



Building Community Alliances

ACF Chisholm and English Corner

– Liz Reen

Chisholm electorate is a diverse place. People from Chinese speaking background are 29% of the population in the most recent census. Policies that are developed on nature and climate will affect all our community so we know it's important for our Australian Conservation

Foundation (ACF) Chisholm group to reach out and involve the Chinese heritage community in our campaign and organising.

In mid 2018, not long after our ACF Chisholm group was formed we went to talk about the climate crisis with shoppers in Box Hill Mall. We had difficulty engaging with some as they were not confident having a conversation in English. For a few years we remained concerned that we were not making any connections with Chinese heritage communities.

This article describing how ACF Chisholm began working with English Corner at Box Hill is continued on page 3.



Planning deregulation help or hinderance?

Reports have appeared in the press in recent times that the Andrews Government will soon announce major policy changes that would further deregulate an already substantially deregulated planning system in Victoria.

Every day, we hear stories of the crisis in Victoria's housing market and the inability of many people to find affordable housing. Many point the finger at the planning and building approval systems as the problem. This includes the role of local government, which many accuse of being too slow in approving new builds, and especially high and medium density projects.

However, as Emeritus Professor Michael Buxton pointed out in the May 2023 edition of *Eastsider News*, there has been no shortage of attached dwelling and apartment project approvals for many years. Developers also often 'drip feed' new developments onto the market to maximise price and their profitability. State and Federal subsidies have not helped, more often than not translating into higher unit prices and putting a further imposition on affordability.

Professor Buxton gave a sharp warning about the consideration the State Government has been giving to measures that will further deregulate the current planning system and reduce the role of local government in large scale developments.

What is the problem that Government is seeking to solve?

Infrastructure Victoria says that, '... 1.3 million new homes need to be built in Melbourne to meet the projections that the city's population will swell from 5 million people to more than 8 million over the next 30 years'. The authority warned of '.... mounting financial and social costs if that growth remains concentrated in the city's outer-fringe "greenfield" areas, where tracts of farmland have been carved up for detached houses'.

Solutions proposed included '...fast-tracking planning approval for high-quality townhouses, better standards for low-rise apartments and targets for new homes in each Melbourne local government area...'. This would lead to a further diminishment of the role of local government and resident participation in site-specific planning decisions.

Further deregulation is not the answer

The view that regulation has imposed unnecessary cost and delay is demonstrably untrue when applied to housing markets. The argument that regulations suppress competition presume a perfect market where all players are equal. By establishing rights and obligations, regulation can ensure consumers are better protected against the opportunities the housing industry has to exploit the imperfections of the housing marketplace for its own enrichment.

The already substantially deregulated planning system has magnified the capacity of property developers to determine what is being built, where and when. Speeding

up the approvals process by reducing the role of local government would further entrench this power imbalance.

Where to from here?

This complex challenge requires open and informed consideration of all factors and an appreciation of who are the winners and losers. Solutions developed in secrecy inevitably ensure certain groups will prosper at the expense of others. Reducing the role of local government will disenfranchise local communities by removing access to information and the right to be meaningfully consulted on what happens in their neighbourhood.

Governments must stop taking the easy option of putting the onus on the individual to find a solution to their housing needs. They have a duty to address the power imbalance developers currently possess and their readiness to take shortcuts in the name of profit.

Hasty and opaque changes in land use development will inevitably generate collateral medium to long term environmental, social and economic distress. In line with the general community expectation of the role of government, any new initiatives need to prevent this. There should be opportunities for all voices to be heard, and that each voice is adequately informed to enable a comprehensive and honest discussion of options.

Important issues include the unsustainability and high economic and social costs of continued suburban sprawl and the diminution over several decades now of social and affordable housing, and the prodigious challenge of climate change. It appears, though, that the Victorian government may be creating a straw man which would send us off in the opposite direction.

Chelsea the Champ

– Ray McLeod-Dryden and Glenys Grant



President Charlie XU, Mayor Cr Mark Lane, Chelsea with her Award, Inspector Ray McLeod-Dryden.

A teenage Good Samaritan has been acknowledged with a Community Safety Award for her heroic efforts in saving a young boy from being snatched from a tram last year.

Chelsea boarded a Box Hill-bound tram last August on her way home from TAFE. While seated in the tram she was confronted by a distressing situation.

She noticed a man approach a young school boy, grab hold of him and then try to drag him off the tram. The boy had a firm grip on the tram pole and was resisting, protesting it wasn't his stop.

Chelsea immediately intervened, holding firm to the boy and his schoolbag to secure him on the tram. She yelled a warning to the tram driver and other passengers and the man let go of the child and left the tram. As the tram moved off Chelsea even managed to take a photo of the offender before he fled.

Go to page 3 to read the remainder of this article.

Voice to Parliament

A modest but significant change to Australia's Constitution

Two weeks before referendum day on the Voice to Parliament, you can expect to receive a pamphlet in your mailbox. It will contain two 2000-word essays outlining the Yes and No cases for the proposed constitutional alteration, written by politicians who voted for or against the bill in parliament.

To read the rest of this article, please go to page 2. Several readers have also sent us articles discussing the merits of the Voice to Parliament. These are available on pages 3 and 4.

In This Edition...

What a smorgasbord awaits the readers of our 19th edition. Stories of local heroes, discussions of important issues including the Voice, Victoria's planning system, environmental and health matters, community building initiatives, poetry, music, reports on the activities of organisations that strengthen the

region's social fabric and suggestions on ways to get to know your local area better.

Don't limit yourself to a skim read or you might just miss Elizabeth Chong's recipes or David Astle's Quizzings. And make sure you take in the visual treat on the last page with photographs from members of the Doncaster Camera Club.

From the Editors

Voice to Parliament: a modest but significant change to Australia's Constitution

– Continued from page 1

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) will typeset, print and distribute the pamphlet but has had no role in preparing the content. The AEC also does not have legislative authority to edit, amend or fact check the Yes or No cases. The pamphlet is currently available on the AEC website (see the link below) and has attracted considerable amount of scrutiny and criticism.

In the absence of a complete and independent analysis, Guardian Australia has fact checked and added notes to both essays that may give readers a better understanding of the arguments (see link below).

Critics of the essay giving the No case have pointed to misinformation, errors, mistakes and disputed points and the negativity and divisiveness that characterises the argument spelt out there. The Yes case has been criticised for its reliance on an emotional appeal to our 'better selves'.

Ensuring greater certainty

The proposed amendment is a simple, straightforward provision to give Commonwealth Government the authority to pass legislation to set up a consultative body. Detail regarding its composition, processes and responsibilities will be the subject of legislation

that will undergo the same level of scrutiny and public consultation as any other Bill before Parliament. Its primary purpose is to ensure that the body cannot be abolished at the whim of any future government.

There is a long history of such consultative bodies which, when they fall out of favour with the government in power, are abolished. In 2003, the most recent example, ATSIC reached a crisis point over, amongst other things, its opposition to plans to roll all funding for Aboriginal programs into broader departmental funding. Despite the Government Review recommending a package of reforms, the then Prime Minister, John Howard summarily abolished the body.

Consultation can lead to better outcomes

While the 1967 Constitutional amendment gave Parliament the power to make special laws about Indigenous peoples, it did nothing to overturn the top-down approach towards the development of these laws and policies. The Voice is being proposed as a way to ensure Indigenous people and their communities have a recognised and established pathway to provide input to matters that affect their interests.

It is an everyday occurrence for stakeholders to consult Parliament and the Executive on matters that affect their interests. In its editorial of 23 May 2023, the Sydney Morning Herald pointed out that: 'Lobbyists and other influence peddlers can walk unannounced into the parliamentary offices of all ministers, backbenchers and independents at any time because they have round-the-

clock access to the building under a parliamentary pass system signed by federal politicians that keeps their identities secret'. By February 2023, there were 1791 lobbyists registered under this system.

Such a system works very effectively for well-resourced and wealthy single interest groups such as the Minerals Council and Pharmacy Guild who have easy access not just to Ministers but also to public servants. It does not work for groups who are widely dispersed, cover a wide range of matters and do not have the wealth to maintain a bank of well-paid lobbyists in Canberra.

The Voice provides a way to address this disadvantage by establishing a clear pathway for Indigenous people to give input to legislation and policy making. It also provides transparency, something that it is severely lacking in the dealings by lobbyists.

A significant moment for Australia

Eddie Betts, Adelaide and Carlton AFL legend, Gubrun, Wirangu/Kokatha man is quoted in the Yes essay, 'I know the Voice won't fix everything overnight, but I feel like it's the opening of a pathway to make sure we are included and respected in decision-making on issues that impact us'.

Let's join with Eddie and the many other Indigenous people who support the proposition for a Voice.

The pamphlet is currently available on the AEC website here: <https://www.aec.gov.au/referendums/pamphlet.htm>. Go here to read the annotated version prepared by Guardian Australia: <https://tinyurl.com/k397mx9f>

Victoria's Native Forests: State of Play

Logging of native forests will end in Victoria at the end of this year but there are remaining challenges and threats. A Great Forest National Park is needed.

World-leading forest ecologist Professor David Lindenmayer and forest champions Sue McKinnon and Aawa White will bring us up to date and let us know what still needs to be done.

Join us at the Balwyn Park Centre on Wed Sept 27. We look forward to seeing you there. Find out more and register here: <https://lighterfootprints.org/event/victorias-native-forests/>



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VICTORIA'S NATIVE FORESTS: STATE OF PLAY

with world leading ecologist

Prof David Lindenmayer AO

Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

and forest champions

Sue McKinnon & Aawa White

Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to hear invaluable insights into the state of Victoria's forests

Wed, September 27th 7.30pm - 9.00pm



Can you help?

The mighty *Eastsider News* team has many opportunities for you to become involved in the production of *Eastsider News*. If you have editorial, organisational, networking or IT skills, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us by email at eastsidernews1@gmail.com

Acknowledgement of Country

Independent Community News Group Incorporated acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters of the *Eastsider News* focus area, and pays respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.



To learn more about the rich culture and traditions of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, explore their website [here](#).

Credits and contacts

The informal group who initiated the idea which has evolved into Independent Community News Group Incorporated and *Eastsider News* were Bill Chandler, Michael Hassett, Allan Havelock, Joy Mettam, Anne Young, and John Malvestuto. From this small beginning, a network of community minded people including Mike Daly, Sal Dugan, Glenys Grant, Chris Gray and Callum McNaught have become involved in its ongoing development.

Compilers and editors for this edition are Anne Young, Mike Daly, Glenys Grant, Sal Dugan, Chris Gray and Joy Mettam.

The primary contact point for Independent Community News Group Incorporated and *Eastsider News* is eastsidernews1@gmail.com



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Building Community Alliances ACF Chisholm and English Corner

– Liz Reen – Continued from page 1

Last year, Minwen began posting there about the English Corner events in the Box Hill mall each week on Saturday mornings. In April, Minwen introduced himself to us at a public meeting before the Federal Election. Soon afterwards a couple of us joined a Zoom session of English Corner and presented information about local nature and our group plans for nature events later in the year.

English Corners are informal weekly gatherings where Chinese community members have an opportunity to engage in conversation with English speakers. The focus is on the meaning of words, face to face conversation and cross-cultural exchange. This year, we decided to attend the English Corner sessions in Box Hill regularly.

On our first day at English Corner Minwen, a dynamic ball of energy, formed the group into a circle and invited us to contribute. We handed out the Save Our Big Backyard flyer. He went through the words and ideas on our brochure. 'ACF – what is ACF? Australian Conservation Foundation – what is conservation? The word conservation was a new word for most in attendance.

We moved on, word by word, assisted by Minwen. 'What does Save mean?' Minwen asked the group.



He commented, 'To the Chinese save refers to saving money'. And then onto Backyard, quite an Australian concept. We had similar problems explaining the meanings of bush, wildlife, land clearing.

Each time, we take along some props such as council posters and photos of local wildlife as conversation starters. Animal soft toys are great too. There is lots of interest in learning more about our unique Australian wildlife. It is a great learning experience to see how our messaging about nature may be difficult for people to understand. We also gain an understanding of where people are in terms of awareness about nature. It is a two-way exchange.

We have had a number of people attend ACF events as a result. A great example is Sunny who was interested in platypus spotting. We told her where to look and she spotted a platypus there within the week. It was great

to see the excited expression on her face as she told us about it. Sunny has now become an enthusiastic regular at our monthly nature walk and talk events.

This alliance has broadened community connections for both our groups. We attended the World Bilingual Day Launch and the Chinese Community Roundtable organised by Minwen. Those events enabled us to talk informally about the need for stronger nature laws with more people including politicians at both local and Federal level. We have introduced Minwen to Asian Australians for Climate Action, a group started in Adelaide.

We find the sessions very engaging. None of our members attending are bilingual so communication is limited sometimes, however the time always passes quickly. We are giving to our community as a group, helping English Corner meet a need and raising awareness of the importance of being mindful of wildlife and the environment.

We have found it a very positive experience and encourage others to join in. For more information on both groups, please follow these links:

English Corners: Minwen Wu minwenwu@yeswecan.org.au, <http://englishcorners.com.au>

ACF Chisholm: acf.chisholm@gmail.com
https://www.acf.org.au/acf_community_chisholm
https://www.facebook.com/groups/acfcommunity_chisholm/

Let's choose to listen

– Amy Hiller

Australia's First Nations People lived sustainably, in balance with the natural world, as a continued civilisation from 'time immemorial': more than 60,000 years. Sadly, since colonisation, for 235 years their existence and culture has been marginalised and treated with appalling disrespect.

Collectively, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island tribes have reached out with an olive branch via the poignant Uluru Statement from the Heart. The text correctly says

'proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future. These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness'.

As an Australian, these words move me to do what little I can to provide hope for the future. I believe that enabling First Nations people a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution is the least we can do. I hope we also choose to listen. For too long we have closed our hearts



and minds. It is time to open them and to listen and appreciate those who are the rightful custodians of this land, who came before and now live among us. Let's walk alongside each other and work toward a better future by saying 'Yes' to the Voice.

The Voice to Parliament a potentially joyous moment

– Ray Peck

I have been astounded at the misinformation being bandied around about The Voice. From the onset, I was moved by the eloquence of the Uluru Statement from the Heart with its message of Voice, Truth-telling and Treaty. Later, I discovered that the statement was proposed by the 16-member Referendum Council – a body jointly appointed by Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten in 2015 – endorsed by



250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and created in consultation with 1200 other Indigenous representatives over six months. Hardly elitist.

While some are concerned about the inclusion of the words 'executive powers', the release by the Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus of the Solicitor-General's advice on the matter made it a non-issue for me. The advice was, '... in my opinion proposed [section] 129 is not just compatible with the system of representative and responsible government

prescribed by the Constitution, but an enhancement of that system'.

Knowing that should the referendum be successful, Parliament will determine the details of how the Voice will operate, is good enough for me. Having lived through the successful referendum of 1967, I very much hope to live through another. A majority vote of Yes will be a joyous moment for all Australians and First Nations people the world over.

Ray encourages you to read the following documents.

History of the Uluru statement: http://www.workingwithindigenoustralian.info/content/History_7_Reconciliation.html

The submission by the Attorney General Mark Dreyfus giving the opinion of the Solicitor-General: <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=ea88212c-eccc-45d2-822c-8578fa96895c&subId=740367>



Chelsea being presented with a gift of flowers by the young boy and his mother and father.

Chelsea the Champ

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Chelsea waited with the boy, protecting him until his father arrived, as the man caught up with them and stayed nearby. Wisely she did not confront the man. She reported the incident to Box Hill Police and posted photos of the man on social media to alert the public.

As a result of Chelsea's quick action, a man fitting the description of the offender was spotted in Box Hill the following day. Police apprehended the man, and he was charged with attempted kidnapping, common law assault and committing an indictable offence while on bail. On December 8, 2022, the offender was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Following her heroic action, the Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood became aware of the incident and decided to recognise Chelsea's excellent efforts in helping the young schoolboy. She was recently presented with the Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood (RCBHB) inaugural Community Safety Award by Whitehorse Mayor, Cr Mark Lane at an awards ceremony at Box Hill RSL. Chelsea also received a gift from the management of Bunnings, Box Hill and a bunch of flowers from the young boy and his family.

Chelsea said 'What I did was what anyone would do. Always keep a lookout for kids and protect them if necessary'. Transit Detective Inspector Ray McLeod-Dryden thanked Chelsea and commended her actions, saying she not only saved the boy from potential harm, but that she had also taken photos which were critical in helping identify the person responsible.

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Quizing Questions



1. What simple warm-up exercise, whereby athletes leave the ground, can be spoonerized to make a 'shock' together with one to confound?
2. When spoonersied, this eating area found in most modern malls, creates a word meaning 'spoke lovingly' beside one denoting 'acted aggressively'. Name the venue.



Thank you, David Astle for allowing us to use your intriguing, teasing, and frustrating quizlings that can drive a person to distraction. These come from his book, *Puzzled*. You will find the answers on page 16 of this edition.

Why do I support the Voice?

– Ian Penrose

There are many disadvantaged groups in Australia, all of whom would surely like to have a greater say in government matters affecting them. So why should one group, Indigenous Australians, be given a special and constitutionally-enshrined voice to parliament?

There is no doubting the extreme level of disadvantage in many Indigenous communities: the statistics on, for example, life-expectancy and imprisonment, are shocking and unacceptable. But while that is an often-stated

reason for the Voice, it is not, in my view, a sufficient reason. So why do I support the Voice?

Firstly, the proposed Voice is intimately connected to the proposed recognition of Indigenous Australians in the words of the constitution – a recognition (widely supported) that they were the custodians of this land for thousands of years before colonisation. Such recognition is central to what defines Australia, so it should be more than just words. It needs to be more substantial. In my mind this justifies giving Indigenous Australians their own Voice to Parliament: that would be tangible recognition.

Secondly, the disadvantage that many Indigenous Australians experience has a different genesis from that of other disadvantaged groups. Much is the result of colonisation: their land was taken from them, many of

their children were taken away, they were omitted from the national census, they lacked electoral franchise, they have been subjected to paternalistic laws. The impact of colonisation on them and their way of life has been nothing short of catastrophic and warrants redress in a tangible way.

Thirdly, modern Australia has much to learn from the traditional practices and beliefs of Indigenous culture. Top of mind here is “connection to country”, respect for non-human life, living in harmony with nature, being custodians not owners of the land. In contrast, modern Australia, with its worship of wealth, consumerism and exploitation of nature is demonstrably unsustainable both environmentally and ethically. It is perhaps wishful thinking on my part, but a louder indigenous voice could show us a way towards a brighter future.

From the Pen of a Dreamer

– Ebony Balaz

*‘You may say I’m a dreamer
But I’m not the only one
I hope someday you’ll join us
And the world will be as one’*

– John Lennon

A stranger reminded me of this iconic song by John Lennon recently as we chatted about the Voice to Parliament and our upcoming referendum. My world view is often taken as the naive ramblings of an idealist, but to me (and it turns out to the man I chatted with) it’s simple, with cooperation and mutual respect anything is possible.

The power of a connected community to make positive change in the lives of its inhabitants is something that I have experienced personally. Having a sense of agency over your own life is empowering and knowing you are appreciated as part of something larger than yourself helps to demonstrate the unique value of the individual.

Sadly, this ideal is not a reality for many Australians. I write as a white cis-gendered woman from a privileged background. I am educated, have a roof over my head, food for my belly and stable employment. Life would be vastly different for my family and me if even one of those certainties became a regular uncertainty. The need to survive day to day would be our reality. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have survived when all odds have been against them.



The Uluru Statement makes things clear, ‘We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.’ Uluru Statement from the Heart, 2017.

Imagine an Australia where colonialism had not plundered the land and set out to decimate the world’s longest continuous living culture. Imagine how we would manage land, environment, culture, community, education, language... Imagine what we could have learnt. And yet, here we are. Sovereignty was never ceded and the success of colonialism rests firmly on the oppression of cultures that should be embraced, valued, protected and empowered.

Coming from a family of migrants who escaped the prospect of world war in Europe during the 20th century, I could take the stance of some and say that reconciliation has little to do with me. But then again, by arrival in ‘the lucky county’ my ancestors and I have benefited from the oppression of Australia’s Indigenous peoples and so ultimately, it has everything to do with me. My children have access to quality education close to home; they too benefit from colonialism. And so, the cycle continues and the Gap grows.

I am not an academic, nor am I an expert in Indigenous cultures. But I feel passionately about doing what is humanly right and as such I have taken steps to educate myself about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, what that concept means and why we need it. If at this point you are a tentative No, a maybe or a tentative Yes, I

implore you to listen, watch and read all you can about Aboriginal culture in Australia and more specifically about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Make an educated decision about how you will vote, don’t be complacent and don’t assume you know everything before doing the hard work to find out the facts. There is a lot of miscommunication and blatant untruth being spouted by our mainstream media (including social media) surrounding the Voice to Parliament. Be diligent about getting your information from a range of sources so you can make a decision based on fact, not fake news and speculation.

It saddens me enormously to learn this week that my local council is taking a ‘neutral’ stance on the Voice. This is a council that has an endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan and a council that has promoted a raft of NAIDOC week activities this year. How can it be that this council is not doing *everything* in its power to help educate its citizens on the importance of the Yes vote. Bureaucracy will tell us this is a political issue and that being seen to take a positive stance is something to fear. But for me, this is an issue of humanity and an enormous opportunity for all Australians. Imagine if it’s a ‘No’ from the Australian public, what would that do for Reconciliation in this country? The thought horrifies me. What does your heart tell you? Mine says a resounding ‘YES’.

A great starting point to find out more about Reconciliation and the Indigenous Voice to Parliament is to read the Uluru Statement from the heart <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>



– Barbara Fraser

All living beings are now entering the new epoch of the Anthropocene, which is replacing the generally benign 11700-year Holocene. This means that the planet’s natural systems are being dominated by humankind’s burning of fossil fuels (causing deadly emissions), plus land clearing (removing carbon-absorbing plants). Now it is up to us all to reverse those two main causes to mostly renewable energy, and restoration of nature.

Easier said than done, of course. But humans should stay focused on coping fast, for decades, with all the terrible consequences of high heat and costs; and look forward to a healthier, safer future with benefits for all.

One of the most helpful recent books for understanding the whole problem is Joëlle Gergis’ *Humanity’s Moment- A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope* (2022). Best to read and discuss it with a few other people. Try to think and feel hopeful with Gergis that, if humans can cooperate fast enough with climate action, this may well result in eventually being ‘humanity’s finest moment’ (p.281). Just imagine, how exciting and wonderful that would be.

Paul Hamer MP

STATE MEMBER for BOX HILL

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Wetlands, Koonung Creek Mont Albert North.

Sign the Petition to stop the disastrous NE Link

– North East Link Alliance

Doncaster resident Cynthia Pilli has started a petition for local residents concerned that the North East Link freeway construction is inconsistent with environmental sustainability, social amenity and liveability in our area.

Apart from acting as a disincentive for the Andrews government to do anything meaningful about public transport in the area, it will result in increased air and noise pollution, divided communities, the loss of at least 26,000 mature trees including habitat for endangered species and considerable loss of parkland and wetlands due to road widening.

Not only is this monstrous project unnecessary, it will not solve traffic problems but will increase traffic on already gridlocked feeder roads such as north-south arterials including Elgar, Middleborough, Blackburn and Springvale roads.



Road widening, Simpson Barracks.

Mrs Pilli intends that the petition be sent to both the state government and the federal Minister for the Environment, Tanya Plibersek, along with federal Minister for Infrastructure, Catherine King. It calls for a review of the North East Link and to develop alternative measures, which have less impact on the environment and social amenity.

The Andrews' government ignores its own legislation requiring consideration of environmental impacts of road infrastructure.

The petition also asks for provisions of the *Transport Integration Act 2010* to be implemented, to create a new framework for the provision of an integrated and sustainable transport system in Victoria. Mrs Pilli's petition argues that the need for North East Link would collapse if the clear lack of public transport in the north eastern suburbs was corrected.

Many residents have been calling for better public transport in the area for decades. The Andrews Government should conduct a transparent review of the sustainable public transport options in the North-East, including Doncaster Rail, all at a fraction of the current (and rising) \$18 billion NE Link price tag.

Mrs Pilli said that the federal government is currently conducting a national spending review of multibillion dollar infrastructure projects with consideration to axing dud wasteful projects or withdrawing federal funding commitments. This will include the NE Link. 'The current \$1.8 billion federal government funding commitment to the North East Link would be better spent reforming public transport services in the corridor', Mrs Pilli said.

Consistent with the *Transport Integration Act 2010*, we call on the Albanese and Andrews governments to move away from car-centric roads and freeways and to recommit to development of public transport services in the corridor proposed to be served by the North East Link. 'It is a myth that mega roads such as the North East Link solve road congestion', she said.

The impacts of climate change have been ignored despite legislative requirements. The *Climate Change Act 2010* amended the environmental sustainability objectives in the *Transport Integration Act 2010* to ensure that the transport system should actively contribute to the reduction of the overall contribution of transport-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Mrs Pilli contends that the impact of climate change has been ignored in the haste to construct this disastrous project. 'We say that the impact of climate change is relentless, in part driven by escalating traffic and its consumption of fossil fuels'.

The Petition links are below. Please sign.

<https://www.change.org/p/demand-andrews-government-and-federal-ministers-support-public-review-of-north-east-link?>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/spareusthenelink>

A small step in the right direction

Howard Tankey

If you look at the language map for Indigenous Australia, you see a complex pattern of language groups across the continent. The actual number of languages and tribes or clans is often quoted to be around 250 to 300. This situation had developed over at least 65 thousand years.

There is no evidence of European-like power struggles to create empires. In fact, there are many protocols and customs around message sticks, 'Welcome to Country', and trading over large distances that suggest a very civilized way of interacting and co-operating.

An Aboriginal friend once looked at the Murray River and commented that Europeans saw rivers as natural boundaries between countries, whereas Aboriginal people saw them as supermarkets and pharmacies where people could share resources. Whilst there would have been intertribal disputes, it appears as though First Nations peoples co-existed quite peacefully.

There were further advantages. Because they were not distracted by technological advancement, they had plenty of time to contemplate deeper issues like how should people relate to each other and how should we relate to the natural world. In a one-day forum organised by the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and

the eight reconciliation groups in the eastern suburbs, the relevance of Aboriginal philosophy for contemplating a better future was discussed.

We concluded Aboriginal people have much to teach us for living co-operatively and sustainably in this relatively harsh, and currently unfair land. And yet collectively, they are doing badly in the most quoted areas of health, education, employment, and incarceration rates. On top of this Aboriginal people still experience racial abuse.

The referendum on the Voice simply gives all Australians a chance to acknowledge the amazing history of this land by recognising First Nations peoples through a parliamentary advisory body known as the Voice.

The inclusion of the Voice in the Constitution, as an advisory body to the Parliament, has the potential to create very significant changes to how First Nations peoples feel about themselves, their relationship with non-Aboriginal Australians and how all Australians think about the future.

First Nations peoples will sense that more Australians are acknowledging and embracing the reality of their history and are prepared to give some small extra powers to them in response to the reality of the hardships and disadvantages Aboriginal people experience on a daily basis.

Social psychologists know that the very best chance people have for correcting any social disadvantage they may endure, is to create conditions that enhance their self-esteem, make them feel better about themselves

when viewed by others, and which give them a greater sense of control over their day-to-day life.

The proposed change is a small step in the right direction. It is up to all Australians to make sure our parliamentarians and bureaucrats don't drop this ball of opportunity. It is an opportunity for First Nations peoples to improve their well-being. But if the media report accurately, and objectively, and non-Aboriginal Australians take the time to listen, it is an opportunity for all of us to gain a better understanding of the rich wisdom Aboriginal Australia has to offer all of us. In fact, deep listening by both Governments and all Australians is a crucial part of this process.

To wake up on Sunday morning after the vote to find Australians had turned their back on this moment would be a kick in the guts to many First Nations people, a huge disappointment for many non-Indigenous Australians and provide a great sense of shame for those people who are aware of how the rest of the world would view us.

The Voice is part of the process of Voice, Treaty, and Truth-telling. The referendum is an integral part of ongoing reconciliation but will not solve all the issues facing Indigenous Australians. There is much more relationship building to be done, but the Voice is very important to long term healing.

Howard Tankey is a member of Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation. Further information on the group is at <https://www.facebook.com/WFFR.com.au/>



Spicy Chilli Squid

The Chinese have a fondness for seafood and squid is a great favourite. Preparation of squid used to be time-consuming but thankfully we can now buy the clean tubes ready for cooking. Serves 2.

Elizabeth Chong AM is a Chinese-born Australian celebrity chef, former cooking teacher, author and media and television host and personality. She is known as a pioneer of the industry, the first celebrity chef and promotor of introducing traditional Chinese cuisine to Australia. Thank you, Elizabeth for allowing us to publish your fabulous recipes.

Ingredients:

300g fresh squid (calamari) tubes
2 tbs cornflour
½ red chilli, diced finely
1 small clove garlic, finely chopped
½ red capsicum cut into 2cm dice
½ green capsicum cut into 2cm dice
2.5 cups peanut oil

For the spicy salt:

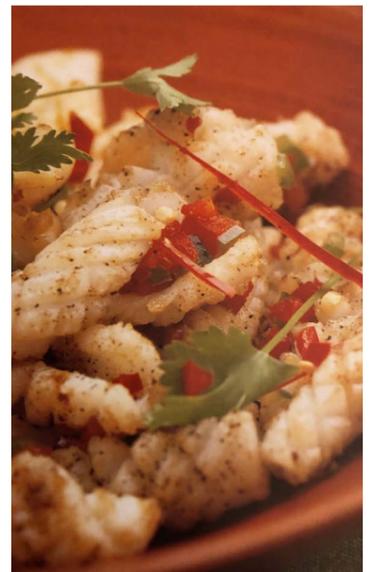
2 tbs sea salt
¾ tsp five spice powder
Freshly ground black pepper

Preparation:

Spicy salt: heat a clean dry pan or wok until very hot. Add salt, reduce heat and roast on gentle heat for three to four minutes until salt becomes fragrant. Stir in five spice powder and black pepper.
Squid: using a sharp knife, open each squid tube down the centre lengthwise and open out flat. Wash under cold running water, removing the membranes. Place on a cutting board with the inside facing up and score with shallow diagonal criss-cross cuts at 5mm intervals.
Cut each piece into 5 cm wide triangular pieces. Dry well on paper towels, then dust very lightly with the cornflour. Shake off any excess and put aside on a plate with the vegetables.

Cooking:

Heat the oil to a moderate heat in the wok and deep-fry the squid for about one minute. It will curl and take on a light golden hue and will be 70% cooked. Remove it with a slotted spoon, then drain the oil from the wok leaving about one tablespoon behind.
Briefly saute the garlic, capsicums and chilli pepper. Add the squid and toss quickly over a high heat for a couple of minutes, sprinkling with spicy salt as you go. Finally, turn the heat up to maximum for the last 30 seconds. This removes any excess oil and gives a lovely dry finish.



Champions for the Southern Brown Bandicoot

– Helen Thompson

Bandicoot: a truly Australian name, like platypus, wombat or koala, but what is it? The Southern Brown Bandicoot was once a common resident in the grasslands and woodlands of our eastern suburbs. It is a small ground-dwelling mammal with a pointy nose for sniffing out insects and fungi, sharp claws front and back for digging, a characteristic humped rear end and a short furred tail. It is NOT a rat. Our bandicoot is a useful and hard working omnivore who fossicks for small invertebrates and fungi and turns the soil in search of a meal or two.

The largest of the bandicoots, the Southern Brown Bandicoot was once widespread along the coast of Northern New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and the tip of Western Australia. The Southern Brown Bandicoot is an ecological engineer. It helps aerate soil and leaf litter assisting in natural litter breakdown, penetration of seedlings, organic mixing and thus improving nutrient availability for plants. These animals also help spread fungi through the ecosystem, which assist plants to increase nutrient absorption.



Southern Brown Bandicoots spend much of the night searching for food, which they detect primarily by scent, sniffing the ground before digging into it with their claws. They pursue any prey that escapes, holding it down with their forepaws as they consume it. Grassy tussocks are an ideal habitat: they find bugs and fungi in the root systems of

native grasses; shelter in the tussocks and build nests from the grasses and leaves and sticks.

Once one of the most common mammals in Victoria, the Southern Brown Bandicoot is now nationally endangered. The main threats to Southern Brown Bandicoots include habitat fragmentation and introduced predators such as the red fox and cats.

It's unlikely you'll see one of these small critters locally. Fortunately, the Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne has a community of the now threatened Southern Brown Bandicoots and an education program to help people understand the needs of this species. The local Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Chisholm group has adopted the Southern Brown Bandicoot to highlight its endangered plight.

ACF has been championing nature for over 50 years and now it is building a network of people, communities and political leaders around the country who will champion

particular endangered species. Now more than ever, nature needs us to fight for nature protection, because we are heading into a wave of extinctions; habitat destruction, feral species impacts, the effects of climate change are decimating Australian wildlife. This dire situation led Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek to state last year, as she pledged to end extinctions, that 'the need for action (on extinctions) has never been greater'.

ACF seeks a better future where both nature and people thrive; a future where our kids and grandkids can spot a Southern Brown Bandicoot in a reserve near home. For this to happen we need strong laws to protect nature and we need to stop habitat destruction. We need our political representatives like Carina Garland to stand with us and champion nature. There is a nature crisis and we need to do something about it, now.

In conjunction with the Champions for Nature campaign ACF is running Wild at Art – a threatened species art competition for kids. On Sunday 20 August, ACF Chisholm is hosting a walk in the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens and a Wild at Art class for school aged children. We hope to see a bandicoot, or two, fossicking in the gardens. Despite their usual nocturnal habits Southern Brown Bandicoots have been sighted during the day at Cranbourne.

You can get more information here: *Wild at Art*: <https://www.acf.org.au/wild-at-art-competition>, and [ACF Chisholm acf.chisholm@gmail.com](mailto:acf.chisholm@gmail.com)

Helen Thompson is a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Chisholm group.



Aussie Bird Count

– Glenys Grant

The Aussie Bird Count on October 16 to 22 is perhaps the largest bird finder event in Australia. It is open to everyone from bird experts to beginners.

The Count is run each Spring by BirdLife Australia, one of the nation's foremost bird conservation organisations. It was initiated as a joint scientific and community engagement to bring bird watching into the mainstream.

Participants are invited to spend 20 minutes watching birds in their backyards and parks. The idea is to spot, identify and submit information about the local birds to Birdlife Australia's analysts who combine this with other survey data to check on our bird populations. Findings are submitted on the Bird Count app or website.



Here is how to get involved

First download the free Aussie Bird Count app from Google Play or iTunes. Don't delete the app between events – it should automatically update and can continue to be used as a field guide as it assists in identifying birds based on size, colour and key features.

Then any time from October 16 to 22, spend 20 minutes sitting in your favourite outdoor space. Make a note of the number and kind of birds you see. Perhaps you are worried you can't readily identify your birds? Simple – the app will help.

You can submit your findings using the Aussie Bird Count app or on-line webform which will become live on October 14. You can count for 20 minutes as many times and in as many spots as you like in the seven days. Every count helps. To submit your count, go to the link below.



Get your children involved; see who can get the most accurate counts. It's a very environment friendly, fun family activity and you may be helping to save a few bird species along the way.

We thank Ian Moodie for these beautiful photos. To submit your count, go here: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/submit-a-count/>.

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Community caring preventing elderly abuse

– Jenny Godden

As a community we all need to take responsibility and look out for each other, the young and the not so young. Preventing the abuse of the elderly was the topic of a recent event conducted by The Inner Eastern Hub Women's Christian Temperance (WCTU) – Healthy Lifestyle. Discussion covered the degree of abuse to our elderly citizens and the steps we can all take, to assist in its recognition and eradication.

Speaker Jennifer Evans from Senior Rights Victoria defined elder abuse as, 'Anything that causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust. Harm can be through neglect or physical, emotional, sexual, social or financial abuse'. The support and understanding of friends, family or a concerned

community member is imperative to make changes for the better.

Our elderly need to be valued for who they are and included in all aspects of our society where possible. They need to make their own choices and they deserve our respect, support and protection. They can be vulnerable and targeted, sadly often by a family member. Jennifer's talk gave attendees the confidence to recognise the issue and to act appropriately. Material supplied by Senior's Rights Victoria was distributed to attendees and placed at five local community locations.

It was suggested elder abuse can be closely linked with drug and alcohol abuse. There can be no better way to raise awareness of this link than to educate our youth so they make safe choices today and later in their lives. Part of our responsibility towards children either as grandparents, a mother, father, aunt, uncle or friend is to keep pace with and respond to elements that drive rapid social change.

To this end, Dawn Stark, from Drug Education WCTU Drug-free Lifestyles, spoke about the program she offers for Primary and Secondary aged students. In her presentation, she raised the latest concerns and dangers of vaping.

We all have families of our own and we visit and mix with various aged people in our community. Let us keep alert and pre-emptive to the safety and security of all ages. To find out more about WCTU, leave a message for Jenny on 9791 8490. Dawn can be contacted on 0468 471 658 to speak to students, adolescents or groups on leading a drug-free lifestyle.

If you have any concerns or queries on this issue, Senior Rights Victoria can help. Contact them by phone on 1300 368 821 or go to their website at <https://seniorsrights.org.au/>.

Jenny Godden is Co-ordinator, Inner Eastern Hub Women's Christian Temperance Union – Healthy Lifestyle

Supporting medical research into healthy aging

– Carmel McNaught

We do enjoy the time freedom that retirement offers – spending time in concerts and art galleries, on travel, and investing in staying fit and healthy. Most importantly, without health the culture and travel will be diminished. So, we structure each day around exercise; David's karate and my walking are now integral features of our lives. We are both in our 70s and have made a pact to give our continued health a high priority in our lives.

Changing demographic trends form the basis of The City of Melbourne's *Strategic Plan Melbourne: A Great Place to Age. 2020–24*. The Plan acknowledges the vital part older people play in that municipality, where people aged 60 years and over comprise nearly 10 per cent of the population. The number aged 60 and over is expected to more than triple by 2041 from approximately 14,000 to 53,000.

It is likely similar trends are apparent in other long established local areas of Melbourne. This has led me to mull over how those of us fortunate to be in good health can support other folk in our age cohort.

I have experienced being in a medical clinical trial that was researching options for treatment for an eye condition I actually have. I had a vested interest in the research and really can't call this an example of altruism. (Just as an aside, the staff at the Eye & Ear Hospital in Melbourne are fantastic. Excellent medical treatment and wonderful human care.)

If we have no direct benefit from an endeavour, can we still contribute to our community? I looked around for

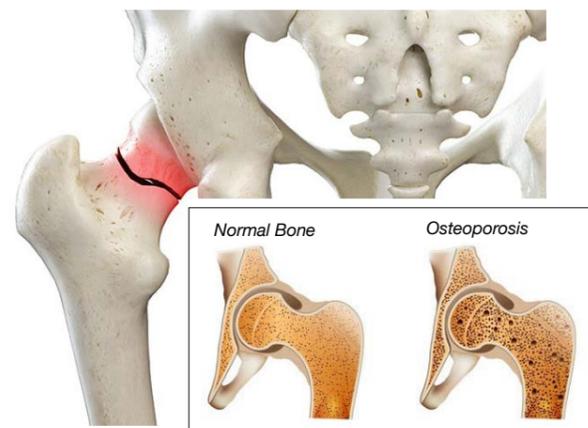
research involvement where my good health could benefit others. As my mother had osteoporosis, and her death followed a fall and a fractured hip, I have paid attention to my own bone health. My regular scans of my bone density have been reassuring to date. With Mum's history in mind, being able to contribute to any study on bone health interests me.

Just a bit of medical information at this point. Bone-density scanning, also called dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA or DEXA), is an enhanced form of x-ray technology used to measure bone loss. Hence, it can provide helpful details about a person's risk of osteoporosis (bone loss) and fractures (bone breaks). Women are more at risk of developing osteoporosis than men because hormone changes at the menopause directly affect bone density. The female hormone oestrogen is essential for healthy bones, and after the menopause, oestrogen levels fall. This can lead to a rapid decrease in bone density.

I have now become a participant in a clinical trial that is investigating supplements of potassium bicarbonate to support bone and muscle health in aging women. The study participants need to be healthy; tick for me. The list of exclusion criteria is long. It is a very time-intensive commitment on my part with many visits to the Australian Catholic University in East Melbourne where the study is being conducted.

The research design is a classic crossover design where I am monitored over two periods of time – one taking a placebo supplement and one taking a supplement of potassium bicarbonate. Lots of detailed records and measurements are required. My wonderful husband is supportive and, during the times when a food diary is required, he meticulously weighs every morsel I eat.

If this area of research is successful, the benefits of a



cheap prophylactic supplement for bone and muscle health are immense on a global scale. The idea that the risk of osteoporosis can be lowered without expensive drugs is appealing and exciting. My time, my tissues and my fluids for my community: this is a worthwhile investment.

The study staff are finding it difficult to source enough healthy aging women in Melbourne who wish to become involved in the study. This is sad. If any women reading this article feel this study is one that appeals to them, please contact me by email at carmel.mcnaught@cuhk.edu.hk.

To view the City's Strategic Plan Melbourne: A Great Place to Age. 2020–24, please go here: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/melbourne-great-place-age.pdf>

Carmel McNaught is grateful for the opportunities for healthy engagement with the community in the Eastern suburbs.

Scenes from Far and Near Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn

Sunday, 13 August at 2.30pm. James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC, Barkers Road Kew

With the catch phrase 'Let us drift from the Hebrides to Blue Hills and beyond', the Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn will present a range of works, denoting place.

Works include Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* and Hanmer's *Blue Hills Rhapsody*, made famous by the ABC radio program. There are also two works by George Dreyfus, *Larino Safe Haven* and *Lawson's Mates* and a work by our conductor, David Keeffe, entitled *St Kilda*.

Our soloist, baritone Kristian Gregory, will sing Woodforde-Finden's *Four Indian Love Lyrics*. Kristian holds a Bachelor of Music from Monash University and has performed with Victorian Opera, Melbourne Opera and Post Opera.

The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn has its origins in 1997 under the baton of George Logie-Smith and later Christopher Martin. Its players are members of U3A Hawthorn, thus are mainly retired, and continuing to enjoy playing and performing music to a high standard of performance.

Full details are available on the website at <https://orchestra.u3ahawthorn.org.au/nextconcert.htm>. Tickets cost \$10, payable at the door (cash or EFTPOS) with school children or younger given free entry.



Energy Efficiency Evening

Learn how to improve the thermal performance of your home from hands-on energy efficiency experts. A free event with practical steps to make your home more comfortable and reduce your energy use.

Find out more and register here at <https://lighterfootprints.org/event/keeping-warm-winter/>

KEEPING WARM IN WINTER

with **Maurice Beinat**
Co-founder, ecoMaster

Michael Beinat
General Manager, ecoMaster

Charlie Phillips
Earthworker Smart Energy Cooperative

- Underfloor, Wall & Ceiling Insulation
- Draught Proofing Assessment & Fixes

Wed, August 30th 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Cr Cotham Rd & Civic Dr, Kew



BOX HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming events

History of Box Hill Cemetery

On Sunday, 20 August 2023 we welcome Celestina Sagazio, who has been researching the history of the Box Hill Cemetery, and will speak to her new book, *At rest: A history of Box Hill Cemetery*.

This meeting will be held at our usual venue, the Bert Lewis Room in the Box Hill Library, 2pm to 3.30 pm, 1st Floor 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Visitors are most welcome. We ask for a gold coin donation.



Victorian Historic Racing Register

On Sunday, 17 September 2023, as a special feature of the City of Whitehorse Heritage Week, we have accepted an invitation to visit the Victorian Historic Racing Register at its new office and archive in Blackburn, where the car racing commentator Ron Simmonds will tell us something of the heritage of car racing and the car industry in Box Hill and Victoria.

This meeting will be held at the premises of the Victorian Historic Racing Register at the Cool Drive factory and offices, 2pm to 3.30pm, 1st Floor 15/33 Alfred St, Blackburn (plenty of parking available). Visitors are most welcome. We ask for a gold coin donation.



Welcome aboard for Heritage Week

– Kerriane Stone

Where can you ride on a miniature steam train and search for your ancestors through shipping records? This September you can take part in these and many other fun and informative activities during Whitehorse Heritage Week.

The week opens on Sunday 10 September with Whitehorse Historical Society's Family Heritage Day at Schwerkolt Cottage. The 19th-century stone pioneer cottage will come to life with the sound of the blacksmith's anvil and children's laughter. There'll be live music, square dancing, Devonshire tea and sausage sizzle, plus heritage trade and craft demonstrations. Children will be entertained by a bubble artist, animal farm, art activity and old-fashioned games. There'll even be a special appearance by a heritage fire truck from the Fire Services Museum.

Each year, Whitehorse City Council works with community groups to select the theme for the week and develop relevant activities for the community to enjoy.

Criss-crossed by rail projects with the Level Crossing Rail Project and the Suburban Rail Loop, Box Hill Historical Society was in the perfect position to suggest the theme and title. The Society will be bringing out their photographs of the historically significant Australian first electric tram, which ran between Box Hill and Doncaster from 1889 to 1896. These images will be on display in Box Hill Library, and you can also learn about the subsequent 109 tram at a talk presented by the Melbourne Tram Museum.

A highlight of the program is a tour of the Victorian Tunnelling Centre in Chadstone. A bus sponsored by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority will collect travellers from Box Hill Town Hall and take them to the state-of-the-art training facility. Participants can expect to learn how rail tunnels are made by seeing the replicas and trying out the simulators and virtual-reality experiences. Bookings are essential.

With its rapid advancements, transport moves us into the future, but Heritage Week gives us the opportunity to experience the ingenuity of the past. Using their own steam, participants are able to experience the Indigenous history during a walk and talk along local bush tracks with an experienced guide.



The week features seven days of displays, talks and fun activities. Browse the program and book your place at www.creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au/heritage-week

Kerriane Stone is the Arts and Heritage Officer, City of Whitehorse Arts and Cultural Services



Schwerkolt Heritage Family Day

Sunday 10 September 2023

– Whitehorse Historical Society Inc

Whitehorse Historical Society are holding their Heritage Family Day at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex on Sunday 10 September, 2023 between 11am and 4pm. The Cottage is located at 2 to 10 Deep Creek Road, Mitcham.

This is a free event and the first in this year's Whitehorse Heritage Week Program which runs from Sunday 10 September to Sunday 17 September. This year's theme is 'All Aboard! Exploring the history of transport in Whitehorse'.

Ours is a day for the whole family

Pack a rug, bring a picnic, and settle in to enjoy the many attractions with demonstrations of 'lost

trades' like blacksmithing and traditional crafts of spinning, weaving and lacemaking. Fire Services Museum Victoria are treating us to a display of a vintage fire engine.

Old fashioned children's games and picnic races will be held in the Schwerkolt Cottage garden together with a craft activity. Whitehorse Square Dancing Club will be providing demonstrations during the day with the opportunity for visitors to join in.

Last year's Hit of the Day, the Giant Bubble artist, is returning, and you may find yourself inside a giant bubble! Wonderful regulars, Brumbies Bush Band, will provide their ever-popular music with the opportunity for folks to join in and dance. Animals on the Move will again be giving children the opportunity to 'get up close' to farm animals.

Yes, there is food, and EFTPOS is available

Take a break from the activities to enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea provided by the Whitehorse Historical Society served from the Local History Room or enjoy a sausage from the Rotary Sausage Sizzle. Delicious coffee will be provided by Vivere Coffee and yummy homemade goodies will be available at the Society's cake stall where everything is homemade and extremely reasonably priced.

Do enjoy a special day out for all the family. Forecast for the day is 'Fine, happy and lots to see, do and experience'. To find out more, contact Kathy Innes, 2023 Heritage Family Day Convenor by phone on 0409 230 058

Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham
(Melway 49 D7)

HERITAGE FAMILY DAY 2023

Sunday 10 September 11am to 4pm

Bring the family, your picnic basket and join us at Schwerkolt Cottage for a fun-filled day with lots of free activities for the children.

- Giant Bubbles
- Animal Farm
- Vintage Fire Engine
- Brumbies Bush Band
- Square dancing
- Chinese brush painting
- Lapidary Club display
- Blacksmith
- Spinners and Weavers
- Lacemakers
- Picnic races and games
- Koonung Wood Turners
- Wooden Toy display
- Kids' craft activity
- Devonshire teas by WHS
- Homemade cake stall
- Vivere Coffee Cart
- Sausage Sizzle (Rotary Clubs)

... plus guided tours of the Cottage

Card payments accepted

For more information contact Kathy 0409 230 058 or whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

Just what is this? The Egg Bird

– A Cataloguer

As a cataloguer for the Whitehorse Historical Society collection, using the Victoria Collections criteria, I have the sometimes daunting task of describing and handling all sorts of 'stuff' before we take it into our museum. I'd like occasionally to share my world with you and ask your advice and input.

Take my recent object, a piece of WW1 'trench art'. Easy enough to identify as such, in fact labelled that way, with provenance being part of the former Mitcham RSL Honeybun Collection. I duly did my best to describe it – a British grenade, apparently called a Mills bomb,



wood, .303cal cartridges, and British tunic buttons. Art perhaps fashioned by someone behind the lines waiting in that horrible space called 'inaction' waiting for 'action'. At this distance we can only speculate.

I took a phone photo, showed it to a few people who know heaps more than I do. Here is where knowledge and stories get interesting.

- Perhaps it's mounted round the 'wrong' way (look how the feet are pointing). Possibly 'repaired' by someone?
- It could have been made by a New Zealander as its shape is reminiscent of a Kiwi bird.
- The buttons could have been 'fence posts', originally strung with wire to keep in the 'bird'.
- Apparently the 'filler cap' is not original – the grenade has long been emptied of any explosives.

A small example of looking, seeing and discovering stories – please feel free to comment, wonder and add to the story.

Five inspiring students chosen for special award

– Glenys Grant

The Youth Citizenship Awards (YCA) is a program unique to the Rotary Club of Forest Hill. It honours students who have been dedicated in their support to the Whitehorse community, the environment and school activities – youths who are consistent volunteers and role models to other students.

This year's awards dinner at Bucatini restaurant, Mitcham and was a very relaxed, happy evening for all. It was chaired by President Bill Marsh and was well attended by the student awardees, their families, dignitaries, Rotarians and partners, as well as teachers who represented their schools and read out the citations.

The Assistant Governor of District 9810, Catherine Elfick, helped officiate, presenting the framed certificates, laminated citations and voucher prizes. She was also the guest speaker, explaining to all the teachers and families present the numerous Rotary programs available to students throughout their school years.

The 2023 Youth Citizenship Award was given to one Year 8 student from each of five secondary schools in Whitehorse. Each awardee is chosen by their school. The criteria are that the student has:

- made worthwhile or unique contributions and put effort into their school community



The 2023 Awardees, with Rotary District 9810 Assistant Governor Catherine Elfick and President Bill Marsh.

- achieved success through application and determination in the year
- can be called upon as an example for other students, and/or has mentored students
- is a volunteer in the general community as well as at their school
- has been involved in, or initiated, a worthwhile environmental project.

The five 2023 awardees are:

- Blackburn High School – Saachi Trivedi
- Box Hill High School – Himani Chhillar
- Forest Hill College – Abbey Tempany
- Kingswood College – Rory Carrington
- Vermont Secondary College – Olivia Middenway.



Olivia Middenway, Vermont awardee with teacher Jerome Coles, Catherine Elfick.

In feedback on the evening, attendees spoke of the excellent student contributions listed in the citations. Teachers spoke of the positive impacts of the award to the student, and how proud they were to be there, representing their school and student.

The best feedback was from the parents. They explained how special the awards made their children feel, especially after the struggles students had in the past two years with all the COVID limitations. Others commented it was a 'memorable evening', 'a testament to remarkable student contributions' and that 'It means a lot to the families and awardees to receive recognition from an esteemed organisation and we appreciate Rotary's continual efforts to foster leadership and community engagement'.



Mini Mission Fete at St James Primary School Vermont

– Anita Dell'Orso, Deputy Principal

St James, Vermont was full of excitement on Monday, 24 July with their annual Mini Mission Fete. Traditionally, this fete is intentionally held near the Feast Day for St James as an opportunity for students to put into action our call to look after others.

This year, the Year Five and Six students put a power of work into researching and choosing a charity that they would like to donate to. The charity chosen is The Ruben



Centre. This is a faith-based Charitable Trust striving for an empowered and just Mukuuru community in Nairobi that provides quality education, health, financial and social services to children and families.

Student Heidi D said, 'We chose The Ruben Centre because we had a connection to the centre through a teacher at our school and we know it is a charity that needs our help. We all felt really proud to be raising money and making a difference to children in Africa.' Elijah W commented, 'It was a great day! I loved making the popcorn and snow cones, our stall was busy all day! It was great to raise lots of money for The Ruben Centre'.

The St James community raised \$4,700 for a great cause. Students, families and staff were in for a fun treat for a great cause with plenty of activities and food and goods

stalls to be enjoyed. Bethany H said, 'Mini Mission Fete was a great chance to work as a team and have lots of fun with my friends while also raising money for an important charity'.

The Mini Mission is an authentic and rich learning experience for our students where they partner together to design and navigate through their learning, with the support of their teachers. Students work collaboratively to organise their stalls, from sourcing equipment to gathering sponsorship. Charlie B said, 'My stall was called GameZone Arcade. Once we decided on our stall, we thought about what kinds of games and activities the kids at St James would enjoy, then we got sponsorship and gathered all the equipment that was needed. It took a bit of time and effort, but it was lots of fun.'

Community Connections

– Carol l'Anson, Manager Vermont South Neighbourhood House

Vermont South Neighbourhood House held its inaugural Community Dinner on Wednesday 19th July. With close to 50 community members attending on the evening it was a huge success with everyone enjoying the delicious three course meal, cooked by our fabulous Café chef Claudia, and her team. There was a lovely buzz of conversation throughout the evening as friends and strangers chatted and connected. One of our wonderful



an eye on our website for future event announcements.

Now just a bit about us ... as a local neighbourhood house our aim is to create a community where all people belong and thrive. We offer a wide range of activities throughout the week, which provide opportunities for both social connection and learning new skills.

The weekly social activities on offer include a Walking Group, Knitting Group and Tablemates, which is simply an opportunity to engage in a variety of table activities (games, puzzles, colouring etc), and enjoy a cuppa and a chat. We also have a monthly Community Lunch (last Monday of each month and just \$5.00 per person) and a weekly Talking Café (Tuesdays at 2pm), where you can drop into our lovely little café for a coffee and a chat with one of our friendly volunteers.

Another way we support our community to connect is through affordable hire of our facilities ... this can be for family gatherings, parties, meetings, playgroups and more. We have a fabulous large function room and child friendly outdoor play spaces that make it an ideal location for family celebrations of all types.

art tutors also created a lovely piece of art during the evening, which will be displayed at the House and auctioned off at a future community event. With lots of lovely positive feedback we will certainly be looking at doing it all again, so keep

Our social enterprise Café is another local gem that brings the community together. The Café is open Monday to Friday 9am – 3.30pm, and the food is all made fresh on the premises. It's a fabulous place to meet up with friends, family and work colleagues to enjoy a good coffee and yummy homemade food.



As a Learn Local organisation (government funded adult education) we offer affordable short courses to build skills and create pathways to further study, employment or volunteering. These courses cover things such as digital skills, English for everyday living, as well as introductions to various vocational sectors such as hospitality, aged care, community services, customer service, administration and project management to name just a few! And then there are lots of other regular recreational activities to try out too ... including art classes, health & wellbeing classes, general interest and more!

Check out all the options to connect with others in your local community on our website at www.vsnh.org.au or contact the House on 9803 2335. We are located at Karobran Drive, Vermont South, 3133 and our email is info@vsnh.org.au.

Bike riding goes futuristic

– Chris Trueman



Here's a relatively new term you might not have come across: Vehicle-to-everything (V2X). It refers to the communication between a vehicle and any other entity that may affect, or be affected by, the vehicle.

For the full technical details on V2X, go to the link below. The main motivations for V2X are said to be road safety, energy savings, traffic efficiency, and mass surveillance. A German bicycle manufacturer is working on equipping its high-end e-bikes with proximity beacons to improve cyclist safety on the roads. The aim is to enable sensor-equipped vehicles to detect V2X-equipped bicycles, potentially preventing accidents.



Peter Norton, Associate Professor of History in the Department of Engineering and Society at the University of Virginia says, 'In theory, V2X technology allows sensor-equipped motor vehicles to know in advance there's a V2X-equipped bike nearby'. He is concerned, however that, 'Beacons may increase the risk for cyclists because, if they give drivers the message that the car is watching out for cyclists, but the car is actually not doing that particularly well, then we make the situation for cyclists more dangerous'.

Norton further said, 'If bicyclists must ride with Radio Frequency Identification beacons – or similar – the logical next step is for pedestrians to also sport RFID technology... The auto industry is interested in getting

pedestrians and cyclists to transmit real-time location information because it's perhaps the only way AVs (autonomous vehicles) can operate in dense cities...'

'What about children too young for smartphones? Should a transponder be placed in an item of clothing instead? What if the child ran outside without wearing their beaconised baseball cap?'

'If the beacon always needed to be on the person, logically, that means it would have to be embedded in the body: are we ready for chipping all humans?'

'If the tech actually turns out to make cycling safer for those who have it, but more dangerous for those who don't, does that become grounds in policy for requiring all cyclists to have the necessary equipment for cars to detect them? If that's so, then we now have problems about access to cycling among those with low budgets or deterring cycling in a society where we need more, not less for lots of reasons, including sustainability and public health.'

Legendary Transport Writer, Carlton Reid recently wrote an article in Forbes (see link below) noting that whilst V2X technology has been deployed successfully in street furniture in some places, the application on cyclists is controversial. He notes that it may pose risks to those without beacons, leading to concerns about exclusivity and discrimination. Because only beacon-equipped individuals would be detected, there may be potential blaming of non-equipped cyclists for accidents.

Anna Gurnhill, Assistant Director Office of Road Safety, (ACT) commented: 'Whoa! While I get the merit of the proposal, there's some really interesting food for thought in this article. My simplified response – we really need to reduce the number of cars on our roads by making active and public transport a reality. By 'reality', I mean all the enabling policy, regulations, incentives, infrastructure, cultural change, urban planning and more.'

Chips with that?

And what about the potential need for beacons leading to chips being embedded in the body? A pretty big ethical dilemma. The use of V2X technology on bicycles may enhance cyclist safety in some circumstances, but it



also poses challenges related to exclusivity, privacy, and accessibility. While proponents see it as a step towards a safer future, critics fear that it could lead to discrimination against unequipped cyclists and pedestrians, undermining the goal of inclusive and sustainable transportation.



And it concerns me that this is another technical 'fix' to enable the auto companies' dream for continued sales by moving into AI controlled self-driving vehicles (AVs) that need this kind of technology to be introduced to enable their dream to come true. Instead, maybe we simply need to follow Anna's advice and have much greater concentration on active transport, leading to fewer cars and safer roads.

For the full technical details of Vehicle-to-everything (V2X), go to <https://tinyurl.com/2yufmzad>

To read the article by Carlton Reid, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/yreha298>

Chris Trueman is a member of WATAG (www.watag.org) and an advocate for Active Transport.

THE HISTORY OF WHITEHORSE'S Parkwide Environmental Education Program

– Glenys Grant

Did you know that in Whitehorse we have an Environment Education program which began almost 40 years ago? It is operated by the Council's Parkwide Department in the key natural environment areas Parkwide and currently employs two part time education officers. This issue we bring you the history of this program. In a later issue we will discuss its current status and visions for the future.

The history of this program begins with one person, the late Dorothy Meagher OAM. Dorothy first became involved in the 1960s as a committee member on what was then the Committee of Management for Blackburn Lake Sanctuary (BLS). In the 1970s Dorothy was a leader in rallying community support to campaign for state, federal and local governments to buy the remaining land surrounding the Lake, creating today's valuable bushland sanctuary.



Ian Moodie teaching a group of schoolchildren about the bush at Blackburn Lake.

In 1984, Dorothy became distressed at the ignorance and misuse of the area by some visiting groups (despite this often being well-meaning). She recruited volunteers



A community group learning about Gang-Gang Cockatoos at Yarran Dheran.

from the local community to build and deliver programs with an emphasis on local history and care for the bushland environment. Volunteer involvement remains an important aspect of the education program today.

After Dorothy's retirement in 2001, Elaine Boucher took over as coordinator. A steering committee was formed from some of the education volunteers and members of the BLS Advisory Committee (successor to the previous Committee of Management) to ensure the program's continuation. To guide its management, a written statement of the program's philosophy and objectives was developed.

Council officers were supportive, especially David Stewart, who helped to develop a set of Fieldwork Guidelines for visiting groups at levels appropriate to preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary students and their teachers.

By late 2007 this program was so successful it needed more time than a volunteer leader could give, and the BLSAC began to lobby Whitehorse City Council to fund a part-time Education Officer. The late Sue Lockwood OAM, then BLSAC Chairperson, generously offered funding to assist in establishing a position with shared responsibility between Council and BLSAC. When Sue



passed away, she left a further bequest to establish the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund (BDEPF), whose grants still assist this and other environmental programs.

The current Education Officers, Tanveer and Jacquie are the sixth and seventh officers appointed to the role. Under their guidance the program remains successful and they continue to recruit and train volunteers. An Environmental Education Committee, now chaired by Gay Gallagher from Yarran Dheran, meets regularly with the Education Officers to review programs and plan ahead to ensure the ongoing strength and value of the program.

Our experience of the pandemic highlighted the vital importance of our parklands to the community. This means the original objectives of the program are perhaps even more pertinent now than when the program began: to provide opportunities for a variety of age groups to experience the pleasures of our bushland areas, appreciate their importance to the community, and learn how to value and protect the environmental sustainability of our parklands and their habitat for both people and for our wildlife.

Educational offerings on Indigenous Culture have been approved by Wurundjeri elders and all programs are regularly updated in line with the National Curriculum. School holiday programs are popular.

The Environmental Education Program now extends to other bush parks within Whitehorse, with most available at Yarran Dheran and Blackburn Lake. Many of the program's users come from well outside the municipality, and so the message of conservation and care for the bushland environment continues to spread.

The community owes an immense debt of gratitude to Dorothy Meagher for her vision in developing and implementing the BLS Education Program, to Sue Lockwood for her vision, generosity and determination to ensure its continuation, and to all the Education Officers and local resident volunteers who have kept the program true to its aims.

Why no consultation on Boroondara's 2023-24 Budget?

On 19 June 2023, 10 of the 11 Boroondara Councillors voted to adopt the Council Budget for 2023-24. One councillor, Cr Franco abstained from the vote because of what he saw as the failure of public consultation in the preparation of the Budget.

In preparing the 2023-24 Budget Council abandoned its long-standing practice of inviting community submissions on a draft budget, typically in late April, prior to the adoption of the budget in late June.

Community engagement surrounding the 2023-24 budget was perfunctory. A draft budget was released publicly on 22 May 2023 without any invitation for public submissions. At the Council meeting on 19 June, it was confirmed that public comment was not considered in

adopting the 2023-24 budget and that any comments that may have been received would be considered in the preparation of the 2024-25 budget.

A resident's query

Why Boroondara Council abandoned community consultation on the 2023-24 has not been explained. At a subsequent Council meeting on 26 June, Balwyn North resident, Ian Hundley, asked whether its long-term practice of consultation had been abandoned and whether it would be reinstated for the 2024-25 budget and beyond. The brief, unilluminating response from Council was that 'Council is yet to form a view about the process for the 24-25 budget year'.

When and how to consult?

At the 19 June Council meeting at which the budget was adopted, Riversdale Ward councillor, Susan Biggar, described the development of the budget as a year-long process which required community engagement continuously throughout the entire year. This is indeed the case, and points to the fact that community participation

should not be abandoned, as Boroondara did so summarily. Rather, public consultation should commence much earlier in the budget cycle, than has typically been the case at Boroondara.

Several councils already do this. For instance, Monash and Greater Shepparton councils send out an invitation in November each year to their community to share ideas and priorities. The City of Yarra invites its residents to submit ideas and priorities from November to January. Greater Dandenong goes out to its residents in October asking them to tell officers what they think is important and what they would like to see included in the upcoming Budget.

To involve residents and ratepayers in the annual budget process, Boroondara should harness a genuine deliberative process of sufficient depth, which permits the airing of both common and competing ideas and which may also address efficiency and performance issues as well as pitches for expenditure. The 2023-24 budget process was not good enough and should not be repeated.

ELECTRIFY BOROONDARA EXPO The future is electric

– Matilda Bowra

The Electrify Boroondara Alliance is excited to announce Boroondara's first electrification and energy efficiency expo will be held on Sunday 8 October from 10am to 4pm at the Hawthorn Arts Centre.

Did you know City of Boroondara research shows 93% of Boroondara residents think renewable energy and energy efficiency are very or fairly important? Our community is keen to join others across Australia electrifying everything to save energy, create comfortable, healthier homes and a safer climate. By swapping gas appliances and petrol-powered vehicles for electric alternatives powered by clean energy, we can make our homes more energy-efficient, reduce carbon emissions and power up our journey to a net zero future.

The *Electrify Boroondara Expo* is free and features keynote speakers, live demonstrations, themed panel discussions and opportunities to learn about practical solutions and talk directly to suppliers. The program has been designed to ensure everyone, regardless of whether you are starting out or well on your way to electrifying your home and lifestyle, will find plenty of inspiration for planning and implementing your electrification journey.



It covers a huge range of topics including how to improve your home's energy efficiency, rooftop solar and batteries, induction cooktops and electric hot water, electric vehicles and e-bikes, how to get off gas and financing options, subsidies, and rebates. Visitors can register in advance for one on one 20-minute eco chats with experts to discuss their specific queries.

Sophie Torney, businesswoman and climate advocate from Kew, leads a team of volunteers from the Electrify Boroondara Alliance who are busy planning the expo. Keynote speakers are being confirmed and include Alan Kohler, well known Australian journalist. This is a fun, family friendly event with activities planned for children of all ages.

'Across Australia communities are electrifying everything and it's exciting for Boroondara to be leading the way. At the *Electrify Boroondara Expo*, we're not just showcasing the benefits of electrification, we're providing practical solutions for our community to become an integral part of this incredible transition. So come along to Boroondara's first electrification and energy efficiency expo and be inspired to make your home low-emissions, super comfortable and energy efficient while helping make our climate safe.'



The *Electrify Boroondara Expo* is the official launch for the Electrify Boroondara Alliance, a community-led organisation dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. The alliance is supported by all three levels of government – Dr Monique Ryan, Federal Member for Kooyong; John Pesutto, State Member for Hawthorn; Jess Wilson, State Member for Kew; Matt Fregon, State Member for Ashwood; and the Boroondara Council.

Visit [electrifyboroondara.org](https://www.electrifyboroondara.org) to learn more or to register for the *Electrify Boroondara Expo*.
Matilda Bowra is a freelance writer and *Electrify Boroondara* volunteer. The photographs were taken by Julian Meehan.



My favourite walks

– Maximillian von Schnauzer

Hi my four-legged friends. How are you all? Full of brighter ideas than I am, I hope. I told Mum she'd have to write the 'Walk' this time. 'Why is that?' she asked. Because I've got writer's block. 'Writer's block?' she exclaimed, 'dogs don't get writer's block'.

Well this dog has. Nothing interesting has happened. I'm fresh out of words of wisdom. It's cold and grey. What more can I say. I'm bored. I need some excitement in my life!

What do you do, my readers, when you're feeling a bit bleah. Chew something you shouldn't? Jump the fence? Howl until someone takes notice of you? Piddle on the furniture? Chase the cat? Dig up the garden? None of these quite cut it. And really, I'm quite well-behaved. What I need is something dramatic. All, and any, suggestions are most welcome.

At least today's walk is a good one. Huge off-leash area, agility activities, and a long walk. It's Norton's Park in Norton's Lane, off High St Rd, Wantirna South. (See *Paw notes*)



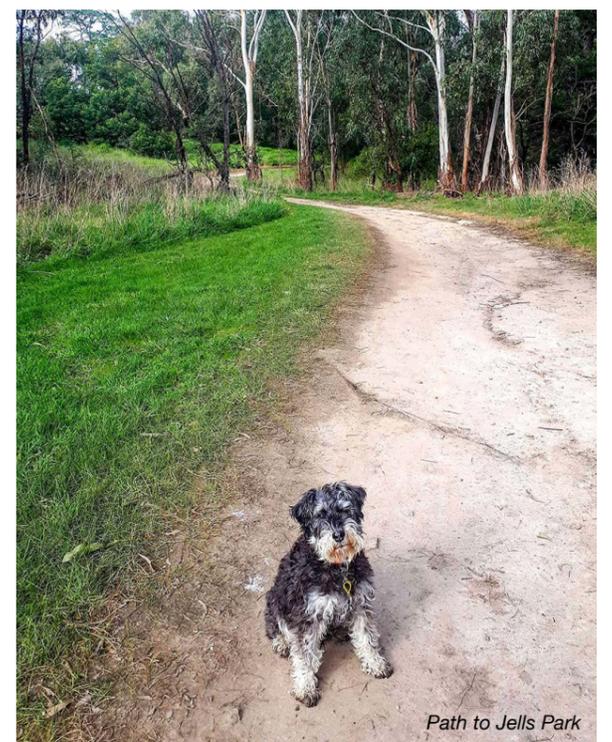
Firstly, have a good scamper and sniff around the park. When we were there, we saw a group outing of little Shelties. About 20. They looked like a kindergarten version of Collies as they obediently trotted along beside their two-leggeds. I laughed to myself – no such restraint for me.



Once the scampering is done, head south along the main gravelled path. You'll reach an area called the Parks Victoria Biolink program. Indigenous trees and grasses have been planted to provide a 'Corridor' for native birds and animals. (As Dad wasn't with us, the information was read in no time.)

Sorry, but now you're back on your lead for a 40-minute walk, to Jells Park, along the Dandenong Creek trail – when in doubt take the left option. Maybe one of your two-leggeds could drive, (just minutes by car), while you, and perhaps your favourite two-legged, enjoy the walk.

Its on-lead only at Jells Park and don't even think of going around the lake through the conservation area. But there is a café up on the hill for the two-leggeds' coffee, and water for you. I found the view down over the lake, pretty speccy – even if I am a dog.



Path to Jells Park

As ever, please say hello if you see me around. I'm black and silver with a red collar. And I'd love to know what you do to liven up your day.

Max.



Paw Notes:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/jells-park>

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/nortons-park-picnic-ground-and-dog-park>

Bob Stensholt – Mainstreet Australia Main Street Champion of the Year Award 202

– Alex Hume

On Friday 19 May, the Mainstreet Australia Awards were held at the Greek Centre in Lonsdale St, Melbourne. President of the Ashburton Shopping Centre Traders Association, Bob Stensholt was a finalist in the Main Street Champion category. He was subsequently awarded the Mainstreet Australia Main Street Champion of the Year for 2023.

Bob provided strong leadership throughout the pandemic and was often sought after by Federal, State and Local Government for his clear views on what was happening to small businesses and how all levels of government could best assist them. His knowledge of small business, strip shopping centres and his local area offered real life examples for governments to consider as part of dedicated support for small businesses.



Bob thinks ahead and looks at ways in which community organisations can work together. He has encouraged collaboration of the Ashburton Shopping Centre Association and local community groups resulting in over 30 groups participating in the recent Ashburton Community Festival.

This collaboration has led to spin off events for our shopping precinct including Halloween on High in conjunction with the Ashburton Community Centre, Boroondara Guides

working with our association handing out flowers to Mum's on Mother's Day, great support from our traders for The Edge (a local charity discretely helping families) and establishing six monthly collections for Camcare in conjunction with the Boroondara Lions Club.

Bob has been part of the Ashburton Shopping Centre Association for many years but he also volunteers his time to the Hartwell Traders Association and the Surrey Hills Traders Association.

Ashburton Village is undoubtedly the strongest of the smaller shopping centres in Boroondara. There is a strong sense of community amongst our traders who all know each other and support one another. Bob is encouraging of new business operators joining our committee and open to new ideas and events in Ashburton Village. As a result, our committee and association are well respected and achieve high attendance and participation levels in all our initiatives.

Through Bob's continued involvement and commitment to our association, we strive to achieve more and more each year. Ashburton Village has very few vacancies, has thriving businesses and a great business culture. Customers love our Village: they know the traders and they shop with us above larger centres. Through Bob's leadership of our association, his amenable personality and love of his local community, Ashburton Village and the businesses within it are thriving.

*Alex Hume is Marketing and Executive Assistant
Ashburton Traders Association*

Burwood Brickworks roof is sprouting

– Glenys Grant

Burwood Brickworks and the Cultivating Community organisation are working together to form an alliance to transform the Rooftop Garden at the Shopping Centre. This collaboration will grow culturally appropriate fresh food in an environment friendly setting. It will also be used as a learning and education pathway to employment and to improve community knowledge.



Cultivating Community is an accredited social enterprise working with CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) communities across Melbourne, including the deaf or hard of hearing. Their work involves cooking clubs, baking, community meals, school activities, workshops and employment pathways and food literacy projects like the one now in partnership at Burwood Brickworks.

Cultivating Community started managing the rooftop farm at the end of March 2023. Deputy Mayor Councillor Prue Cutts, as Chair of the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference committee, recently organised a tour of the facility for the group and other Councillors.



Members of the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group being shown around by CEO Rob Rees.

We were welcomed by Rob Rees, CEO of Cultivating Community, who explained, 'When we arrived, the space had experienced the full burst of the Summer and Autumn growth. This allowed us to harvest produce to supply a variety of community groups across Melbourne. It also meant there was a lot of green waste management, tidying and preparation to quickly get different, more ethnically suitable produce into the ground ready for Winter and Spring 2023'.

'We had begun our work pathway with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in February 2023, working from other locations such as our community gardens and collaborative spaces. It felt natural to bring them to the Rooftop Farm from April and each Thursday the group are on site working and learning.'

'It is expected that more of this CALD community will engage in the farm over the coming year thanks to support from philanthropic funders, donations and grants. We work closely with the Victorian College for the Deaf and their Urban Block Gardening Group but are expanding to work with other related groups looking for work pathways at the start of Spring.'

What is the future?

Cultivating Community and Burwood Brickworks plan to develop the rooftop farm into a thriving landscape that improves social connections. Food will be grown that can be provided to projects and communities throughout Melbourne unable to obtain multiculturally diverse fresh food.

The location will also be used as a pathway to employment for a variety of organisations including in particular CALD groups and those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

An activities and workshop calendar will offer opportunities to acquire food systems knowledge as the rooftop farm becomes a learning and education space. A stronger culturally diverse range of products will be grown to meet the needs of local communities. The first free community workshops began in July funded generously by Open Gardens Victoria.

Over time some of the produce will be sold directly to consumers or local cafes and restaurants or school canteens to secure ongoing funding. This is an inspiring project to increase food security, bring many diverse cultures together and connect communities.



Planting in progress



Vale Don Cheyne OAM

– Neville Young

Don passed away peacefully at Monash Hospital on June 1st. Don was two weeks away from his 91st birthday. Don had been a volunteer of the Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association for an unbelievable 73 years.

Don began playing aged 15 and continued his involvement with Table Tennis for another 76 years. For 30 years Don was on the ES&CTTA committee as a committee member, Secretary and later as President.

In the early 1970's Don began voluntarily running Monday night Recreational Table Tennis sessions. This was to last for 50 years. First at St Ninnians Hall in Orchard Grove, Blackburn South and for the past 9 years at St Johns Table Tennis Club, Mahoneys Reserve, Forest Hill.

Don raised all the funds to cover the cost of buying tables, equipment, balls and venue hire. The night is run at a break even cost to reduce the cost to participants. At the end of every year any money left over after expenses, is donated to charity. Over the years, more than \$20,000 has been given to various charities.

Don devoted his time to running these sessions for 48 weeks a year (3 weeks break at Christmas and a week

at Easter) without any financial reward for 50 years and for most of this time he was ably assisted by his wife Pat, who dispensed drinks and lollies every week.

Through Don's coaching and encouragement many hundreds of people have established the skills and confidence to participate in organised competition. Without Don's influence hundreds, perhaps thousands of people would never have made the step from hitting a ball around at home to active competition in the ES&CTTA and other competitions.

Don was a life member of the ES&CTTA. In 2015, he was runner up in the Victorian Government's 2015 Community Sport and Recreation Awards presented by John Eren, the Minister for Sport. He lost out to a company that employed more than 40 people.

In 2022, Table Tennis Australia recognised Don's work with their 50 years of Service to Table Tennis Award. Don was also recognised by Table Tennis Victoria for his 50+ years of Service to Table Tennis in 2023.

On June 12, Don was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his services to Table Tennis and the ES&CTTA. Fortunately, Don was informed that he was to receive the Award before he passed.





Ron Pidcock OAM as Major-General Stanley with Robert Latham as the Pirate King in The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria 2008 production of The Pirates of Penzance. Credit Brian Taylor.

GSOV's production of The Pirates of Penzance

The Pirates of Penzance is one of Gilbert & Sullivan's most successful and much-loved operas. Frederic, a young man of 21, celebrates the end of his apprenticeship to a band of pirates, and falls in love with Mabel. He is about to join with the local police and arrest the pirates when complications arise, causing much fun and mayhem. It features some of G&S's best-loved numbers including 'Poor Wand'ring One', 'I am the Very



The daughters of the Major General in The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria 2008 production of The Pirates of Penzance. Credit Brian Taylor.

Model of a Modern Major-General', and 'A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One'.

This is ideal musical theatre for all the family. Special activities for children and the young at heart are offered at matinees. There is also free parking and pre-theatre dining at The Count's an hour and a half before show time. Restaurant bookings on 9068 6150.

Melbourne performances will be at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton. Dates are Friday 25 August 2023 at 7:30pm; Saturday 26 August 2023 at 2pm; Saturday 26 August 2023 at 7:30pm; and Sunday 27 August 2023, 2pm. The production also tours to Inglewood (19 August), Corinella (2 September) and Wonthaggi (9 and 10 September).

All ticket bookings are via our website www.gsov.org.au



The daughters of the Major General with Stephanie Gibson as Mabel and Gerard Schneider as Frederic in The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria 2008 production of The Pirates of Penzance. Credit Brian Taylor.



Amelia Le Plastrier as Mabel and Ian Woolford as The Pirate King in The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria 2023 production of The Pirates of Penzance. Credit Andrew McGrail

Vale Tony Bennett (1926–2023)

Portrait of an artist as a music icon

– Mike Daly

One wintry Sydney afternoon in the late '80s I was fortunate enough to sit down with Tony Bennett for an hour and discuss his artistic career, both musical and pictorial, as well as his love of tennis.

I was on assignment from *The Age*, to interview Bennett and attend his concert that night in the Hilton ballroom. Our wide-ranging conversation covered many topics, from a celebrated musical evolution to his more recent passion for painting oils and watercolours, including a series of Australian flowers, signed Anthony Benedetto (his real name).

Teenage Tony had helped his mum pay the bills (his grocer dad died when he was just nine) working as 'Joe Bari, the singing waiter'. He had planned to be a commercial artist until World War 2 intervened, when he was drafted and served in Europe where he sang in military bands. At war's end he immersed himself in theatre and music, and was invited to tour with Bob Hope, who had spotted Tony in a Greenwich Village revue with Pearl Bailey, leading to his first TV break.



Of Hope, Tony said: 'He got a big kick out of the fact that I was the only white guy in an all-black show'. 'Come on,' he said, 'I'll take you on the road'. Hope also suggested he call himself Tony Bennett. The rest, as they say, is showbiz history.

Bennett stuck to his guns as a crooner (Sinatra called him 'the best singer in the business'), eschewing the lure of rock and pop idolatry. At the time of our interview, his career had revived after a lull. 'It's great to sense some failure, go out of fashion for a while', he said. 'It gives you time to hibernate, to grow and learn something – to come up with a fresh concept.'

Later, of course, he was to duet with a host of singers across the pop, rock and blues spectrum, including Ray Charles, Billy Joel, B.B. King, Amy Winehouse, Stevie Wonder, k.d. lang, Lady Gaga, Elton John and Paul McCartney.

After our talk, Tony had headed down to the Hilton ballroom for a rehearsal with his backing trio, led by long-time pianist/arranger Ralph Sharon. Like Sinatra, who always relied on Bill Miller to arrange and lead from the keyboards, Bennett enjoyed a symbiotic relationship with Sharon and the rehearsal was a relaxed affair.

With a coffee in one hand and the microphone in the other, Bennett led a quick run through with the trio, plus a 15-piece Australian string and woodwind ensemble. Much later that night, rapturous applause greeted the seasoned singer as he navigated the repertoire of favourite composers – from Gershwin to Porter, Kern, Rodgers and Hart – making it all look ridiculously effortless.

Bennett, 96, died on July 21 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Meeting that gently spoken artist and consummate stage performer is a memory I shall always treasure.

Mike Daly is a local resident and a widely experienced and well-known journalist with a keen ear and eye on the music scene. He can be contacted at mikedaly35@gmail.com.

Let's get musical with the recorder and the mandolin

The Don Cowell Memorial Trust

– Kon Wong

Don Cowell was a member of the Victorian Recorder Guild, a talented recorder player, a teacher and a recorder soloist for the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra. Don was tragically killed by a vehicle while crossing a road in Belgrave in 1979.

A trust was established in 1980 with funds donated in memory of Don. The aim of the trust was to support young recorder and mandolin playing and musicianship.



Over the years, the trust has conducted three Australian and Australasian Solo Recorder Competitions and provided financial support to recorder playing students. Several have gone on to become successful professional musicians.

The trust was a sponsor of the Australasian Recorder Competition as part of the



Recorder Festival held in Armidale, NSW in 2023 and will be a sponsor again in 2025. It is also a regular sponsor of the Boroondara Eisteddfod and the Waverley Eisteddfod, now known as the Monash Youth Music Festival.

To learn more about the work of the Don Cowell Memorial trust, go to their website at <https://vrg.org.au/don-cowell-memorial-trust/>.

The trust's work is funded is from bequest but there is always more that we would like to do to ensure we can continue into the future.

We would welcome donations to help us with the trust's work. Please consider donating by making a deposit to our account at BSB 063000 Account 11226421.



Firebird Piano Trio

– Camberwell Music Society

Founded in 2010, the Firebird piano trio is one of Australia's most eminent chamber ensembles. It is made up of Benjamin Martin (piano), Curt Thompson (violin), and Josephine Vains (cello). They will present a program on Saturday, 9 September at 7.30 pm at Camberwell Uniting Church, 314 Camberwell Road, Camberwell.

They will play Beethoven Piano Trio in E flat, Op.70, No.2; Rachmaninov Trio elegiaque in D minor; and Arrangements of Corelli's Trio Sonatas by our guest pianist, Benjamin. Tickets can be bought at the door or on-line at www.trybooking.com/CDYBH





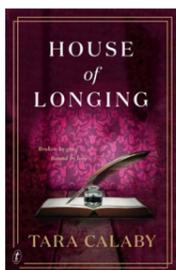
Willesmere and Kew Cottages A novel and a history

– Book Reviews by Kevin Bain

'House of Longing: Broken by grief, Bound by love'

Tara Calaby

Text Publishing, 2023, 404 pages



This is a delightful historical romance set in 1890s Melbourne, and largely in the Kew Asylum, now the Willesmere residential estate, near Princess St, Kew.

It's all about Charlotte, who lives a sheltered life in her father's stationery shop in Elizabeth Street. After tragedy and disappointment in love, she is sent to the asylum 'for her own safety'. The publisher's blurb takes up the story.

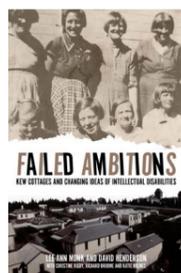
There she learns that women enter the big white house on the hill for many reasons, not all of them to do with lunacy. That her capacity for love, loyalty and friendship is greater than she had ever understood. And that it will take all of these things — along with an unexpected talent for guile — to extract herself from the care of men and make her way back to her heart's desires.

It's the debut novel of Tara Calaby, who's researching the social worlds of women of that time and place. Text Publishing has more about the author and book in the article linked below. Professor Catherine Colbourne gives much more background to the period, and Kew Asylum in her article linked below.

'Failed Ambitions: Kew Cottages and Changing Ideas of Intellectual Disabilities'

Lee-Ann Monk, David Henderson, Christine Bigby, Richard Broome and Katie Holmes

Monash University Publishing, 2023, 357 pages



A La Trobe University team has recorded the 121-year history of Kew Cottages up to its closure in 2007, with a Foreword by Disability Royal Commissioner Ronald Sackville. He notes the book's importance in understanding the past, as the NDIS promises a better future for people with disability — high aspirations to meet self-defined needs, and a welcoming community. Yet the

book's Epilogue suggests that people with intellectual disabilities may find their needs met 'poorly'. Why?

Looking back, the authors found little expression of 'voice' by clients/patients about their needs and wishes for a better life; medicos, politicians, media and Kew ratepayers were louder. Change emerged from 1970s human rights-based thinking from thought leaders such as Wolf Wolfensberger (see link below) and the UN. Self-advocacy and parent participation also increased from the 1980s. The medical model of disability lost favour to the social model, officially in Victoria with the Intellectually Disabled Persons Services Act 1986, later enhanced by the NDIS person-centred themes.

The NDIS brought generic legislation to replace the IDPS Act, and new objections: that a reduced 'voice' from those with intellectual disabilities would result from their absorption into the larger group of people with other disabilities. As funding support based on the client's functional capacity implied less interest in diagnosis,



there would be preventative and forward planning limitations. There remain debates about this, and the authors hope for a 'critical realist approach... whereby society treats people with intellectual disabilities as members of the broader disability group... but protects (differentiation)... whenever necessary'.

Importantly, there were unfulfilled promises by government after the Kew Cottages closure. One was the abandonment of a community centre at the redeveloped site (which also means no shops of any sort), and second was renegeing on the promised relocation of the hundred former residents, currently located on a corner of the site, to be dispersed throughout the re-developed area. Perpetuating this enclave undermined the original plan for developing friendships and social integration (the major rationale for the project). It may be that the commercial operator's reluctance to meet obligations was the cause, but government accommodated it. Without community connection, the likely outcome for many of these local ex-Kew Cottages residents when their parents die is relocation to new institutions — aged residential care, where an enabling culture is less likely than in the disability sector.

There are familiar names and places here: normalisation advocate Ethel Temby and social worker Irina Higgins, Kew Cottages Parents Association advocates Geoff Welchman and Rosalie Trower, institutional leaders such as Dr Eric Dax and Dr Wilfred Brady, and the 9 men who died, locked in rooms without sprinklers during the 1996 fire.

Kevin Bain was funded by the Gunnar and Rosemary Dybwad Foundation to visit the US in 1998 to research residential models for severely disabled children, resulting in a Medical Journal of Australia article at <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/1998/169/11/children-severe-disabilities-options-residential-care>

The following articles referenced above can be accessed here:

<https://www.textpublishing.com.au/books/house-of-longing>

<https://tinyurl.com/2jvrmrxn>

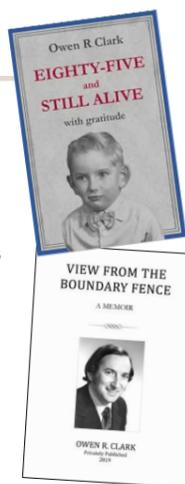
<https://wolfwolfensberger.com/life-s-work/social-role-valorisation>



Owen Clark

Owen Clark was born in Chinchilla, Queensland. After finishing his secondary schooling at Toowoomba Grammar School, he worked on his father's sheep property for four years before obtaining a Theological degree in Melbourne.

Prior to working at Melbourne Lifeline for 10 years as a trainer and supervisor of telephone counsellors, he spent 17 years in Parish ministries in South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria. His final calling



was to Industrial Chaplaincy, where he spent 12 years caring for people at work and critical incident debriefing at companies and organisations in Melbourne.

His recently published second book 'Eighty-Five and Still Alive' which includes his poems and thoughts is available at [Amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au). His first book, a memoir, 'View From the Boundary Fence', was privately published in 2019, and both books are available from the Boroondara Library. You can also have a look at 'View From the Boundary Fence' online on the website [owenroyclark.com](https://www.owenroyclark.com).

We have published one of Owen's poems below.

To read more, go to our *Eastsider Extra* blog here: <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/poetry/local-poets/>



Four Rolex Watches

– Owen Clark

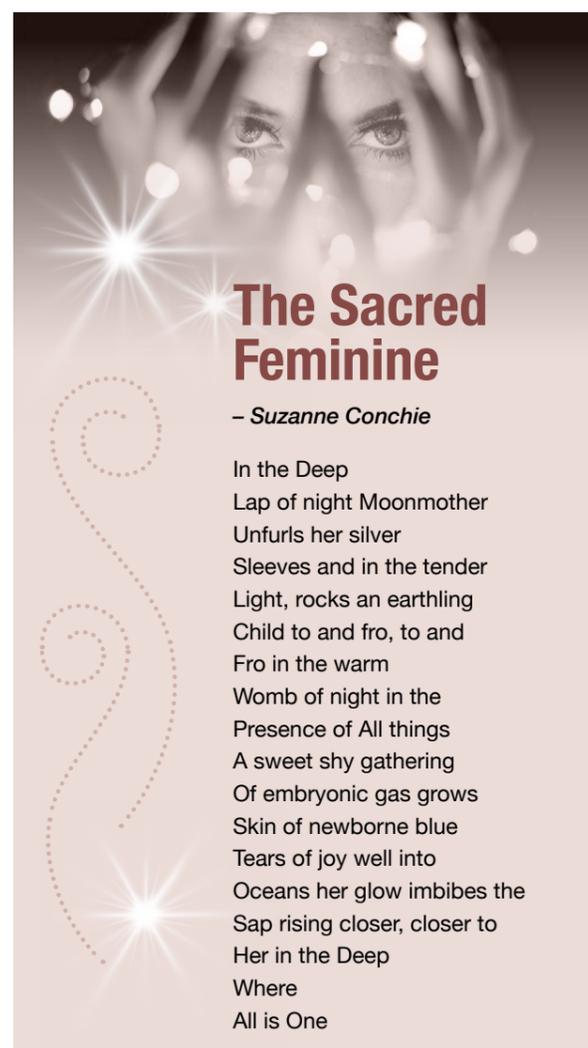
Over a cup of tea,
A rich friend said to me.
'On your wrist, do I detect
A watch; a nice Rolex.'

'Yes, I wear this watch each day.
It seems to cheer me on my way.
My daily spirit gets a lift,
For me to wear this family gift.
I received it from my father.
He received it from his father.
Very precious as an heirloom.
Like some lovely, family, perfume.'

And when at last my life is done
I'll pass it on then to my son.'

My friend replied with this to say.
In a sad and serious way.

'My choice would never be a Swatch.
I also wear a Rolex watch.
One is good but I wanted more.
I have money so I bought four.
But none of them can I compare
In meaning, with the one you wear.
The value in your family
And close connections I can see,
Can only be obtained for free.
They can't be bought with my money.'



The Sacred Feminine

– Suzanne Conchie

In the Deep
Lap of night Moonmother
Unfurls her silver
Sleeves and in the tender
Light, rocks an earthling
Child to and fro, to and
Fro in the warm
Womb of night in the
Presence of All things
A sweet shy gathering
Of embryonic gas grows
Skin of newborn blue
Tears of joy well into
Oceans her glow imbibes the
Sap rising closer, closer to
Her in the Deep
Where
All is One



Join the spooks at the Greythorn Halloween Festival

Thursday 26 October from 4pm to 8pm.

Halloween at Greythorn Central, on Doncaster Road, Balwyn North, is going to be bigger and better in 2023 with plenty more food, fun and entertainment to get families out and about enjoying this annual free event. It will be a huge fun of the fair event with lots of activities and show rides on offer.

Halloween at Greythorn is a totally FREE event and offers something special for everyone. Greythorn traders make it a super fun day for everyone.

Children can enjoy lolly giveaways from 4 to 5.30pm. From 4 to 8pm there will be a full carnival and fun activities planned all along Doncaster Road and side streets at Greythorn Central. Among the activities planned include show rides at Centre Way, face painting at various points on the shopping strip, photo booth, balloon clown and great prize giveaways by our MC throughout the afternoon capturing all the hijinks and great costumes of the afternoon.

The public is invited to come dressed in their spookiest outfit to scare the traders into handing over their lollies.

More than 50 Greythorn businesses will be participating in this year's Halloween eve event and families are encouraged to stay on til 8pm to make the most of all the activities on offer.

There are some great community stalls on offer. Local schools and sporting clubs will have fundraising stalls with many different activities on offer.

This is a totally FREE event for all, except for the community fundraising stalls where your purchase will go to support a very worthy cause. The public is invited to support the fundraising efforts of the local community groups and check out all the great shopping and dining options at Greythorn Central.



For more information contact Yolanda Torrisi, Marketing Coordinator Greythorn Shopping Centre. Mobile: +61 412 261 870. Email: yolanda@yolandatorrisi.com

Men's Sheds

– Callum McNaught

Men's sheds from around the state have showcased their work at Parliament House to raise awareness of the positive impact they are having on Victorian men.

'Everyone thinks of men's sheds as being a place where old guys go and do woodwork. In a lot of cases they do, but they do much more than that,' said Derek O'Leary, CEO of the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

Alongside woodwork, some do metalwork, picture framing, car restorations, toy and model making, cooking and photography, while some have music, bands and choirs, he noted.

Mr O'Leary represents the advocacy group for over 330 men's sheds across Victoria and he wants Victorians to know just how diverse the organisation is becoming and why it plays such a vital role.

'We're here to make government and all the politicians aware of the work we do and enforce the fact that we are underutilised too. There's great potential for us to do more with government and help in areas of health and mental health as well,' he said.

According to the Australian Government's national men's health strategy, 17% of men in Australia have self-reported a case of mental illness. Mr O'Leary said the focus on mental health within the association is necessary, especially for younger men.



Victorian Men's Shed Association CEO, Derek O'Leary at the Parliament House showcase.

'We're trying to encourage some of the sheds to embrace those young guys in the local community who might want to come in,' he said. 'There is a huge impact on positive physical and mental health, because we are all about keeping guys active and out of the house – staying fit both physically and mentally.'

And the impact in Queen's Hall was clear to see. Men's sheds from around Victoria contributed handmade items reflecting deeper connections made within their communities. 'We've tried to get a bit of a diverse mixture from around the state,' Mr O'Leary said, with displays

from Melbourne suburban areas such as Bayside and locations further afield, such as Ocean Grove and Goulburn Valley.

'Horsham Men's Shed for example do a lot of work with kids up there and make the rocking horses and the toys. Rowville Men's Shed also make fire engine models for the CFA which have used them to do training with the kids,' he said.

According to Mr O'Leary, the goal is for men's sheds to be an example of positive local action and one with real influence. This of course could not be achievable without the members across the state who run the sheds.

'What they all do is get people out of social isolation, they get them out of their home and into a shed socialising with other men,' he said.

And he encouraged men of all ages to get involved with their local men's sheds. 'Predominantly our demographic is older guys that are retiring or retired. But having said that there are younger guys in some sheds as well – and that is an area we hope to expand,' he said.

Visit www.vmsa.org.au for more information.

Currently a youth associate at the Parliament of Victoria, Callum McNaught participated in the inaugural Parliament Express program for young writers in 2022.

This article was first published on Victorian parliament website at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/news/general-news/mens-sheds>

Not Just Sausage Sizzlers

– Glenys Grant

While some may think Rotary is all about sausage sizzlers and not much else, there is another side. Service clubs like Rotary and Lions are voluntary non-profit organisations where members perform charitable works to assist the community.

Rotary Club of Nunawading was formed in 1964 and, as with all of Rotary, works locally, nationally and internationally to manage and support service projects that help others and improve their circumstances.

At the recent Changeover dinner, President Gabby Knaepple handed over to incoming President Ian Evans. Several special guests were welcomed including new District Governor Ian Ballantine, MP Michael Sukkar and representatives from other clubs.

The Club's annual report was given. It highlighted that in the past year the 42 members fundraised over \$30,000 and received several grants. All money raised is returned to the community. Projects included:

- \$12,000 to international projects including polio eradication.
- \$14,000 to sponsor local schools and students for activities including leadership, science and international awareness programs. Primary school students received over 600 books through grant money.
- \$10,000 to Eastern Emergency towards a new truck, and \$8,000 to Aurora for new sheds.



Bob Williams and Michael Sukkar MP

The club invested 4,100 volunteer hours into community service, supporting Mitcham Community meals, supplying hampers for the needy for Salvo distribution, and to other projects like Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA), which taught over 1000 students safe driving practices this year. It completed 22 service/fundraising projects and donated goods and services of A\$1,715,647 (including recycled Medical Imaging Machines, playgrounds, spectacles/sunglasses etc and donated auction/raffle prizes).



President Gabby had set 19 goals for the club for the year and all 19 goals were accomplished. For her leadership and the club's outstanding efforts she was awarded a Paul Harris with four sapphires.

Bob Williams received a Deakin Community Award from MP Michael Sukkar. For 30 years Bob has been an active and dedicated contributor to the Deakin community through Rotary, the Whitehorse Farmers Market and Youth projects like RYDA. He has also contributed to Mitcham Community House and CROWAG advocating on behalf of the interests of Mitcham residents.

Service clubs like Rotary and Lions do an amazing job helping the community. How about joining one of the many clubs around the Eastern Suburbs?

Blessing of the Pets Service

Sunday, October 1 at 11am

This service has been a feature on the calendar of Holy Trinity, Surrey Hills for over 15 years. We invite you to join us with your family and furry friends; it is always great fun with special music and hymns. Those without a pet are most welcome.

Venue: Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Cnr Union Road and Montrose Street, Surrey Hills. Inquiries: 9890 2165



Patently waiting for Fr Mark to bless them. Photo: Leslie Gibbons

Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) Melbourne

Upcoming Lectures

ADFAS is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, providing superbly illustrated, informative and entertaining lecture presentations on many diverse topics relating to the arts.

The Story of the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial

16 August 2023 at 8pm. Lido Cinema 1
Lecturer Mark Cottle

In the early 7th Century, a great ship was dragged ashore from the river Deben in Surrey to become the burial place of a powerful Anglo-Saxon warlord. He was interred with treasures from all over the known world including exquisitely crafted jewellery, fine weaponry, and gold coins.

The Art of the Japanese Garden from Tradition to Modernity

13 September 2023 8pm. Lido Cinema 1
Lecturer Marie Conte-Helm

This lecture introduces some of Japan's most famous gardens. The Japanese love of nature and the changing seasons has manifested itself in paintings and in intimate and grand-scale gardens surrounding aristocratic palaces and Buddhist temples. These distinctive qualities have been successfully adapted to modern domestic settings and Japanese gardens abroad.

Beautiful Houses: Frank Lloyd Wright, America's Greatest Architect

11 October at pm. Lido Cinema 1

Frank Lloyd Wright is best known for his Prairie houses, designed to blend with the flat terrain around Chicago. Wright conceived his houses as 'total artworks' – the architect controlled the design of all fixtures and fittings including furniture and lights. Beautifully designed, Wright's work falls under the heading of American Arts and Crafts and later evolved into the Modernist/Art Deco era.

To find out more about ADFAS, go to their website at <https://www.adfas.org.au/>. To join the society or register to attend an event, contact the ADFAS Membership Secretary, Veronica Rickard on 0408 113 669 or email adfasmelbourne@gmail.com Visitors are welcome at all lectures. The cost is \$30.00 per lecture.

Mont Albert (Hamilton Street) Market

– Sally Dugan

The MASH (Mont Albert Surrey Hills) Rotary market was back in action on Sunday 24 June after a railway crossing removal hiatus of a month or two. And I can assure you that Sunday, the fourth in the month, heralded the true onset of winter.

Stoic stallholders set up shop in the Hamilton Street car park and intrepid walkers (some with dogs at hand and many of whom were primarily after a coffee and a loaf or two from the local bakery) strolled around chatting and checking out what was on offer. We all managed to have

fun, caught up with people we'd not seen for a while and those with stalls seemed to be having a good day.

Come and celebrate the community market on Sunday 27 August from 9am to 1pm.

With Spring just around the corner, the August market lets you meet local makers, creators and sellers. There will be some 30 stallholders offering handcrafted crafts and wares, as well as bric-a-brac and other pre-loved goods. You can also find fresh produce and baked goods and pick up some new plants for your garden.

Local identity, Vassou Koletis, will be bringing her mural artists friends from the Melbourne Street Art Collective as they prepare to work in the village. Stallholders very welcome.

MONT ALBERT MARKET SUNDAY August 27th. 9am-1pm
EVERYONE WELCOME
Food Music Fun
Stall enquiries.. Patt 0425 725 899 pattgags@yahoo.com.au David 0438 833 917
Rotary Club of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills



Model Railway Exhibition in Glen Waverley

– Alan Greenhill

Waverley Model Railway Club – Men's Shed held their annual Model Railway Exhibition on the King's Birthday weekend, 10 to 12 June. Over 2000 visitors attended including the City of Monash mayor and councillors, and local Members of Parliament.



Matt Fregon MP with members of the Model Railway Club.

The exhibition had over 30 beautifully detailed model railway exhibits, showcasing layouts of various scales and sizes depicting trains from the UK, USA and Australia. The Children's U-Drive allowed younger people

to drive their own model train. Model railway suppliers were present to enable modellers to acquire often difficult to acquire items.

Waverley Model Railway Club – Men's Shed is a friendly group of people where members with a bent for modelling and scale railway enthusiasts come together to share their passions, hone skills and pass on knowledge.

Model railways are not just running trains. Activities include the logistics of timetabling, carpentry for layout construction, creating and programming electronic components, managing computer systems, library management, business administration through to building your own locomotives and carriages, creating artistic dioramas, miniature landscapes, bridges, buildings, cities.

Model railways are fun and bring together people from many walks of life. If you would like to find out more, contact us on our website: www.waverleymrc.org.au

Alan Greenhill is Exhibition Manager, Waverley Model Railway Club – Men's Shed.

Bungalook Nursery and National Tree Day

Margaret Witherspoon



Established in 1996 by Planet Ark, National Tree Day has grown into Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. The program is a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to their community.

This year, Bungalook Nursery provided 1,300 trees, shrubs, ground covers and indigenous grasses for Whitehorse Council's major planting on Sunday 30 July along the Gardiners Creek Trail Reserve. As well, many of our local schools participated in this program, on Friday 28 July, again with plants from Bungalook.

We look forward to seeing more pockets of local plants providing habitat for our local animals, birds and little critters.

Bungalook Nursery is located at 107 Fulton Rd., Blackburn South. For more details email wcipp@yahoo.com.au. go to their website at <https://www.wcipp.org.au> or phone 0473 122 534



Come visit the Neighbourhood Watch Blackburn Stall at the Blackburn Station Craft Market

Saturday, 9 September from 9am to 1pm in front of the Blackburn Station on South Parade

Come and visit our Neighbourhood Watch stall for security and safety tips for simple ways to keep your home and property safe, reduce the risk of burglary and theft and prevent becoming a victim of crime.

Find out how to download the app and try an AR (Augmented Reality) Experience. See how you score on the educational quiz. Push the buttons on the interactive mini house, to find out about some common home security mistakes and learn some tips on how to avoid them.

Lots of good information for the 'big kids' and some fun activities for kids of all ages. The Blackburn Station Craft Market is an initiative of Rotary Forest Hill and is held every second Saturday of the month except January.

Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House

Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House has provided low-cost educational, recreational, and social activities to the Box Hill Community for more than 35 years. Our beautiful garden recently received a makeover. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and the team from Bunnings Box Hill, the new garden beds have been filled with plants and colour.

We welcome you to visit our garden to rest, have a cuppa and enjoy the beautiful space as it evolves and grows. Would you like to join a Social Garden Group? Please contact us for details or visit our website. www.clotacottage.org.au



My favorite cookie is a Chocolate chimp!



DONCASTER Camera Club

Winter in Melbourne is a time that many people, including photographers seek to go to warmer climates. But for those who do stay in Melbourne there are many rewarding opportunities for photography in local areas.

A recent competition at our Club included many impressive photos taken in and around Melbourne and country Victoria.

Each month members can enter digital images and prints for judging and constructive comments. This is a valuable way for members to learn how to improve the compilation and processing of their photos.

- 1 Puffing Billy by Arthur Lilley
- 2 Waiting For the Sun by Liz Reen



We also have an upcoming photography excursion to the City of Melbourne to photograph the Arcades and Laneways. Club outings are always a shared learning experience as well as an enjoyable social event.

Enquiries and visitors to Club activities are always welcome. Do check out our website and social media pages for more information and photos.

To learn more about the Club, go to Website at www.doncastercameraclub.org.au. Our social media includes Instagram doncaster.camera.club. Facebook: doncaster camera club – Melbourne.

To make contact, you can email us at doncastercameraclub@gmail.com. Phone our President, Michael Walker on 0412 252 387 or our Secretary Pam Rixon on 0421 813 531. Our mail address is Pam Rixon, Secretary DCC, PO Box 2043 Box Hill North VIC 3129



3 Lights From Princes Pier by Michael Walker
4 It Hurts When I do This by Peter Stone



Banks on Streets

– Sally Dugan

It was interesting to read in *The Age* (Saturday, 8 July) that the Commonwealth Bank, responding to customer backlash, pledged to retain all its regional banks for at least another three and a half years.

It is tough to have to travel long distances to access the bank, and the need for doing this is becoming ever greater, given the rate at which the big four have been cutting branches from both regional and suburban centres. The effect on those who are uncomfortable with internet banking is devastating.

There are alternatives of course, though we do not hear of them so often. However, in a report (17 March 2023) by financial group KPMG, there are apparently over 60 customer owned banks that have five million customers. Their share of market assets as compared with the big four might be small (approximately \$159 billion to \$4,730 billion), but they do seem to pull their weight when it comes to matters community and environment.

KPMG Australia Partner and Chief Economist, Dr Brendan Rynne, states: 'While collectively relatively small when measured by customer numbers, assets, total loans and revenue, Australia's mutual sector is large when measured by the number of banks, branch footprint and its presence in regional locations. They are considered the primary financial institution by over 10% of the adult population and provide an unparalleled demand for skilled employees in regional Australia'.

The sector has over 700 branches throughout the country, with employment growing 4.4 percent between FY2021 and FY2022, employing 11,200 people. This compares with the big four, where employment increased by 2.4 percent for the same period.

More specifically, the two I have personally run across, Bendigo Bank and Bank Australia, contribute to the community in different ways. Bendigo goes out of its way to support communities in which they have a presence.

In the next edition

The deadline for articles for the next edition of *Eastsider News* is 25 September 2023, with the edition due to go online in mid October. We try to maintain diversity and give priority to those which are time relevant, so make sure you submit your article as soon as possible at eastsidernews1@gmail.com.

We encourage you to send us photographs and images that relate to your contribution. To get adequate resolution, please try to make them at minimum 250Kb and preferably larger at around 400Kb or more.

Page 3 Quizling Answers

- 1. Star jump (jar/stump)
- 2. Food court (cooed/fought)

They do this by helping finance sports clubs, schools and community events such as the annual Surrey Hills Music Festival.

Bank Australia's contribution to community is primarily via sustainability. Apart from becoming carbon neutral, it has partnered with Trust For Nature to work to protect natural habitat. As a result of customer concern, it has acquired (to date) an approximately 920 hectare private conservation reserve protected from development forever through a conservation covenant. It also claims it never has or will invest in fossil fuels, live animal exports, military weaponry, tobacco of gambling.

Another bank in the sector, ME Bank, supports charities via its debit cards. It was reported in *The Age* (19 July, 23) that it had added four charity cards to its existing one, which supports the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Its new charity-linked Visa cards will support Beyond Blue, Australian Wildlife Conservancy and Minus18, which supports LGBTQ youth. The fourth card will support Orange Sky, a charity helping those experiencing homelessness and hardship.

So, if your local mainstream branch has left the street, there are alternatives that might be worth considering.

To read the research commissioned by the Customer Owned Banking Association (COBA) on the role and impact of community banks, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/52zjysvw>

Whitehorse Business Group with Rotary Club of Nunawading invites you to attend a

Community Safety Breakfast

SPEAKERS

Senior Sergeant Ronald Sinclair APM
Station Commander, Box Hill Police Station

Senior Constable Brendan Gogarty
Whitehorse Crime Prevention Officer, Box Hill Police Station

Katy Evans
President, Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse

To discuss the relationship between Vic Police and Neighbourhood Watch

To discuss current crime prevention initiatives at a local community level along with a local perspective on safety and security issues

In support of Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse

Friday 25th August, 2023

RSVP via www.eventbrite.com.au/e/672841756807

RSVP by Friday 18th August. Bookings are essential.

For more information contact info@whitehorsebusinessgroup.com.au

Ticket: \$46 Members \$46 Rotarians \$54 Non-members

Venue: Canterbury International
326-330 Canterbury Rd, Forest Hill VIC 3131

Time: 7:30am - 9:30am Includes: Hot Breakfast

Supporting Rotary Club Nunawading & Whitehorse Neighbourhood Watch

Proudly sponsored by:

EastsiderNews Guidelines for writing articles

The guidelines for writing for *Eastsider News* are:

- Length and quality: ranging from 400-700 words, occasionally longer, but always well written, and concise. Letters to the Editors may be shortened if they are longer than 250 words.
- Relevance: local public interest, but sometimes with a broader context
- Style: personal, but varied – story, humour, technical, creative, cartoons, etc
- Evidence-based: transparency about whether it is factual or opinion
- Language: can be expressive, but respectful and non-defamatory, with a focus on information, ideas, or issues,
- Text to be submitted as an unformatted Word document by email
- Photos and graphics: to be submitted as stand-alone jpegs by email to eastsidernews1@gmail.com. To get adequate resolution, we ask that your image has a resolution of 300dpi and is at least 250kb and preferably larger at around 400Kb or more.
- Author's information: name and suburb for publication, an email address for follow-up but not publication. An author's headshot and short bio is optional
- The Editors will usually accept material as written, but may make minor changes to improve clarity, readability, or focus.

The types of articles are expected to include:

- General interest: local environment, planning and development, social issues, health, etc
- Local activity centres and organisations: community centres, schools, churches, social groups, sports clubs, business, service clubs, universities, etc
- Socio-demographic groups: eg ethnic, age, ability, household types, etc
- Council business: Boroondara and Whitehorse ward reports, consultations, etc
- Personalities: interviews with interesting 'ordinary' people, and related events
- Culture, hobbies: art, music, recipes, eating out – and more.

We publish a new edition online every two months. We will also add to and update content on our website, and plan to do a limited print edition for community distribution when funds become available. Go to our website at www.eastsidernews.org.au to check out the current and past editions.