Soussan, who represented PDG, said all three proposed buildings consisted of “distinct architectural identities that respond to the site’s context and interfaces in existing and emerging character of this part of West Melbourne”.

Mr Soussan added the proposal “presents no unreasonable amenity impacts to any neighbours” and would not overshadow Eades Park.

“It’s been carefully crafted and represents what we say is an exemplary design outcome having regard to objectives and principles espoused by the West Melbourne Structure Plan.”

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning chair Nicholas Reece said it was an exciting development that would enhance West Melbourne as it experienced a “renaissance”.

“This application by PDG has some very good architecture from DKO Architecture and is only going to further help that renaissance flourish in this part of our municipality,” he said.

Cr Rohan Leppert praised the proposed development as an example “that follows the West Melbourne planning controls really well”, and was an “outstanding outcome”.

“These are three very differently architecturally designed buildings ... and I think that these will be excellent additions to the West Melbourne neighbourhood,” he said.

“We’re ending up with high quality design that will be appreciated by current and future populations as contributing to the public realm and the connectivity of the neighbourhood.”

A council report said the layout and design of each building “sit comfortably within the broader West Melbourne Spencer Street Precinct”.

“All three buildings have been designed in a way so they are architecturally independent and generally aligned with the preferred built form outcomes including street wall heights and upper-level setbacks.”

The buildings would dedicate 1088 square metres to office, food and drink venues at the site, which is owned by Zagame King Street Pty Ltd. ●



Michele Lee performs groundbreaking Hmong work

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
ARTS & CULTURE

Hmong-Australian writer, Michele Lee, will take over North Melbourne’s Arts House in her “somewhat autobiographical” show titled, *How Do I Let You Die?*, that will leave audiences with a nagging feeling that they ought to call their parents.

The multimedia production will run between November 22 to November 26, exploring themes of death, ghosts, and parental relationships from the perspective of Hmong people.

“It’s a memoir, but also sort of playfully put together, so not completely a straight memoir,” Ms Lee said.

“While it is directly from my life and my conversations with my parents, there is an actor playing me – she is like a proxy for having these challenging conversations with my parents about getting older and contemplating death.”

Ms Lee recorded phone conversations with her parents interstate during lockdowns in 2020, attempting to connect over both emotional and geographical distance, which eventually inspired the concept of *How Do I Let You Die?*.

“If you don’t know much about Hmong people, you’ll get a perspective on being Hmong,” Ms Lee told *North West City News*.

“It is just my experience, so audiences shouldn’t come expecting to get a complete education on the Hmong.”

Ms Lee has been writing for stage, screen, audio, and live art professionally for nearly 15 years.

While becoming involved in various high school dramas and theatre societies at university, like many Asian and POC (people of colour) artists, “the ‘arts’ wasn’t really a career option that you saw yourself represented in or that communities and families encouraged.”

“That was certainly my experience, so me being involved in the arts took a long time,” she

said. “I eventually just surrendered and started applying for grants and seeing myself as an artist.”

Often inspired by situations of “tension and discomfort and yucky feelings”, such as those associated with the eventual death of a parent, Ms Lee uses comedy and her “witty humour” to create truly unique works that represent Hmong people and artists.

“The whole team on *How Do I Let You Die?* is amazing and there are multiple Hmong creatives on this project,” she said.

“To my knowledge, this is the first professional theatre work in Australia led by Hmong people.”

Ms Lee has been a regular contributor to works at Arts House for the past 10 years, having also been involved in shows through Melbourne Fringe at the North Melbourne Town Hall.

“I have had lots of formative experiences as an audience member and peer here, and also been able to grow my artistic practice here,” she said.

“Arts House supported the initial development which allowed me and early collaborators to workshop an early draft of the script and play around with the multimedia element – their programming support also helped us to secure the necessary arts funding, which goes towards fees and production expenses.”

How Do I Let You Die? will run from November 22 to November 26 at Arts House, located at 521 Queensberry St, North Melbourne. ●

ARTS HOUSE

For more information:
artshouse.com.au



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“No one will be left behind”: how government’s social housing model could play out at public housing towers

Could the state government’s “ground-lease” social housing model, as seen in recent developments such as those in Prahran, provide the formula for what’s to come at the 44 soon-to-be-demolished public housing towers across Melbourne?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HOUSING



▲ Community Housing Limited managing director Steve Bevington, and a render of the project at Bangs St, Prahran.

Residents living in high-rise public housing towers across North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington are among the many who remain anxiously in limbo after the state government announced it would redevelop their homes by 2051.

While renewal of the towers, which were built in the aftermath of World War II, has been widely welcomed, residents’ fears of displacement during the redevelopment process have yet to be appropriately addressed by Homes Victoria.

Further, concerns around the prospect of public land being sold to developers, and vulnerable residents being priced out of housing in the government’s transition from public to “social housing” are also ongoing.

Currently, there are 10,000 people living across the 44 towers but after all the sites are rebuilt, the government said 30,000 people were expected to be housed, along with a boost of 10 per cent more social housing across the sites. However, it is reported that 11,000 homes would be provided for public housing tenants, with 19,000 other residents “in a mixture of social and market housing”.

Housing definitions, albeit rather technical, are important in this discussion and are all too often misunderstood, and many would argue understandably so, too, in a world where “social housing” has become the new term of choice for government.

“Public housing” is owned and managed by the state and rent is typically determined at 25 per cent of income. But recent trends show the government is increasingly keen to abdicate from its role as a landlord, with next to no new public housing having been built in Victoria for some time. It’s also been on decline nationally in recent decades.

Then there’s “community housing”, which is owned and managed by a housing organisation. While rents and conditions can vary depending on the provider, rent is typically understood to start at around 30 per cent of income.

And finally, there’s “affordable housing”, which is generally understood to mean housing for essential service workers who can’t afford to live close to where they’re employed. As a rule

of thumb, it’s usually considered affordable if it costs less than 30 per cent of gross household income and eligibility limits apply.

Why are these distinctions important? Well, with the waiting list for public housing (or the Victorian Housing Register as it’s now known) having outpaced investment for some time, affordability remains a key issue for many of our most vulnerable. So, too, does who owns and manages the housing – government, or community housing provider?

While the government’s decision to group both public and community housing together under the umbrella term of “social housing” has sought to simplify the situation, many would contend that it has only added to the confusion.

But moving away from the technicalities, what could all of this mean for the future of housing in this state in the wake of the government’s major announcement regarding the high-rise towers?

The short answer is we still don’t know, and we may not for some time until development agreements are in place. However, what might be considered a useful exercise is to look at what the government is currently doing in this space.

Steve Bevington is the managing director of Community Housing Limited (CHL) – a not-for-profit organisation working with two separate consortia alongside Homes Victoria on “ground-lease model” housing projects in various locations across Melbourne, including Prahran, Brighton, South Yarra, Hampton East, Port Melbourne, and Flemington.

CHL operates among a large group of organisations in the community housing sector, which today manages around 25 per cent of all social housing in Australia.

It’s an industry that Mr Bevington said had helped ensure that the “quantum of social and affordable housing” hadn’t decreased nationally over the past 25 years, despite public housing going in the opposite trajectory.

He told *North West City News* there were many benefits to community housing providers financing, constructing and managing social housing, namely boosting supply irrespective of which political party was in government.

“Really what’s been happening over the past

25 years is there has been a movement where the community housing sector has grown in comparison to the public housing sector and it reflects the level of investment,” he said.

“The national agreement as far as housing goes was you [state governments] charge these rents, and you make it work. And we’ll [Commonwealth] give you a grant under the national housing and homelessness agreement and you can add more stock. But as time has gone on, that funding has just been eaten up in maintenance and what’s happened along the way is that stock has declined.”

“Some governments want to invest [in housing], others don’t want to invest. Public housing is not popular with one side of the politics, and it’s more popular with the other side of politics and so you have this kind of stop-start type of funding stream.”

“The community housing sector has a consistent mandate; essentially, we have to put our hearts, souls and any surpluses we have into generating more housing. That’s the reality. And over 25 years, that’s what’s happened. The community housing sector has filled the breach.”

Under the “ground lease” model, public land is leased from Homes Victoria to a consortium, which finances, designs, and constructs new housing. The community housing provider, such as CHL, manages and maintains the sites for 40 years, before handing the land, and dwellings back to the government.

Across seven projects spanning from Hampton East to Flemington, Mr Bevington said more than 2700 new dwellings, made up of social, affordable, specialist disability and market rental homes, were currently being provided under the model to create “homogenous communities” complete with a range of new shared facilities and services.

The units being provided are more modern, energy-efficient, flexible, and accessible in comparison to the aging public housing stock, which is notoriously too hot and too cold, and leaves its residents further out of pocket in utility bills.

While community housing tends to work at slightly higher “income adjustable” rents to that of public housing, Mr Bevington said residents were no worse off thanks to more liveable

housing, lower expenses, and the ability to access Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

He also argued there was greater accountability in the community housing sector as it was heavily regulated by the Victorian Housing Registrar, where any issues or complaints could be directed, as opposed to a local MP under the public system.

The ground-lease framework is one which many predict will be replicated across the 44 public housing towers, and while Mr Bevington wasn’t able to weigh into making a similar prediction, he did say it made for a good act to follow.

“What you could say is there is a model which is live already in evidence, and one can look at the progress of that and see how future tenants might assess whether the tower redevelopments are a good plan or not,” he said.

The projects are a part of the government’s “Big Housing Build”, which it says will collectively construct 9300 social and 2900 affordable homes and create 10,000 jobs over four years.

Many have questioned its ability to meet such lofty targets given current economic restraints and skills shortages, but Mr Bevington said the same pressures didn’t necessarily apply to the community housing sector.

“There are various taxation advantages to being a charity that allow us to build a bit more cheaply, and one of those is that as long as you charge rents at no more than 75 per cent of market rate then you don’t have to pay GST on your properties,” he said.

“This is a very affordable way of developing projects because you’ve got market rentals which we can charge higher for at the market rate and that subsidises the social and affordable rental, so in the end it’s going to cost the government less to run it through a model such as this.”

Mr Bevington added that while sourcing interim housing for displaced residents during development was a matter for government, all residents at projects he was involved with were given first choice to return to the newly built homes. Some had even been employed during construction.

He’s adamant that under this model, “no one will be left behind”.

“Under this model, there is a greater ability to create more housing. The problem with that is that it still requires public investment, and we spend our lives thinking up different ways we can generate housing.”

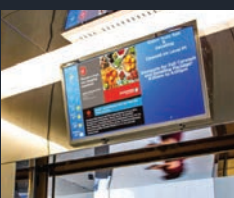
“That’s why in the end collectively all the different organisations around community housing sector are all vigorously and dynamically generating more housing projects and in the end the result is three times more community housing in the past 25 years and a 15 per cent or so loss in public housing.”

“In the end, you have to have an extremely motivated public housing department with continuously engaged staff all along the way to be able to add stock and the net product is it hasn’t happened. It’s actually declined.” ●

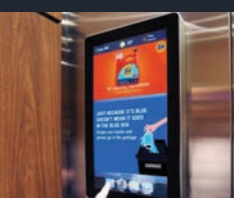
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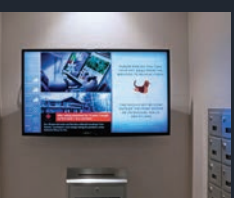
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Queensberry Cup roars back for 2023

Continued from page 1.

After a slow start the Lord Mayor careered into the hay barriers snapping the front axle of her borrowed billycart as Trioli cruised to an easy victory.

The course change from Queensberry St proved a popular one for racers and festival goers alike, with thousands flocking to the median strips of Errol St for a taste of the action.

Away from the track there was plenty of action at the World Kitchen Stage, along with live music and dance performances, and the famous Village Dog Show.

The North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (formerly The Centre) has confirmed the Queensberry Cup will be back for 2024. ●

Photography by Hanna Komissarova.

For more information:
queensberrycup.org.au



New industrial precinct launches at historic flour mill site in West Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PROPERTY

A century-old flour mill in West Melbourne has been turned into a \$130 million industrial precinct featuring a mix of commercial offices, creative workspaces, and warehouses.

Created by property developer Perri Projects, the Lennon Mills project has breathed new life into three 112-year-old industrial buildings including two concrete silos and a red brick mill at the site adjacent to Kensington South train station, located two kilometres from the CBD.

Spanning 1.5 hectares, the Lennon Mills precinct, which was undertaken in partnership with Wingate Property, is expected to attract a range of businesses such as life sciences, advanced manufacturing, last-mile logistics, and digital and creative business services in spaces ranging from 200 to 4000 square metres.

The original James Minifie & Co concrete silos were designed by Edward Giles Stone and built beside the mill in 1910-11, which produced flour and cake mixes before its closure in 1969.

Lennon Mills remains home to Melbourne's first high-rise concrete silo, a significant artefact of Melbourne's industry history, which has been retained as part of the development, along with a high-rise concrete roller mill.

Perri Projects said considerable effort had gone into retaining many existing site aspects, with "adaptive re-use of the site's heritage fabric



to rejuvenate the area".

"The Mill Office building demonstrates this with exposed original brick walls, timber floors, and barn doors on restored rollers – all adding to the authenticity of the precinct."

Speaking at the precinct's official launch on October 26, Perri Projects' managing director David Scalzo said the project reflected a growing demand for modern industrial spaces that contained open plan designs and commercial amenities powered by rooftop solars.

"Our new precinct offers tenants an

integrated work-life balance boasting modern end-of-trip facilities, a rooftop terrace, a gym, and an onsite food and beverage retailer," Mr Scalzo said, adding the old buildings had been integrated with modern design features.

"Unlike traditional industrial precincts, our site also offers significant lifestyle benefits for staff such as close proximity to JJ Holland Park, recreational spaces, restaurants, bars, cafes, and convenience services."

Luxury automotive manufacturer Genesis Motors and a major global medical and life

sciences group have already signed on as major tenants, with the site to also host the award-winning hospitality company Talisman Group's new flagship venue, Silo Nine.

Wingate managing director Mark Harrison said industrial assets and estates "in these critical locations, with this type of truly innovative amenity for customers and employees, will provide a strong, resilient platform for investment in this cycle".

Perri Projects is known to build complex and innovative multi-use projects in urban locations, and it purchased the site in early 2019, which Mr Scalzo previously said was a "unique" site with a "fascinating history" and an opportunity to capitalise on a demand for logistics space in inner Melbourne.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who attended the launch, said the investment was part of a "huge transformation" in Melbourne's west "and another vote of confidence in our city's future".

"Perri Projects has invested in ensuring that the heritage and the amazing stories and the amazing places within this precinct have been preserved," she said.

"Melbourne already boasts a world-leading reputation for its medical prowess. We're home to the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct in the north, which encompasses more than 40 cutting edge organisations and adds considerably to Melbourne's economy - it's great to see that reputation expand at Lennon Mills." ●

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Evan **MULHOLLAND MP**
MEMBER FOR **NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION**

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SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Celebrating the creator of Melbourne's hottest curry

Curry. Some like it hot, some like it not. But one thing we can all agree on is that curry connoisseurs are spoilt for choice in Melbourne.

But if it's heat you seek, Le Taj Restaurant and Lounge in West Melbourne is home to the hottest curry in Melbourne.

It's a hefty claim but restaurateur Prabjeet (Pat) Oberoi said Le Taj's recipe for the bhut jolokia packs a heat level to test even the most seasoned spice lover.

"Melbourne's hottest curry is our bhut jolokia curry made with the world's hottest chillies," Pat said.

Made using Naga Viper peppers or ghost chillies as they're also known, the bhut jolokia is "five times hotter than a vindaloo", Pat said.

"The idea for the dish came about when I thought of cooking something super spicy which not many Indian restaurants were doing."

From breads to biryanis, crispy samosas to savoury pakoras, and vindaloos, tindaloos and every curry in between, Pat and his team combine authentic Indian spices and techniques to create a menu of traditional and contemporary North Indian meals.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp presents the Achievement Award to Pat Oberoi.

.....
"Each dish on the menu tells a story of the vibrant Indian culinary traditions passed down through generations. All dishes are adapted authentic north Indian recipes," he said
.....

A "must try" for diners is the chicken kadhai wala, chicken fillets cooked with juliennes of capsicum, tomatoes and ginger served in a wok.

While Pat's preference is the bhuna lamb, succulent lamb cooked with sauteed onions and capsicum served at a medium spice level.

Migrating from India to Melbourne in 2001, Pat knew he was destined for a long career in the hospitality industry, and it wasn't before long he opened Le Taj in 2006.

"I have always had a passion to work in hospitality and start my own venture," Pat said.

"Le Taj has been in business for almost 17 years serving the local north and west Melbourne communities. We serve delicious Indian food in a fine dining and relaxed environment and consider ourselves a destination for Indian food lovers to enjoy quality and tasty Indian delicacies."

We've recognised Pat and Le Taj Restaurant and Lounge with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award for more than 10 years in business.

"Melbourne is one of the most liveable cities in the world and it's a great place for any business to succeed," he said.

"We feel really honoured to be recognised after successfully running this business for the past 17 years."

Book a banquet or take home a tikka masala from Le Taj Restaurant and Lounge at 70-74 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne.



Prabjeet (Pat) Oberoi's Le Taj Restaurant and Lounge is the home of Melbourne's hottest curry.

ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Melbourne is full of fantastic small business success stories.

The business owners showcased on these pages are recipients of this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards. The awards celebrate the people behind inner-city businesses that have stood the test of time.

Among the recipients are legends who have been in business in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. We also name a Small Business of the Year and Small Business Innovation Award.

To read our full profiles on these businesses and more, visit news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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MARY MARTIN BOOKSHOP

As a UNESCO City of Literature, books and reading are embedded in Melbourne's culture.

And independent bookshop Mary Martin has proved popular over the years with literary lovers, which is why it's been recognised as a Small Business of the Year finalist in this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

Owner Jaye Chin-Dusting left behind a career in medical research to bring new life to Mary Martin, first opened in 1945.

Today, Mary Martin has three stores - in Southgate, Port Melbourne and a newly-opened branch at Queen Victoria Market.

True to the spirit of the original Mary Martin bookshop, all are welcome to

take their time perusing the shops' extensive collection.

"Mary Martin is a very personal space. It's not just about the books - it's about people coming in and feeling at home to browse to their heart's content. Particularly in our Southgate shop, we get lots of office workers coming in during their lunch break who just need a breather," Jaye said.

About 70 per cent of the books stocked are standardised across the three branches - but the rest are targeted towards that area's demographic.

"As one of the world's strongest reading communities and a City of Literature, Melbourne is a great place for a bookshop to do business."



AMERICAN DOUGHNUT KITCHEN

Those queues you often see at the Queen Victoria Market lead to one of Melbourne's best-loved treats - a sugar-coated, jam-filled delight of a doughnut produced by the same families for more than 70 years.

The American Doughnut Kitchen was recently recognised with an Achievement Award in the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards. Julie Boening is the daughter of one of its founders and brings its history to life with her warm memories of time spent bagging up doughnuts as a child.

"My father would be absolutely amazed to think the business has thrived for so long. To be recognised by the award means a lot to me," she said.

It's almost impossible to imagine the market without the doughnut kitchen handing out bags of sweetness to locals and tourists alike.

"It's the smell that gets everybody in. The doughnuts are made fresh every day, they're made from dough so they have to prove overnight. I think the vintage van is the attraction too," Julie said.

"Lots of people come for the theatrics. Early in the morning people stand outside and watch the staff rolling the dough and cutting it out by hand. Once cooked, the doughnuts get turned into a tray. Jam is put in using a hand-pumped machine, then they're put in the sugar bowl to coat them nicely."



PETAL BACK CLOTHING

Dignity, comfort and ease are at the center of Linda Dugan's mission at Petal Back Clothing in Docklands, one of the most innovative adaptive clothing brands in the world.

Linda, a former swim and resort wear designer, first encountered the need for garments that could accommodate the elderly, disabled and those with limited mobility when her grandmother suffered a stroke and could no longer dress herself.

Using her design skills, Linda created a nightie that could be easily slipped on and off, without her grandmother having to hoist her arms in the air.

Linda has since expanded to an impressive range of pieces catering to a wide clientele including blouses,

pants, singlets, polos and options for men as well.

Linda's designs, with their distinctive 'petal back', are reverse engineered from the swimsuit. Each garment is meticulously designed to minimise the need for movement and manual handling when those in care are being dressed by someone else.

Linda has thought of everything from patterns designed to cover up food and tea spills, to how stronger, high-quality fabrics made to last are needed as garments must go through medical grade industrial laundering.

Petal Back Clothing was a Lord Mayor's Small Business Innovation Award finalist.



CARLTON YACHT CLUB

It's for very good reason Melbourne was named in the world's top five travel-worthy drinking destinations this year.

The key to this acclaim is Melbourne's cultural diversity and the waves of migration over the years from Italy and Greece to more recently from Asia which have influenced our city's bar scene.

Take Carlton Yacht Club Bar for example. It's behind a blink-and-you'll-miss-it door, in a sea of espresso bars and cucas in the heart of Little Italy.

But it's owner Andrew Leonedas' Greek heritage that has perhaps unwittingly influenced the nautical theme.

"I came up with the name as it represents the relaxed environment I wanted to create and constructed cocktails and added decor to suit. Customers love the name and the irony that Carlton has no water," Andrew said.

Carlton Yacht Club Bar is now one of Lygon Street's longest-standing cocktail institutions, evoking a sense of carefreeness and fun one would associate with sailing the Aegean Sea.

We've recognised Andrew and Carlton Yacht Club Bar with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award for more than 20 years in business.

Melbourne University conducts a field trip with residents in the Arden precinct

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

University of Melbourne students recently joined North and West Melbourne residents to conduct a tour of the Arden precinct to discuss what the future of the area would look like as it undergoes significant development during the next 30 years.

Between 130 and 140 students and staff from the Master of Urban Planning program took part in the field trip, which has also been presented as a YouTube video called the "Arden Site visit 2023: Urban Sustainability and Climate Change".

The students and staff collaborated with the North and West Melbourne Association (NWMA), with three Association members providing their views and insights into the precinct, focusing on its challenges, history, open spaces, and future development plans.

The Arden Precinct has been earmarked for significant urban development under the Arden Structure Plan, approved by the state government last year, which includes Metro Tunnel's Arden Station opening in 2025 and 12 hectares of land dedicated to open space.

The plan would also see a new major health institution embedded in the precinct, with a new community centre also being proposed along with other civic infrastructure.

The field trip saw attendees gather at various locations including at North Melbourne Railway Station, the still-being-built Arden Metro underground station, the North Melbourne Football Club reserve, and the Moonee Ponds Creek, with students asking a range of questions relating to the precinct.



Participating resident and the NWMA's secretary Kevin Chamberlin said he was impressed with the students' initiative and for showing an interest in the precinct.

"The fact that the University of Melbourne chose the Arden precinct as the venue for their field trip indicates how interesting and exciting the project can really be," he said.

Mr Chamberlin said it was vital that the government listened to all stakeholders in the development process, "and not just the development industry, to achieve a really good outcome for this precinct".

"While the community was ignored in the early stages of the planning process, the opportunity will always exist to improve. Already, we've gone from a situation where it was going to be predominantly blocks of residential units to a strategically important location for medical and other research."

"Now that the thinking has gone away from just another residential development, the standard of employment provided in this location will be extremely high and a wide variety of work will be available to people, particularly locals." ●

Residents urged to be vigilant with parcel theft amid looming online shopping frenzy

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Residents are being urged to take necessary precautions to avoid falling victim to doorstep parcel thefts as a big season of online sales approaches.

With the Black Friday sales and Christmas just around the corner, the surge in online orders also presented an opportunity for thieves to seize parcels left unattended outside homes, warned Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Coordinator Sergeant Nick Parissis of Melbourne North Police Station.

"At this time of the year it just ramps up unfortunately," Sgt Parissis said, but added the benefits of parcel tracking, lockable boxes, complete delivery instructions, and involving trustworthy neighbours were all ways to reduce the impact of theft.

Australia's leading third-party logistics provider, B dynamic Logistics, is also warning shoppers to be prepared for this year's Black Friday (November 24) and Cyber Monday (November 27) sales.

"While the increased cost of living is delivering unparalleled sales and discounts across the retail sector and as a result, this year's Black Friday and Cyber Monday events are tipped to be the biggest yet, we are also seeing a rise in the number of parcels being taken from people's front doors," B dynamic Logistics co-founder and CEO Mal Siriwardhane said.

"Last year, online traffic in the retail segment saw an increase of over 70 per cent in online sessions on Black Friday compared to the previous week. This means there will be a lot more parcels being delivered over the following days



and weeks," he said.

"Providing clear delivery instructions at the online checkout when purchasing items online is very important. Most checkouts offer the ability to include additional information. Use this and ensure your details are clear and straightforward."

One unsuspecting victim in Kensington said they were left "angry and disappointed" after their week's worth of meals were pinched from their front door on November 5. Luckily, they had the items refunded and re-ordered by Amazon with the new delivery sent to a pickup point instead.

A Flemington resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said they had their parcel recently stolen in Edinburgh St.

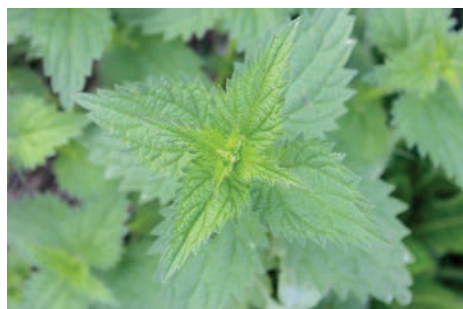
"I'd not experienced parcel theft before and I was also angry that the delivery person left it completely in street view when there was a clear option for somewhere more discreet only a few metres away."

Sgt Parissis said additional crime prevention measures included parcels being sent to either a parcel locker, a workplace, a post office box, or another collection point, as well as installing CCTV, and ensuring a signature on delivery. ●

ENVIRONMENT

Stinging nettle

In nature plants offer unique and valuable attributes in maintaining health and wellbeing for ecosystems, humans, and other creatures.



One such plant is the stinging nettle, *Urtica dioica*. Over the past month or so you may have seen the increase of nettles growing.

The stinging nettle is highly nutritious, easy to identify and often available in abundance.

The name is derived from the Latin word "Ure", meaning "burn", while the common name "nettle" is from the Anglo-Saxon word for "needle" – likely because of the plant's burning sting.

Nettle is covered in tiny hollow hairs, which act like hypodermic needles that inject a stinging substance containing formic acid when you come into contact with them. The sting of the nettle is unpleasant, but usually wears off fairly quickly. A small rash can appear.

The nettle contains more protein than almost any other green leaf, has large amounts of chlorophyll (a great antioxidant), vitamin A, several Bs, lots of C and D and an abundance of minerals including calcium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, silicon, and sulphur. It is one of the richest plant sources of iron.

Nettles are only edible fresh when they are young – early to late spring, as when the plant grows and gets tougher, inedible crystal deposits are formed in the leaves. It takes a few seconds of cooking to render the sting impotent.

Nettle has been used as a substitute for spinach in many recipes. The dried powdered leaves make a nutritious tea and can be added to soups and sauces to increase their nutritional value.

Nettle has traditionally been used as a detoxifying spring tonic and to treat arthritis and gout. The greens are a mild laxative and it's a useful food for those suffering from anemia. It

is also used externally as a wound herb to stop bleeding.

Nettle is an excellent source of fibre for cordage, rope, netting, paper, sail cloth, sack cloth and even fine fabrics. The fibres can be extracted and prepared in the same way as flax (*Linum*).

Nettle hay is rich in protein and therefore used as a supplement in animal feed. It is said to increase the disease resistance, weight and general health of cows, poultry, and most other animals.

It is one of the best companion plants for the garden and is an indicator of rich, acidic soil. Its leaf litter decays into especially rich humus (with an abundance of nitrogen, potassium, and other minerals) enriching the soil it grows in. You can make an excellent liquid fertiliser from nettles.

To grow this plant, you can transplant or take root cuttings from one growing nearby. They like rich moist soil and grow in full sun or deep shade.

Be careful though as nettles can be invasive. Next time you see a stinging nettle, hopefully you will appreciate its many uses and grab some to make a tea. ●



Jacqui van Heerden
CO-CONVENER OF TRANSITION TOWN KENSINGTON
JACQUIVANHEERDEN@GMAIL.COM

HISTORY

The changing nature of our spring fair

Saturday, October 21 was possibly the 40th anniversary of North Melbourne's annual Spring Festival, but that is an approximation because having started as a grassroots event, there are no records.

WORDS BY *Felicity Jack*
HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT

The original event, the North Melbourne Fair, was the brainchild of Kay Oke. Kay can't remember what year that was – only that her children were young – hence the approximation.

Kay observed that several organisations – schools, kindergartens, churches, animal welfare organisations and lobby groups – regularly held stalls in Errol St. She thought it would be a good idea for them all to get together and everyone could bring their friends. She enlisted the help of Ruth Crow and the event got under way.

The event is traditionally held two weeks after the AFL Grand Final to allow the possibility of a play-off the following Saturday if there was to be a draw.

The first few fairs were held on two levels of the Town Hall. There were a variety of stalls upstairs, and food was sold downstairs.

These were the days before the iron hand of bureaucratic regulation began to stifle grassroots community events. Permits were not required, ingredients of cakes sold did not have to be listed, and the use of the Town Hall was free, with no payment for insurance required.

There was the added advantages of having trams stop close to the door, and the enjoyment of the event was not weather-dependent.

The date has remained constant but the

fair itself has gone through several changes of name and character. Once the Melbourne City Council made stipulations on the use of the Town Hall it was necessary to change the venue to Errol St and some of the side streets.

The name changed to the "Spring Fling". Trams had to be diverted and stalls were erected on the side of the street and stages for entertainment were set up. For the past two years the event has had a significant reshaping. Now called the Queensberry Cup, with billycart racing becoming a major attraction.

The Hotham History Project (HHP) has been a supporter of the event in all its forms. It has set up its stall and banner whatever the weather, and there have certainly been years when rocks have been used to prevent papers being blown away and precautions taken to prevent the banner crashing down on someone's head.

The stall is a magnet for long-term and returning residents wanting to catch up, and also attracts people new to North Melbourne.

Previous years have included popular talks on how to research the history of your home, and tours of the bell tower of the North Melbourne Town Hall.

This year the Project held walks in the immediate vicinity of Errol St. They included a walk to the Victoria St plaque that commemorates the laying of the foundation stone in 1851, and two pub walks.

The stall also provides an opportunity to showcase and sell our many publications. We are currently working on the history of West Melbourne and that will hopefully be available for sale in the new year – and definitely in time for next year's Spring Festival.

Kay Oke is now the chair of the Neighbourhood Centre that organises the festival, as well as being on the committee of the HHP. Thank you, Kay! ●



North West City Local

West Melbourne local shines in *Mamma Mia! The Musical*

Matt Hamilton is having an “absolute blast” performing in the Australian tour of Mamma Mia! The Musical, with Melbourne being the last stop of the production’s national run, closing on December 10.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

The West Melbourne resident plays Father Alexander in the show as well as covering all the dads of protagonist Sophie; a multi-faceted role that sees him adapting to potential changes at a moment’s notice.

However, Matt is certainly no novice when it comes to the challenges of the role.

“This is my second time around, as I also performed in this production when it was last in Melbourne,” Matt told *North West City News*.

“Melbourne audiences have been fantastic, they’re up on their feet, singing along – it’s just fantastic.”

While Matt describes growing up in a musical household and “always singing”, the journey that led him to performing on stage professionally came by a mere twist of fate.

“I started taking dance lessons as a boy and found that I was pretty decent at it, that led to high school productions, competition choir and local amateur musical theatre productions until finally a friend asked me to drive them to a professional theatre audition,” Matt said.

“I ended up auditioning myself



and got the job – that was 25 years ago, and I haven’t looked back since.”

While most audiences would be familiar with iconic ABBA tunes such as *Dancing Queen*, *Voulez Vous* and *Take a Chance On Me*, Matt said that singing in the show was more difficult than people may think.

“The layering and the vocal harmonies are incredibly challenging

and rewarding to be a part of,” he said.

As well as his role in *Mamma Mia!*, Matt’s theatre credentials extend to some of Australia’s most famous theatre productions; *Legally Blonde*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Georgy Girl*, *Into the Woods*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Dream Lover* and the Australian premier of *Wicked*.



“So much of this industry is out of your own personal control, but constant development and pursuit of upskilling, positive mindset, and of course, a little bit of talent, are what get you through,” Matt said.

“I hope to continue working and do more lead work, as well as I hope to produce my first creative project in the next coming years.”

Originally from the Midwest of the United States, Matt and his family have been living in Melbourne’s north-west for the past 11 years and he describes it as an “awesome spot” to put down Australian roots.

“We love it – the local cafes and coffee shops, we know everyone by name at our local, schools for our kids are great, and in a pinch I can walk into the CBD.”

Matt and the cast of *Mamma Mia! The Musical* will perform their final show on December 10 at the Princess Theatre, finishing an incredible 2023 season. ●

BUSINESS

A West Melbourne hotel with a few surprises for locals

Melbourne is full of secrets. Whether it’s a hidden cocktail bar, a rooftop restaurant or underground café, this city, and its residents, pride themselves on knowing the unknown.

Cloaked behind dark velvet curtains, on the first floor of Marriott’s Courtyard Melbourne Flagstaff Gardens hotel, you’ll find Shush Burger by acclaimed chef, Sean Connolly.

Shush Burger’s dramatic neon lighting, eclectic cycle of music and a standout burger menu, make it an essential member of West Melbourne’s growing cohort of “hidden gems”.

The creative mind behind this establishment is Sean Connolly, who brings his signature rock-n-roll style to the menu. With successful establishments in Sydney, Auckland and Adelaide, this is his first foray into Melbourne and Connolly has created what could easily be considered Melbourne’s best burger experience.

“The restaurant is inspired by a hidden

burger joint in New York. Tucked away behind a curtain, you don’t know what to expect,” said Carolyn Smith, general manager of Courtyard by Marriott Melbourne Flagstaff Gardens. “Sean loves music and has an eclectic collection of vinyl, which adds for a moody ambience and a great dining experience.”

“The food is tasty, affordable, and there’s a great variety, matched with a fantastic cocktail list.”

While burgers play a leading role – the crown favourite shush d-lux (\$20), a single patty burger with red Leicester, apple wood smoked bacon, barbecue sauce and jam, or shush chicken with buttermilk fried chicken, house slaw, pickled jalapenos and chipotle mayo – it’s what you’ll find away from the burger list that sets Shush apart from others.

There are chicken lollipops with pomegranate molasses, prawn cocktails, pork belly burnt ends, and on the larger side, Petuna ocean trout and “Saskia Beer” chicken “paillard” for those looking for a leaner option.

If burgers aren’t your thing, take the stairs back down to ground level where you’ll find Level Grounds Café & Bar, an all-day venue for



coffee, lunch, and a drink after work.

The bright cafe opens out to Batman St, just metres away from Flagstaff Gardens, Level Grounds is your go to for “Courtyard Classics.” Think sandwiches, Bolognese, bagels and egg-and-bacon rolls, and, of course, great coffee.

“Yes, we are an international brand, and we have an amazing hotel, but we are also the friendly neighbour next door with the local café and restaurant,” Ms Smith said. “We have something for everybody. It’s your morning coffee, it’s your after-work drinks bar, it’s your place to dine or grab some take away. Where you would least expect it, there is something for everyone.”

The 17 levels of Courtyard by Marriott feature 150 hotel rooms, level one function spaces, and rooftop with panoramic views of the city, and a hotel gym. ●

For more information:



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NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

GROW Mental Wellbeing Program

If you need support for your mental wellbeing, GROW can help. This is a weekly peer support group. New members are encouraged to come along and see if it’s for them.

Call 1800 558 268 for more info.

Tuesdays

7pm - 9pm

Kensington Neighbourhood House

www.kensingtonneighbourhoodhouse.com

Al-Anon Family Group

Do you need help to cope with the effects of someone else’s drinking or addiction? You are not alone and there is always help. The Kensington Al-Anon Family Group meets weekly.

Saturdays

9am - 10.30am



ph. 9376 6366

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel on the silver screen at Fed Square

A unique look back at the recent history of the Metro Tunnel Project is on offer at Federation Square, with a series of short films being shown on the square's big screen.

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program commissioned four Melbourne-based filmmakers to create the short films around the theme "underground" using construction footage from the Metro Tunnel Project.

The films use a range of cinematic styles, including animation and real-life footage of the city-shaping project – the biggest upgrade to Melbourne's public transport network since the City Loop was built in the 1980s.

Juliet Miranda Rowe's film *Now & Then, Down Below* takes us back to old Melbourne to show how public transport has transformed our city.

Glynn Urquhart's film *Down the Tunnel* shows us how the Metro Tunnel went from an idea to reality in a quirky way.

Jacqui Shelton's film *Tunnel* brings to life the tunnel in all its glory.

Finally, Lilah Benetti's film *New City. New Face. Same Us* gives us a taste of future Melbourne with a metro train network like other major cities around the globe.

Short films can be a powerful storytelling medium, according to Metro Tunnel creative program manager Sarah Robins.

"The filmmakers were asked to tell their own stories when creating the short films, each of which are very different from one another and reflect the filmmakers' personal styles," Ms Robin said.

"I think people will appreciate their beauty and difference from one another and hopefully



they'll seek out other work made by these local filmmakers."

Meanwhile, work on the Metro Tunnel Project is progressing well, with test trains now running at a maximum speed of 80km/h through the tunnel – the same speed they will travel at when the project opens in 2025.

Work on the project's five new underground stations – Anzac, Town Hall, State Library, Parkville, and Arden – is continuing at pace, with crews working on architectural fit-out and installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment. Workers have finished installation of Victorian-first platform screen doors.

Arden Station is the most advanced of the five new stations, with the building's major structural elements finished. Escalators and lifts to the station concourse are being tested, while stone paving has been laid and tactile tiles installed to aid the visually impaired.

The five new stations will be new landmarks for the city, featuring striking architecture, world-class public art and 21st century technology. ●

STATE MP

Greens join public housing residents in fight to stop Victoria's privatisation of public housing

“

You may have heard that the Labor Victorian Government is planning to demolish every public housing tower in Victoria.

”

That's more than 6660 homes in 44 towers.

One of the first to go is in our neighbourhood – 33 Alfred St in North Melbourne.

Some of these buildings could certainly do with an upgrade, but unfortunately that's not the government's plan.

Instead, they're going to sell off the majority of this public housing land to private developers to build private apartments for 20,000 people and make mega profits.

They've said they will also replace the demolished towers with 7100 new "social" homes on these sites between now and 2051. Let me explain why this is a lot worse than it seems.

Firstly, Labor wants to knock down 6600 public housing homes, and build 7100 social homes over the next 28 years. That's only 440 extra social homes, or 15 new social homes per year! There are 125,000 people on the public housing waiting list in Victoria. Fifteen new social homes a year isn't going to cut it!

To essentially give public housing land to developers to make a huge profit – and only provide 15 extra new social homes a year – is a bad deal.

Secondly, the government has refused to commit to any of the newly-built "social homes" being public housing. "Social housing" can mean either public housing or community housing. Community housing is run by private organisations (sometimes "non-profits") and can often have higher rents and fewer rights for tenants than public housing. On some other estates where Labor has demolished public housing, none of the new housing has been public housing at all.

Residents are understandably concerned they'll be moved away from the family, hospitals, and community services they rely on.

This plan is going to fundamentally change the nature of our suburb, with more expensive apartments and public housing residents being pushed out.

The Greens and I believe public housing land should never be handed over to private developers. It should be used to build 100 per cent public housing.

A local resident has started a petition to Parliament that calls on Labor to stop the privatisation model of public housing and build more public housing. The Greens are supporting this petition, and if we get 2000 signatures, we can force a special debate in Parliament.

In the meantime, we're also supporting residents who need assistance to understand their rights.

If you'd like to join the campaign to save public housing, get in touch at office@ellensandell.com. ●



Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the West End

Nestled within the ever-changing suburb of West Melbourne, the newly unveiled West End precinct is a transformative addition that promises to rejuvenate the inner Melbourne landscape.

This development arrives amid a notable population surge, with more than a doubling of residents over the past decade. Simultaneously, the suburb has shifted its focus from industrial to residential living. As projections indicate that West Melbourne's population is set to double yet again within the next decade, the unveiling of West End emerges as a pivotal moment in this dynamic community's story.

At the heart of West End's creation is a vision to craft a central space that not only unites West Melbourne's diverse community but also propels economic growth. This collaborative endeavour has involved the developer, small businesses, and community leaders, all bound by a shared commitment to preserve the suburb's unique heritage while creating a multi-faceted environment where residents can easily access shopping, dining, and a rich tapestry of cultural and recreational experiences.



West End isn't merely an amalgamation of businesses; it's a thriving community where each establishment plays a vital role in engendering a sense of belonging and convenience.

Social Animals Barber Shop exemplifies this spirit, offering affordable, modern, and high-quality barbering services with a creative, community-centric ethos. More than a mere barbershop, it seeks to create a social hub where individuals from all walks of life can connect. Its subscription-based service underscores a dedication to nurturing community ties.

Itchy Paws, the first pet store in West Melbourne, caters to all pet needs, offering a wide range of products and grooming services. Itchy Paws brings pet owners a convenient and

accessible destination for their furry friends. Premier Health Partners provides an extensive range of healthcare services, encompassing GPs, osteopaths, and exercise physiology.

West End Artspace, a contemporary art gallery, stands as a hub for community gatherings, hosting a regular calendar of events and workshops. Through its dynamic exhibition program, it actively champions Australian and international artists, nurturing their artistic endeavours.

At the heart of West End is Gingersnap, a unique addition co-created by siblings, Brett and Jess. More than just offering delectable food, it serves as an emblem of inclusivity.

Drawing from their profound personal

experiences with disability and their professional backgrounds in hospitality, Brett and Jess aspire to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities while sharing their stories. Their vision perfectly aligns with West End's commitment to making West Melbourne a more representative and forward-thinking community, promoting inclusivity and fostering a sense of belonging.

Other businesses in the precinct include a gym, small supermarket bottle shop, City Cave, patisserie, café, and a few more to come in the near future including a wine and cheese bar.

With the unveiling of West End, West Melbourne opens a new chapter in its remarkable journey. This precinct isn't just about businesses; it's a testament to the enduring spirit of this ever-changing community. West End stands as a symbol of progress, inclusivity, and a shared vision for a brighter tomorrow.

As residents and visitors alike embrace this transformative space, West Melbourne finds a place where community bonds grow, diversity is celebrated, and the future shines even brighter. West End is more than a precinct; it's the heart of a thriving and evolving West Melbourne. ●

For more information:
westend.melbourne

KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

The bulldozer is on the block

Anyone who follows “the news” will know there is almost a sense of panic within government ranks in relation to the provision of housing.

There is also a heap of private concern (if not panic) about residential security, rents, house prices ... and the general cost of living.

We, the public, are not in “the driver’s seat” of the bulldozer, we are standing in the road, weighing up which way to jump.

It was no surprise to read two articles in the October edition of *North West City News* by the Public Housing Resident Network’s Corey Memory and Greens leader Adam Bandt condemning the government assault on public housing.

At a recent Kensington Community Network meeting we heard the story of Homes Victoria

visiting public housing tenants requiring them to make decisions about their future in lieu of the government plans.

The tenants, above all, are caught in the middle of the road, wondering which way to jump, crying out for whatever limited legal support is available to them.

Corey Memory calls some proposed new buildings “relocation camps” because they will facilitate the progressive demolition of public housing towers. A less savoury analogy comes to mind for me, that of herding cattle from one agistment to another.

The government is in danger of repeating mistakes similar to the public housing lockdowns during the early months of COVID, not consulting with and listening to the long-established public housing communities. Instead, the government is treating them like cattle.

Failure to recognise the real human connections in public housing communities is insulting. It will also squander much political capital. The possibility of refurbishment of

some public housing buildings, on a case-by-case basis, should be seriously considered. This was done with considerable success some years ago in Kensington.

The “bulldozer” metaphor applies more widely to the government in relation to planning policy. Recent changes, also a legacy of the “Big Build” and housing supply panic, means that local government powers in the planning and construction pipeline have been curtailed, and transferred to the Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny.

This effectively means that the ability to have local input into planning and construction will be significantly diminished. The unspoken message: “we know best, we have the big picture”, is no different from the modus operandi of totalitarian states.

NIMBYism is often wrongly blamed for lack of housing supply, when it is manipulation of land supply and development timelines which clog the supply chain and stack the cards in favour of developer profits.

There are new planning regulations within the Macaulay Structure Plan which have been held back by the government, they are more sympathetic to liveability factors – height, bulk, open-space, sunlight, etc., – funny that! I’m 100 per cent sure if the sympathy trend was towards developer advantage those regulations would already be on the books.

To finish on a more “sunny” note, we have recent news that development of a public open space at the east end of Chelmsford St in Kensington has been opened for consultation.



Simon Harvey

SPOKESPERSON

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KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Give what you can, take what you need

“

Not knowing where your next meal is coming from is a sad reality for many people. The official term for this is “food insecurity”. It’s an ever-increasing problem, even in the gentrified suburbs of Kensington and Flemington.

”

WORDS BY Rebecca Smith

KENSINGTONNEIGHBOURHOODHOUSE.COM



Back at the start of the pandemic, an enterprising group of local volunteers established the McCracken Street Food Share Pantry on the front verandah of Kensington Neighbourhood House (KNH). You’ve probably walked past and noticed the colourful collection of bottle tops and bread tags collected on the side of the pantry.

The pantry provides an opportunity for locals to donate food and for anyone to take what they need. It is open 24/7. The pantry also provides personal care items, cleaning products, fresh produce once a month and pet food. During the past three years, the pantry has become a reliable, community owned, local food source.

It’s an amazing example of community work. A simple idea brought to life by the energy and dedication of a group of volunteers and kept alive by the generosity and goodwill of local residents. Every day of the week, there is a steady stream of visitors.

The pantry is used by a whole range of community members including many seniors and families living in public housing, asylum seekers, international students (not eligible for

many other supports) and those experiencing homelessness who visit the pantry to get through each week.

The pantry model is unique because there are no eligibility requirements to access it. There is no stigma and no shame to visiting the pantry. Given that people need to jump through hoops these days to access even the simplest social supports, our freely accessible pantry provides something amazing – dignity and personal choice.

KNH extends an enormous thank you to the team of volunteers who keep the pantry running. They do an amazing job. We are also grateful for the support of the many local businesses who donate regularly.

With Christmas fast approaching, we would love to stock up on donated supplies to get through the holiday time. Pantry donation boxes have been set up at various places around the neighbourhood to make donating easy.

If you’d like to provide some supplies, you are welcome to put them in the pantry at any time or drop them into Kensington Neighbourhood House during business hours. ●

PARKVILLE GARDENS RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Parkville Gardens continues to grow

Spring brings a burst of new life and colour not just to our gardens but also to our neighbourhood.

Parkville Gardens was a hive of activity late last month. Two terrific events were held on successive days – one for the community, hosted by social housing provider Housing First; the other specifically for children, run by Parkville Gardens Residents’ Association (PGRA).

PGRA’s “Amazing (not really a) Race” event in the Galada Ave Reserve took place under brilliant blue skies on Sunday, October 29.

Thanks to the glorious sunshine, great organisation by PGRA secretary Faye Ryan, and Children’s Week funding from the Department

of Education and Training, more than 40 young children (and their parents) had a wonderful time tackling a range of tasks testing their mental, physical, and social skills.

The multi-cultural composition of the neighbourhood community was on full display. Congratulations to all who gave it a go and thanks to all who helped run the show!

It was to have been followed by PGRA’s Halloween event, but due to unforeseen circumstances this had to be cancelled this year.

The cloudy skies and cool breeze on Saturday, October 28 didn’t deter local residents – especially the kids – from enjoying Housing First’s “Halloween in the Park” festival.

For the kids, many of whom turned up in impressive costumes, there were art activities, face-painting, and a percussion workshop.

For the community, there was a great array of

affordable fresh fruit and vegetables provided by The Community Grocer, free cookbooks and toiletries, a City of Melbourne information table, and a well patronised food truck.

The festival was timed to welcome the first residents in Housing First’s new building on Galada Avenue.

So far about one third of its 150 units have been occupied and the rest will soon be filled. That means that by the end of this month, the local population will have increased by about 20 per cent!

This draws attention to the scarcity of community services in the immediate locale – a matter of continuing concern for PGRA.

Another ongoing concern is the amount of through traffic funnelled through this residential area. Drivers taking hurried short cuts don’t mix well with narrow streets, children

and the elderly.

PGRA met with a member of the City of Melbourne’s traffic management team early in October to identify the traffic and parking issues we face. We look forward to proposals for addressing them.

On a more positive note, it was good to attend the opening of the new Brens Pavilion in Royal Park on October 21. It is a great sporting and community asset. Full marks to the council and partners in bringing it to fruition. ●



Tom Knowles

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU

PUZZLES & TRIVIA

Quiz



- 1. The Kensington Stockyard Food Garden celebrated their birthday with Mush Fest last month; how old did they turn?
2. Lupita Nyong'o (pictured) won a Screen Actors Guild award for her role in which 2013 film?
3. Halitosis is a condition which is better known as?
4. A cygnet is a baby what?
5. Local 'historian' Elio Sarpi spoke to a sold-out crowd at the Loco Hall on what topic?
6. What was North Melbourne's original name before being changed in 1877?
7. What was Parkville Gardens home to in 2006?
8. Which planet was named after the Roman god of financial gain and commerce?
9. Nicola Salvi was best known for designing which Italian landmark?
10. What zodiac sign is between Aries and Gemini?
11. What is the name of North and West's Melbourne annual billycart race?
12. How many public housing towers are planned to be demolished and redeveloped across Melbourne?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Five 2. 12 Years a Slave 3. Bad breath 4. Swan 5. Housing and architecture in North and West Melbourne 6. Hotham 7. The Athletes' Village for the Commonwealth Games 8. Mercury 9. Trevi Fountain 10. Taurus 11. Queensland Cup 12. 44

5x5

No. 030

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

Grid for 5x5 puzzle with letters S, U, D, U, N, A, S, E, T, E, M, E, S

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1. MESS, 2. MATE, 3. MATE, 4. MESS, 5. MESS. DOWN: 1. MESS, 2. MATE, 3. MATE, 4. MESS, 5. MESS.

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

Sudoku

No. 029

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

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 2, 4, 8, 9, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

HARD

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 8, 2, 1, 7, 9, 1, 5, 3, 4, 7, 4, 6, 3, 9, 6, 3, 9, 1, 2, 7, 3, 3, 7, 1, 2, 7, 3, 6, 2, 6, 4, 5, 2

SOLUTIONS

Solutions for Easy and Hard Sudoku grids

Wordfind

Theme: Under the Sea

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid containing letters for words like GREPPAN, SWLG, NOEF, LATH, HEAD, ICLON, UIRL, SM, TAED, RTEA, OA, AIR, FG, EKIN, BLR, HPE, BCNS, USML, WOA, AHI, PTO, NIM, CRAB, EENN, TND, OCY, AR, RUM, SWORD, FISH, CG, IDNUM, ARRABH

- BARRAMUNDI, MURRAY COD, CARP, SALMON, CRAB, SNAPPER, EEL, STURGEON, FLATHEAD, SWORDFISH, GOLDEN PERCH, TUNA, LOBSTER, WHITEBAIT, MACKEREL, WHITING, MARLIN

Secret message: Gone Fishing

Crossword

No. 029

ACROSS

- 1 Predictions (9), 6 Greek letter (5), 9 Quicker routes (9), 10 Mission (5), 11 Jot (4), 12 'Idiot box' (10), 14 Runway hub (7), 16 Facet (6), 18 Dark blue (6), 20 Manipulate (7), 23 Plant shelter (10), 24 Male elephant (4), 26 Jobs (5), 27 Contamination (9), 28 Finished (5), 29 Finds (9)

DOWN

- 1 Intriguing (11), 2 Cockerel (7), 3 Domestic animals (4), 4 Scholars (8), 5 Method (6), 6 Accept reluctantly (9), 7 Exact (7), 8 Fitting (3), 13 Holland, The - (11), 15 Arranged (9)

Crossword grid with numbered squares

- 17 Comforts (8), 19 Attired (7), 21 Insulting (7), 22 Jumped on one foot (6), 25 European currency (4), 26 Dead heat (3)

SOLUTION

Solution crossword grid with words filled in

Codeword

No. 029

Codeword crossword grid with letters O, B, O, O

SOLUTIONS

Solutions for Codeword crossword grid

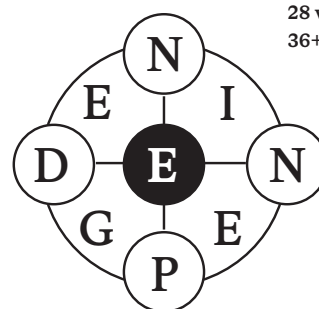
Numbered list for Codeword puzzle

9-Letter

No. 029

Today's Focus: 20 words: Good, 28 words: Very good, 36+ words: Excellent

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'.



SOLUTIONS

List of words found in the 9-letter puzzle: deep, depen, DEEPENING, deign, dene, dine, edge, ending, engine, epee, epigene, gead, genes, gent, genned, ghined, idee, indene, need, needng, neep, nide, nide, pced, peed, peeing, peen, peened, peening, pend, pending, penne, penned, pide, pided, pine, pinned, pinene, pinged, pinned

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

What's On: November 2023



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

KENSINGTON MARKET

Kensington Market, held monthly at the Kensington Town Hall, highlights the talent and craftsmanship of a wonderful group of inner-city makers. Now entering its eighth year, the market is well supported and is a popular monthly meeting spot.
Kensington Town Hall, 30-34 Bellair St Kensington



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18. 10AM-3PM

FAMILY FUN DAY - HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL KENSINGTON

There will be cakes, arts and crafts, wine bingo, face painting, hot food, rides, live entertainment and more

Holy Rosary School, 37 Gower St, Kensington

Thursday, November 23, 2 - 2:30PM
Heat Health Seminar
 Drop in to hear City of Melbourne's Senior Environmental Officer talk about tips and tools on how to stay healthy, hydrated and cool over the hot summer months.
For more information phone 9376 9743 or email healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2. 10AM - 4PM

Discover Kensington Christmas Market and Fair

Bellair St comes alive to celebrate the festive season with bespoke free Christmas activities, musical performances on the main stage, market stalls, roving performers, magicians, face painting, giveaways and of course Santa.
hello@discoverkensington.com.au



EVERY THURSDAY, 10:30AM - 11AM

STOMPERS

Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music, and most of all, fun. Ages 18 months to 3 years.

**North Melbourne Library
 66 Errol St**



SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH (UNLESS PH), 1:45PM - 3:45PM

ORGAN CLUB

Fun and entertaining musical afternoon, with music to suit all tastes. Afternoon tea to follow. \$8 incl afternoon tea.

Contact: 9307 8207.

Kensington Neighbourhood House

DECEMBER 13 - 19, 10AM - 4PM
Seven Days of Christmas
 Kick off the festive season in the North West Melbourne precinct with seven days of fun activities leading into Christmas. Santa will come to check out who has been naughty and nice - if you've been good, you may see him twice!
info@northwestmelbourne.com.au



UNTIL DEC 1. 7PM - 12AM

Silhouettes

Displaying every evening from dusk to midnight, Silhouettes is a delightfully quiet encounter, settling itself unobtrusively into the night scape of North Melbourne, offering viewers an insight into the beauty of everyday moments.

Central Club Hotel, 240 Victoria St.

EVERY THURSDAY, UNTIL NOV 30

CHATTY CAFE

From 1pm to 3pm, enjoy having a chat, doing puzzles, arts and craft, reading newspapers, playing games, or receiving tech help. Afternoon tea provided.

Book: (03) 9376 9743

Kensington Neighbourhood Centre

Business Directory

Health & Fitness

THE GYM MELBOURNE
 KICK - START YOUR FITNESS GOALS AND GET THE RESULTS YOU DESERVE!
 Royal Children's Hospital
 48 Flemington Road, Parkville, Vic 3052
 P: 03 9347 7229
 E: info@thegymmelbourne.com.au

ELLEN SANDELL
 STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
 (03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

Precinct

NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

School

www.haileybury.vic.edu.au

HAILEYBURY
 KESBOROUGH BRIGHTON REDWICK CITY BEIJING

Politician

ADAM BANDT
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE
 142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy
 (03) 9417 0772
 adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

Senator Linda White
 YOUR VOICE IN THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE
 Level 1, 62 Lygon Street, Carlton South VIC 3053 (03) 9639 2798
 Senator Linda White @lindawhiteaus senatorwhite@aph.gov.au

Real Estate

Biggin & Scott KENSINGTON
 For a clear path to success
 Kylie 0417 960 492
 Trevor 0456 377 780

www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au
 273 Victoria St, West Melbourne
9321 9200

SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Do you operate a business in North or West Melbourne?

The North & West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) invites all local business owners and operators to become a member of the association and help shape the future of our distinctive pocket of Melbourne. Visit northwestmelbourne.com.au to learn more.



NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE
PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

