



Nature Positive Laws and Climate Change

Helen Thompson ACF Community Chisholm

Existing fossil fuel projects are sufficient to meet projected energy needs in a global transition to net zero. University College London and Institute for Sustainable Development (Science May 2024)

ON 28 May, the Albanese government's new environment minister, Murray Watt, approved Woodside's North West shelf gas extension until 2070, subject to certain environmental conditions. Woodside was given ten days to respond.

It is unlikely that the project will be rejected. It is certain, however, that over the next 45 years the project will produce millions of tonnes of emissions world-wide and Woodside will do little to lessen the massive negative environmental consequences. The project could destroy Scott Reef and a large collection of ancient rock art petroglyphs; and smother planet earth in 80 million tonnes of greenhouse gas every year*, out to 2070.

How can this happen given Australia has an Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act?

The EPBC Act 1999 purports to 'protect our unique plants, animals, habitats and places'. Following his review in 2019, Professor Graeme Samuel described the Act as an 'abysmal failure'.

He said: 'The EPBC Act is ineffective. It does not enable the Commonwealth to effectively protect environmental matters that are important for the nation. It is not fit to address current or future environmental challenges'. In 2020 Samuel presented his report and made 38 recommendations to radically reform the laws. Nothing happened.

The 2022 'climate election' came with a promise from Labor to introduce an independent environment protection agency EPA. Labor set about fixing the EPBC Act in three stages as newly named Nature Positive laws. Stage one, the Nature Repair Act, included an expanded 'water trigger' and was passed in December 2023.

* Estimate by West Australia EPA

Stage two Nature Positive law reforms, including establishing a federal EPA, came before the Senate in late 2024 but was withdrawn by Albanese at the last moment although written agreement had been reached with the Greens and David Pocock in the Senate. This was a bitter blow to the conservation and environment movement.

More disappointment followed earlier this year when Albanese pushed through legislation to amend the EPBC Act to severely limit the Environment Minister's power to reconsider a decision in the light of new evidence. Tasmania's salmon farming industry was at the heart of this legislation. There is substantial evidence that salmon fish farming in Macquarie harbour is threatening the survival of the Maugean skate but the fishing will go ahead now.

The headlines keep coming: 'Once in a lifetime flooding emergency rocks Queensland'; and last week 'Record floods on north NSW coast'; 'Whole farms washed away'; '800 homes uninhabitable with tally to rise'. A day later: 'Swiss alpine village wiped out by collapsing glacier'; 'Wildfires burning across central Canada'. And now Victoria is expecting a seemingly 'endless fire season to start this winter'.

Climate change is real; and fossil fuels are the problem. Australia is well on the way to transitioning to renewables but we need strong environment protection laws recognising the polluting effects of new projects.

Also, there are hard decisions to be made about energy provision Australia-wide and we must listen to serious scientific and engineering advice. We are killing ourselves and the world by approving new gas projects such as Woodside's NW extension.





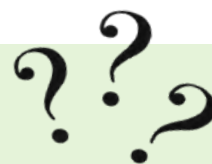
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Quizling Questions



Answers on page 38

1. What two Greek letters can be scrambled to spell two new Greek letters?
2. The last name of this notorious gangster is an item of clothing plus a single unit. Just as his nickname is an item of clothing plus a single unit (in a casino). Who's the felon in question?

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*.

To read more of his work, go to davidastle.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 at www.wurundjeri.com.au

Kew High School Triumphs at Sustainability Awards

Sustainability Victoria

KEW High School has triumphed at the 2025 ResourceSmart Schools Awards winning the Student Action Team of the Year (Secondary), and Teacher of the Year (Secondary) categories at an awards ceremony in Melbourne on 5 June 2025.

There were 31 schools vying for the awards in Victoria's largest celebration for primary and secondary school students, teachers, and school volunteers taking sustainability action.



Kew Eco Crew team members and Elise Dunstan.

Kew Eco Crew

The school's Kew Eco Crew, comprised of students in Years 9 to 12 has demonstrated outstanding leadership with the group implementing an organic waste system using worm towers, and recycling drink containers through the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic), driving school-wide participation through posters, speeches, and social media.

Matt Genever, Sustainability Victoria's CEO, congratulated Kew High School on its success. 'Kew High School has embodied the theme of the ResourceSmart Schools Awards, 'Working Together', demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering collective partnerships to build the future we need.'

Teacher of the year

Teacher of the Year winner, Elise Dunstan, has led the way in environmental education, integrating sustainability into school operations and curriculum. She prepares students for careers in sustainability through events like the Kew High School Sustainability Summit, with an attendance of over 200 students and featuring various industry and community organisations.

Other examples of Elise's work include working with international students and students with additional needs, driving CDS Vic collections, and encouraging worm farming, recycling and waste management.

The judges praised Elise's work, 'The way Elise is developing future sustainability leaders and using collective partnerships to build the future we need is to be commended. The Kew Eco Crew too, has demonstrated outstanding environmental leadership by hosting the Sustainability Summit and is an inspiration for other schools.'

ResourceSmart Schools Program

ResourceSmart Schools is a free Victorian Government program delivering sustainability education to help schools minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and act on climate change. This year, Sustainability Victoria is marking 16 years of the Awards with the theme, 'Working Together'.

Since 2008, the program has reached over 1,600 Victorian schools. Together they have planted more than 5.1 million trees, saved over \$63 million through energy, waste and water savings, diverted 170,000 cubic metres of waste from landfill and avoided over 110,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

This year's winners were announced at a prestigious awards ceremony held at the MCG hosted by TV personality Costa Georgiadis. The 2025 ResourceSmart Schools Awards would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors, CDS Vic, Bank First and the Department of Education.



Coffee ground body scrub making with EC using grounds from Westbrock Foodstore.

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Planning Mechanisms for Affordable Housing

a missed opportunity to correct market failure

Julie Mulhauser

THE essential importance of housing as the foundation for a good life was highlighted in a recent statement by the Chief Executive of the Victorian Council of Social Services, Juanita Pope. She said, ‘Strong, sustained investment in growing public housing and community housing should be the number one infrastructure priority for this state. It’s the key to solving our housing crisis and other big societal challenges’.

Victoria has the lowest share of public and community (social) housing in Australia. As a result of decades of underinvestment by governments, Victoria has just 3.1% share of households compared to a national average of 4.5%.

There are currently around 54,000 households on the waiting list for public and community housing. In 2023-24, the average wait for priority housing (households fleeing domestic violence, at risk of homelessness or homeless) was 20 months.

A recent report by SGS Planning & Economics found that the Victorian government needs to build 7,990 new public and community homes every year the next 10 years just to catch up with the rest of the nation. The Big Housing Build, commenced in 2020, will eventually provide only 12,000 public and community homes.

Infrastructure Victoria has recommended that Victorian governments build new public and community homes. They emphasise that the most cost-effective way to build these new public and community homes is to use existing government-owned land.

These points were taken up by several submitters to the Legislative Assembly Select Committee Inquiry into Planning Provisions Amendments in May 2025. Andrew Butt from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute saw the approach taken to activity centres and precincts as a ‘missed opportunity to address housing affordability in Victoria’.

Michael Fotheringham of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute said, ‘I think it is worth noting that housing affordability is not going to be fixed by one

measure or even one set of measures.... We need to be doing a whole lot of things, and inclusionary zoning could easily be in that mix.’

The Planning Institute of Australia, Victoria Division (PIA) submission stated ‘...of key concern to PIA is the absence in the reforms of any mandated requirement for the provision of Social and Affordable homes – meaning that development facilitated by these amendments is likely to remain out of reach for those who need it most’.

In its report, the Legislative Assembly Select Committee noted that, ‘Little convincing evidence was advanced to the Inquiry that the State Government’s announced planning changes will guarantee additional housing, and no substantive evidence was advanced that the Government’s plan would with certainty provide additional affordable housing’.

Recent planning scheme amendments assume that increasing supply will reduce house prices to rent or purchase. The Select Committee received considerable evidence that there was no confidence that the amendments would increase supply - let alone supply of homes affordable to very low- and low-income households.

The Select Committee report contains a number of recommendations that could contribute to solving Victoria’s housing crisis. The majority report recommended the publication of modelling of the impact of planning scheme amendments to demonstrate how they will impact on housing supply and affordability.

The Greens minority report recommended the implementation of mandatory inclusionary zoning provisions with appropriate settings to deliver a substantial increase in affordable and public housing for developments affected by planning scheme amendments. It also recommended the establishment of a public builder to facilitate the delivery of more public and affordable housing.

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Cybercrime

and what you can do to protect yourself

Boroondara Neighbourhood Watch

BOROONDARA, as a Local Government Area (LGA), ranks as one of the most vulnerable LGAs in the country to cybercrime. Cybercrime is an insidious and pervasive threat, accounting for losses in 2024 in the order of \$9.5 trillion USD worldwide and \$2 billion AUD in Australia.

Boroondara Cybercrime Forum

On Monday 31 March 2025, Boroondara Neighbourhood Watch (BNHW) held its first cybercrime forum. People participated both in person or online.

The expert panel of speakers included Detective Acting Senior Sergeant John Cheyne from the Victoria Police Cyber Crime Unit; Detective Sergeant Leeanne Trusler from the Boroondara Criminal Investigation Unit; and Kathy Sundstrom and Shona Henderson of IDCARE. IDCARE is a not-for-profit charity that was formed to address a critical support gap for individuals confronting identity and cyber security concerns.

Speakers stressed the importance of staying informed about cyber security. Key messages included some disturbing facts about both the targets and perpetrators of cybercrime. In 2024, people aged 35 to 44 reported the most scams to IDCARE. Off-shore syndicates conduct 80% of cybercrimes, exploiting data from social media, scam sites, and emails. Scammers are after your ID documents and credentials to access services and apply for loans.

What can you do to protect yourself

Speakers at the forum recommended a range of steps people can take to protect themselves against cybercrime including the following.:

- Use IDCARE's resources available on their website and subscribe to the IDCARE Newsletter for continuous updates and insights.
- Follow the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Easy Steps Guide. And check if your information has been jeopardised through Have I Been Pwned.
- Be wary of phishing scams that use your data to deceive you. Stay vigilant and report any suspicious emails to Scamwatch. This agency is run by the National Anti-Scam Centre to collect reports about scams to help warn others and to take action to stop scams.
- If you suspect your identity information has been misused, it's wise to periodically check your credit

Act swiftly in case of cybercrime

Contact your banking immediately if you suspect cybercrime. Report any incidents to IDCARE and local police. Protect yourself by staying informed and taking proactive measures to secure your digital presence. Your vigilance is your best defence against cyber threats.

For information on BNHW, go to their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/boroondaranhw/>

Links:

Website <https://www.idcare.org/>

IDCARE Newsletter: https://www.idcare.org/get_help_newsletter-sign-up-form

Easy Steps Guide: <https://www.cyber.gov.au/protect-yourself/easy-steps-secure-yourself-online>

Have I Been Pwned: <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

Scamwatch: <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam>



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What makes a city pleasant to live in?

Lessons for city planners from travel

Robbert Veerman

I'M sitting in my hotel room on the 5th floor in Istanbul scanning the city skyline and there are street trees taller than the buildings. There is no sense that the buildings are jarring in style with their neighbours.

In the outer suburbs closer to the airport there are clusters of eight to a dozen six-storey apartment blocks with green space between and a surrounding ring of green. The one-hour shuttle ride from the airport to our city hotel encountered only one set of traffic lights.

In Amsterdam, a city with just on one million people, the trams and trains are quality-built and people-friendly, with multi-lingual information displays and verbal announcements in several languages.

Billboards in Amsterdam are everywhere, just like at home, but the tone of the advertisements seems much

less aggressive. Rather than monster utes devouring the bush, the message is much less about keeping up with the Joneses, getting rich quick or asserting masculinity. The message often reflects a more sympathetic approach to social questions such as immigration or family violence, and advocacy for personal responsibility.

Much the same can be said of Paris, except that its extraordinary rail system deserves special mention.

While such aspects as discussed here can be unobtrusive at first glance, it is probable they reflect the history and cultural values inherent in that city. These cities pay attention to meeting the needs of humans and are committed to social equity and inclusiveness. This in turn encourages a stronger sense of community and security that enhances the liveability of these cities.

Will This Election Deliver for the Climate?

That's Up to Us

Christina Ding

DURING the recent federal election, one thing remained constant: the Australian spirit—the belief in fairness, opportunity, and a better future. As Prime Minister Anthony Albanese declared, the “Australian populace has chosen Australian principles.” But part of that identity is quietly slipping away.

“Our land abounds in nature’s gifts, of beauty rich and rare.” Nature is not only part of our anthem but part of who we are as Australians. Yet those “gifts” are now burning, bleaching, and breaking under the pressure of climate change.

Climate change was a key issue for voters. The result: a clear Labor majority. But will that majority lead to meaningful progress?

There’s potential. The Albanese government now has the numbers to pass legislation with little resistance in the lower house, and the Greens continue to hold key Senate seats. Labor has promised to make Australia net zero by 2050, to support renewable energy, and to be involved in climate adaptation strategies.

Yet their overall approach is cautious—an extension of past policies rather than a bold shift. Crucially, there’s still no clear plan to phase out fossil fuels. The decision of the new government to approve Woodside’s North West Shelf gas extension is deeply disappointing.

The damage is already here. Flying my drone over local parks, I’ve seen it first-hand: patches of dying wattles struggling with rising drought conditions and below-



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Will This Election Deliver for the Climate?

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average rainfall. Elsewhere in Victoria, snow gums are dying from beetle infestations, warming temperatures and repeated bushfires. Just months ago, fires destroyed more than 93,000 hectares of habitat in Western Victoria. These ecosystems are not just scenic—they're essential. They regulate our climate, purify air and water, and support food chains that ultimately support us. For indigenous peoples, they are a part of their history, identity and spiritual connection. And for all of us, time in nature improves mental health and wellbeing.

And yet, the government continues to damage our environment. They shelved major reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, leaving Australia's main environmental law outdated and ineffective. They continue to invest over \$14.5 billion annually in fossil fuel subsidies—more than five times what is spent on renewables. Instead of pivoting to technologies and reforms that could power Australia's future, we're stuck in the past.

It's easy to feel powerless. But change doesn't start from the top. It builds from the ground up.

In my own life, I've started where I can. I volunteer at a local café that donates its profits to environmental advocacy. I started a YouTube channel where I display the natural beauty of our world through drone videos. I

published a letter in the *Herald Sun*, prompting readers to take urgent climate action. These things might sound small, but they matter.

Just ask yourself, what can I do to make a difference? You can start by contacting your local MP or senators to call for bolder climate policies. Community action matters too—raising awareness on social media, writing to your local paper, or joining climate advocacy groups.

We can also act in our daily lives. Whether it's choosing public transport over cars, switching your household to renewable energy, or just having thoughtful conversations with family and friends, these actions send a signal. They show that Australians are ready to change and are expecting their leaders to follow.

What matters the most is our voices. They don't just stop at the ballot box. They continue in what we say, what we do, and what we expect of our leaders. If we want a future rich in the natural beauty we sing about, then it's up to us to fight for it.

Christina Ding is a Year 10 student at MLC who is passionate about biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental advocacy. In her spare time, she captures Australian landscapes by drone and volunteers with local conservation groups.



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Swinburne University's Model United Nations Club

John Mosig

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with a charming and enthusiastic young man who leads a project that could put Swinburne University on the global map. Mashood Ashan is the President of the University's Model United Nations Club (SwinMUN). As the name implies, the students perfect their skills as a mock UN Assembly to deal with a seemingly endless chain of real-life global issues.

Modelled on a similar movement going back to the ill-fated League of Nations, the Model United Nations program was revived by Harvard University when the United Nations was formed after WW II.

As a recognised Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) associated with the UN's Department of Global Communications, the program's mission is to develop global citizens by exposing them, through hands-on simulation, to the UN assembly procedures. Representing the cultural, environmental and economic interests of their respective countries, participating MUNs vie for international recognition in dealing with the issues confronting the global harmony. And they've certainly got plenty with which to work.

Participants who sign up will receive training and be appointed as delegates to the various departments making up the UN operational structure. The SwinMUN team will be decided upon as part of the tutoring process.

While participation doesn't carry course points, it has become a prestigious addition to a CV, especially if your selected department advances, through excellence at conferences, to national and international level.


Mashood said, 'Our ultimate aim is to send delegates abroad where they measure themselves against successful teams from around the globe. We help participants develop valuable life skills in a wide range of areas. These include public speaking, research, negotiation and critical thinking while at the same time tackling pressing global challenges such as climate change, human rights and geopolitical instability.

'It's also a marvellous opportunity to develop skills through guest speakers. The club cultivates opportunities for networking with professionals in leadership and diplomacy. We're always open

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Swinburne University's Model United Nations Club

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to speakers from all walks of life to help build relationships with a broad section of the community'.

A lot depends on the amount of funding the club receives. They're mainly funded by the Swinburne Student Association but are always looking for sponsors who would help them expand their activities, especially when representing the University away from Melbourne.

SwinMUN is an inclusive and supportive community, open to everyone, from beginners to experienced MUN participants. Mashood said, 'Whether you aim to enhance your debating skills, expand your global perspective, or build a career in international affairs, Swinburne MUN Club offers an exciting platform to learn, grow, and make an impact'.

The MUN movement has a wide following. Monash has one (MUNash), and a quick internet search revealed MUN clubs right throughout Australian tertiary and

secondary campuses. If Mashood and his generation are any indication of the future Australia, the country is in good hands.

The Swinburne Conference is open to all comers and will be held at its Hawthorn Campus on 10 and 11 October. The winning delegates of the SwinMUN will be invited to be a part of a team coached to earn selection to test themselves in New York and other international MUNs.

The club is seeking interest from senior high school students, Swinburne under grads and individuals in the area keen to further their personal skills and develop valuable life-experience in an increasingly challenging world.

The Swinburne club meets fortnightly at the university and can be contacted via their email at swinburnemun@outlook.com and their Instagram account [@swinmun](https://www.instagram.com/swinmun)

Auburn High School Senior Centre commendation in 2025 Dulux Colour Awards

THE Dulux Colour Awards are one of the longest-running architectural and design awards programs in Australasia. The Awards give recognition to the most inspired and transformative examples of colour use in the built environment, and are synonymous with excellence and innovation. This year's winners, chosen from projects across Australia and New Zealand, were announced at the National Gallery of Victoria on 28 May.

The Auburn High School Senior Centre earned a Commendation in the Commercial Interior Public and Hospitality Section of the awards. The Centre was designed by WOWOWA Architecture who also specified the colours used.

In awarding this commendation, the panel of judges commented that high schools were once bland, predictably grey buildings with dull interiors and very little to distinguish one from another. In their opinion, the Senior Centre showed that those days are in the past.

Drawing inspiration from its natural setting, the design centres around the use of vibrant colour from the warmer part of the spectrum. Rather than single colours assigned to specific spaces, the palette is integrated across classrooms, labs, communal areas and transition spaces. Unpainted elements have been colour-matched to the paint finishes, enabling the interior to blend with the exterior. The result is ambient and uplifting – the antithesis of the typical high school of years gone by.



Photographer: Martina Gemmola



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Blackburn Station Activity Centre Update

Paul Hamer, MP for Box Hill



BLACKBURN Station has been identified as one of 60 activity centres across Melbourne to be included in the Government's Activity Centre Program. The program aims to provide for much-needed new homes close to public transport, jobs and services.

While the provision of additional housing in appropriate locations is important, any planning changes must recognise the unique environmental values that attract residents to a suburb in the first place.

This is a point I have raised with the Minister directly. Blackburn is a very special place with qualities found nowhere else in Melbourne. The residential area south of the station has the largest tree coverage of any suburb within 20 kilometres of the CBD and a large number of streets registered on the National Trust.

Therefore, it is important that we have a sensible discussion about how we preserve the important environmental qualities of Blackburn, while accommodating new housing that is well connected with our public transport system. This will not be achieved by shallow Liberal scare campaigns that spread false

and misleading information and seek to divide our community by frightening local businesses and homeowners into thinking they will be forcibly acquired.

The Government has committed to working with the Blackburn community and Whitehorse Council to further understand residents' priorities in the development of the Activity Centre plan. This will build on the work that has previously been undertaken by State Government and Whitehorse Council.

Formal consultation on the plan for Blackburn will get underway later this year, and will involve two phases of public consultation, as well as the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG), which will deliberate on community feedback and provide input on the activity centre plans. The State Government will also be working with Whitehorse Council on the development of the plans.

In the meantime, I encourage you to have your say and share any thoughts, ideas or concerns you may have. Simply scan the marked QR code above to access my local survey and have your say.

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Paul Hamer MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BOX HILL

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Building Australia's future together

Raff Ciccone

THE federal election result on May 3 was a remarkable night for Labor true believers, with Australians voting overwhelmingly for a second term Albanese Government.

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the election outcome was the formation of a clear majority government, which will provide stability in times of global uncertainty. We're grateful to the Australian people for giving us the opportunity to serve them for another three years.

The Government is straight back to work and focused on helping families manage cost-of-living pressures. Tax cuts, energy bill relief, Medicare, education, housing, and skills and training are among the Government's priorities.

In just three years, Federal Labor has halved inflation, wages are growing and interest rates are starting to come down.

We'll now build on these foundations by providing lasting cost-of-living relief; strengthening Medicare by opening more Urgent Care Clinics and making more GP visits bulk billed; investing in education; continuing the largest housing build in Australian history; and making free TAFE permanent.

Under Labor, every taxpayer received a tax cut last year – and every Australian will get a further tax cut in 2026 and in 2027. This will mean an average tax cut of \$2,500.

Backing workers is consistent with the core Labor value of a fair go – and Federal Labor has a proven record of being on the side of workers. That's why last month,

the Albanese Government lodged its submission with the Fair Work Commission, recommending a real wage increase for Australia's workers.

While the previous Liberal and National government deliberately kept wages growth flat, only Labor has supported wage rises in the three previous Annual Wage Reviews. That's something I'm proud of.

We're now advocating for a fourth consecutive pay rise for the almost three million low-paid workers in Australia who are dependent on award wages such as those in retail, hospitality and the care economy. We'll also legislate to protect penalty rates into the future, ensuring the wages of workers on minimum and award wages don't go backwards.

Meanwhile, when the 48th Parliament opens, the first piece of legislation the Government will introduce will be to cut student debt by 20 per cent. This will wipe \$5,500 off the average university HECS debt, delivering cost-of-living support for all three million Australians with a student debt.

On a more personal note, I'm honoured to have been re-elected to represent the Victorian community in the Australian Senate.

I look forward to continuing to serve our great nation, standing up for workers and families. With the foundations set in the first term, it's time to harness the opportunities ahead of us to keep building Australia's future together.

Senator Raff Ciccone is a Federal Labor Senator for Victoria

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Letters to the Editor

The Editors of Eastsider News welcome letters from our readers and supporters. We want to provide you with a platform where you can express your concerns and share your insights on the things that matter in our communities. All we ask is that you keep them polite, well written, short at no more than 250 words and factually based.

Please note, while we welcome a spread of topics, views and opinions, the specific responses expressed by individual writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, Independent Community News Group Incorporated, or any other organisation.

Dear Editor

Climate change – a truly serious problem

BRUCE Harvey (Letters, 3/4) rightly encourages local actions to improve suburban liveability, but his view that climate change is not a serious problem contradicts scientific consensus.

In its report *The Risks to Australia of a 3°C Warmer World*, the Australian Academy of Science warns that, ‘This combination of rate and magnitude of human pressure on the Earth System and potential catastrophic outcomes represents a serious risk for humanity,’ countering Mr Harvey’s claim that current warming and CO2 levels are beneficial.

Like many unconcerned about climate change, Mr Harvey argues that Australia’s small contribution to global CO2 emissions means we need not decarbonise. This is like saying, ‘My income tax is tiny, so I shouldn’t have to pay it.’ Of the 200 plus countries in the European Union’s Emissions Database (EDGAR) 2023, all but six (China, the US, India, Russia, Brazil, and Indonesia) emit less than 2 per cent of the global total. Yet together they account for 41 per cent—more than China.

The Paris Agreement exists so all nations contribute fairly to limiting warming below 2°C. But few are on track. Only five (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, EU, UK) are rated as making ‘acceptable’ progress by Climate Action Tracker 2023. Sadly, Australia is still rated as making ‘poor’ progress towards net zero.

In conclusion, while Mr Harvey may feel safe, millions do not—including the many Australians impacted by climate-fuelled extreme weather events. We owe it to future generations to act now. Delaying will only bring greater costs, financial and otherwise.

Ray Peck, Hawthorn

Ray is a former educator and senior research fellow. He has lived in Hawthorn for 23 years and was a committee member of Lighter Footprints from 2019-2024. He has six grandchildren and takes an active interest in climate change because he believes it is the greatest threat they face.

References:

[Australian Academy of Science report](#)

[EDGAR](#)

[Climate Action Tracker](#)

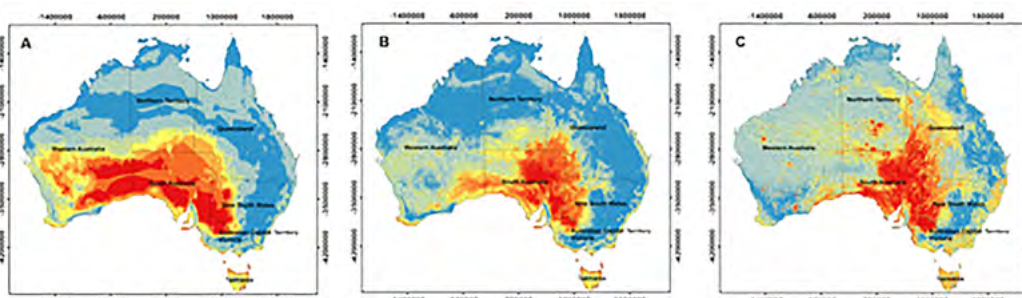
Links:

[Australian Academy of Science report](#)

<https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2021/risks-australia-three-deg-warmer-world-report.pdf>

[EDGAR https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2024](https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2024)

[Climate Action Tracker https://climateactiontracker.org/global/cat-net-zero-target-evaluations/](https://climateactiontracker.org/global/cat-net-zero-target-evaluations/)



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Dear Editor

The disrupting impact of climate change

THERE'S a lot been written about climate change, its impact and its causes. We can certainly make a difference at a local level by acting in unison on water management, increasing tree cover, sustainable housing and retaining open space, particularly on domestic building blocks. There's no doubting the influence of dynamic climatic phases have played in the story of humanity. It's even arguable that one major change, the end of the last ice age, drove us from the Garden of Eden and floated Noah's ark.

The current hostile climate phase, whatever cause you choose to place on it, is disrupting our manufacturing and food production chains; a disruption that's driving up costs and adding to the anxiety of living in the modern world.

Although not a scientist, my entire working life as a grain merchant, farmer and an aquaculturist, has been dependent on the weather. I've seen changes, particularly in relation to the intense and frequency of weather events, that make me relieved I'm not trying to make my living in those fields today. True, the assessment is subjective and the evidence anecdotal, which had me reading some of the recent data coming from the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) to learn their latest conclusions drawn from scientific data collected worldwide.

The 2023 IPCC Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers concluded: 'Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health (very high confidence). There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all (very high confidence)'.

While the statement is hardly comforting, I've no reason to doubt the veracity of their findings.

John Mosig

Dear Editor

Clear evidence of the causes and dangers of climate change

YOUR correspondent, Bruce Harvey (*Eastsider News*, April 2025), who claims to be a scientist, is clearly unfamiliar with the work of, and reports issued by, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). His claim that he can find no evidence from this body '...that the recent mild warming...is other than beneficial to humans' shows he has not read the reports.

The IPCC's 2023 Synthesis Report states inter alia, 'Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people (high confidence). Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected (high confidence). {2.1, Table 2.1, Figure 2.2, Figure 2.3} (Figure SPM.1)'

Mr Harvey also trots out the well-worn line that Australia's emissions are 'less than 1%' (they are in fact 1.1%), implying that they don't matter. What is not widely known is that Australia's export of fossil fuels accounts for additional emissions of twice our domestic emissions alone.

This means that Australia is responsible directly and indirectly, for over 3% of global emissions. Reducing global greenhouse gas emissions is a task in which every country must play its part. Around one third of global emissions are from countries whose individual emissions are 2% or less of the global total.

It behoves us all to be aware of the consequences of ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions and the heating of the climate that has already happened - 1.5 degrees C for Australia and 1.3 degrees globally. This warming of the climate and the consequential intensifying of the hydrologic cycle (evaporation, rainfall and convective circulation of the atmosphere) - is causing increases in severe weather, flooding and fires around the world. Recent examples include devastating fires around Los Angeles, and Cyclone Alfred which is almost unprecedented in its southward trajectory because of warming oceans. To downplay these dangers and the potential consequences is irresponsible.

Michael Hassett

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Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve

Gay Gallagher and Glenys Grant

YARRAN Dheran Nature Reserve is 7.4 hectare of indigenous bushland in the north eastern corner of the City of Whitehorse, only 20 km from the CBD.

It is situated on the southern bank of the Mullum Mullum Creek, a rarity among urban creeks, in that it remains almost totally at ground level. The reserve forms part of the environmentally significant Mullum Mullum Valley and is well known for its real Australian bush, including wattles, tall trees, diverse vegetation and as one of the last areas of dry sclerophyll forest in urban Melbourne.

The creek and valley together provide a significant wildlife corridor from Croydon to Templestowe. It has a reliable source of water, together with diversity of flora, providing habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife not usually found in an urban reserve.

Gay Gallagher is a passionate advocate for the reserve. 'Yarran Dheran is one of only three sites in Whitehorse where Superb Fairywrens are still found. Sometimes we see Swamp wallabies, Eastern Grey kangaroos, echidnas and both Tiger and Eastern Lowland Copperhead snakes. In the creek and wetlands the habitat encourages Short-finned eels, a healthy frog population and the elusive Rakali, or water-rat. A very recent sighting has been of a platypus, not seen here since the 1970s'

Gay is the Honorary Secretary of the Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee and has held that position since 2002. The Advisory Committee assists Whitehorse Council in providing a quality bushland environment and preserving its environmental, recreational, social, educational, aesthetic, spiritual and cultural values of benefit to the community.

She spoke of the committee's work in providing the Council with advice and practical assistance on the use, care, maintenance, forward planning and improvement of the reserve. Its Friends Group undertakes regular

working bees to care for the bushland and it encourages community participation and custodianship through activities such as National Tree Day.

'Our other significant role is to foster a knowledge of, and an appreciation for, the Australian bush. We conduct monthly bird surveys, quarterly frog surveys and facilitate an annual calendar of events which include presentations and guided walks focusing on the rich environmental values of Yarran Dheran, as well as supporting the more formal environmental education programs offered by the City of Whitehorse'

The valley and reserve have always been strongly supported by the local community. In 1970 the City of Nunawading accepted the advice of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society to develop it as a nature reserve, with the designated name of Yarran Dheran Reserve, thought to mean 'Wattle Gully'.

Plans for destruction of the valley for Eastlink in the 1990s provoked widespread community opposition, which recognised the high ecological and landscape value of the Mullum Mullum Valley and the need to preserve and protect it.

Community pressure resulted in the building of two underground tunnels under the Mullum Mullum Valley to enable vehicles to pass under the valley without affecting the sensitive landscape above.

Gay pointed to how the community, Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee, and respective City Councils have always worked together to protect the Mullum Mullum Valley. Current strategies include encouraging the return of Powerful Owls, removing carp from the creek, and improving creek-side vegetation, hoping to facilitate the return of the platypus and an increase of the population of rakali. There is work yet to be done – and we invite you all to visit and support this beautiful unspoilt environment so close to Melbourne.

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Ask A Vet with Dr Suze

Dr Susanna Gamage

Flea infestations - I treated my dog for fleas a couple of weeks ago so why am I still seeing fleas?

FLEA infestations are often thought of as a spring/summer problem and can sometimes result in relaxed flea preventative measures during the winter months. Unfortunately, flea infestations can potentially occur all-year-round, regardless of season.

Carpets, rugs and other soft furnishings, pets residing in the home, coupled with central heating provide these little critters the perfect winter breeding ground. Regular flea treatment, regardless of season, can help protect your pets during these cooler months and help prevent flea population surges during spring.

Flea infestations, depending on the severity, can take up to 8-12 weeks to clear. Treatment requires the regular, correct delivery of a registered flea product applied at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer.

The key to understanding why things don't always go to plan requires a basic understanding of the flea lifecycle.

The adult flea, an insect you can see with the naked eye, makes up only 5% of the total flea population. The remaining 95% of the population is made up of eggs, larvae and pupae which can be found (but not seen) in your pet's environment e.g. bedding, carpet and in the soil.

Adult fleas live breed and feed on your pet. A single female flea can produce up to 50 eggs a day and live for up to 100 days so populations can escalate quickly. It takes on average 21 days for an adult flea to develop from a flea egg. Fleas prefer warm, moist weather which is why they tend to be more noticeable in the warmer months. The juvenile life stages can remain dormant in an environment for at least six months, sometimes longer, hence why all year flea treatment is recommended.

If a regular preventative flea treatment has not been appropriately applied, the fleas you are seeing may well be the dormant juvenile environmental stages hatching out because of the warmer weather. Flea products work by targeting one or more stages of the flea lifecycle leading to the reduction and eventual elimination of the household flea population. Continued application

of your current flea product will in time eliminate the adult fleas and the environmental 95%.

It is vital to treat all the animals in the household ... including the cat! This removes any 'reservoir hosts'. Splitting doses is also not recommended as this can reduce the efficacy of your flea treatment.

Can humans get fleas from pets? No. They prefer the thinner skin of dogs and cats over people but they may bite around the ankles in the case of a heavy infestation.

Animal fact: Fleas can jump 20cm into the air, that's 150 times their own height!

Dr. Susanna Gamage BVSc MRCVS is the founding director of Dr. Suze – My Visiting Vet, a mobile veterinary business in the Eastern Suburbs. If you have a general pet question you would like answered by Dr. Suze to be featured in Eastsider News or to find out more about our services, please contact us via our website [here](#) or email eastsidernews1@gmail.com

Please note the information in this article is of a general nature and is not intended to be a substitute for professional healthcare advice. If you have specific concerns about your pet, you should always seek advice directly from your veterinary healthcare practitioner.



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Bentley the Brave

As told by Bentley to Glenys Grant

HAVE you ever thought 'what have I done to deserve this' when you have been attacked without provocation? I'm still wondering...

My name is Bentley, the Brave Boy. Twice before I helped Eastsider out by writing a column on what was happening in my life. Now that I'm a grown-up Brave Boy it's time for an update and to warn you to beware of Big Bullies.

Here is what happened to me...

Leader of the Pack, Boss-man and I share a morning walk. We both groom and dress for the occasion, with me brushed, gleaming and wearing my outfit of collar, harness and lead. We love our walks, which I prolong on purpose by sniffing every interesting spot along the way and talking to everyone who admires us.

About two months ago we were standing in our drive as the door closed behind us. Both of us were sniffing the bush smells from Blackburn Lake, ready for the delights ahead. A bird in the bird bath distracted me from looking at what was coming.

Next minute this Big Bully brown and black dog came tearing down our driveway, bowling me over and tearing bits out of my side. I don't like fighting, being a gentle boy, but didn't have a chance to defend myself at all or run away, being on the lead. Sadly, I didn't even get one bite in...

I was hurting so much, with seven bites and tears, and lots of blood. Two women were with Big Bully and they and Boss-man tried to grab him, finally pulling him away from biting me. Then they ran away, without helping.

Boss-man got the car and after much effort we managed to get in and go to the doggy hospital. Many days, kind hands and voices later, I was patched up and forced to wear a big plastic cone collar for weeks. It made me bump into things and meant I couldn't fix up the holes in my side or pull out the stitches. I did try.

After two weeks I worked out how to undo the flap of the cone by ramming it into a door very hard, but it was still tied onto my collar. Then it got caught on everything. Lady boss laughed and said I looked like the flying nun. And I quickly learnt how to hide pills and capsules in my mouth, and later spit them out on the carpet. I managed that three times, so they learnt their lesson and now only give me lumps of butter. Butter makes you better, I've heard.

But one good thing has come out of all this - I have fallen in love with my lady Doctor. She cuddles me, and ensures I have plenty of banana flavouring on my food. It's yum, makes me fuzzy and sleepy but takes the pain away.

After all these weeks of convalescing I'm managing to take Boss-man on short walks, so if you see me in the streets, please say hello. I love to talk with people. I'm



the handsome white Labrador with a blue bandana that says 'Brave Boy.

Postscript: The gentle Labrador Bentley was on a lead, about to be walked, when he was attacked in his driveway. The owners of the attacking dog left without helping or leaving any contact details. After many weeks and visits to his Vet (who he adores), he is now recovering well. The matter has been reported to authorities.

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Gilbert & Sullivan

THE MIKADO

An enduringly popular comic opera with memorable songs, endearing characters and some of the wittiest lyrical comedy in the English language.

Alexander Theatre
17,18,19 July 7:30pm
19,20 July 2pm
48 Exhibition Walk,
Clayton

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The Victorian Recorder Guild Soiree

Alec Fricke

THE Victorian Recorder Guild is a network of recorder enthusiasts including players, performers and teachers that encourages the playing and performance of recorder music across Victoria.

The Guild has a busy schedule of events over the remainder of this year, in different venues in our region. To give you a taste for what we do, let me tell you about a recent one in May

On Sunday 18 May, almost 100 people filled the St George's Anglican Church in Malvern for the Victorian Recorder Guild Soiree. Groups of all sizes showcased their work, from 3 soloists to larger groups of around 30 players, including the Melbourne Recorder Orchestra, Southerly Winds, and various smaller groups combining for pieces with many parts.

Music was played from prominent composers such as Bach, Eccles, Sören Sieg, and Handel with music periods ranging from Renaissance to modern.

Membership of the Victorian Recorder Guild offers the chance to connect with other recorder players and to participate in Guild events such as occasional workshops, blow-ins, soirées, concerts, and residential weekends of music-making. It also offers the opportunity to borrow music and a regular newsletter. To find out more about the Victorian Recorder Guild go [here](#).



Alec Fricke, 16 year old recorder player shown here playing a solo, accompanied by his recorder teacher Rachel Snedden

Film review:

A Complete Unknown rekindles memories of the young Bob Dylan

Mike Daly

WATCHING the recent Bob Dylan biopic *A Complete Unknown* (featuring Timothee Chalamet's convincing performance as the 19-year-old folk singer) rekindled vivid memories of musical life in early '60s London. The era spawned Britain's rock revolution, although I probably focused on jazz and folk rather than in nascent rock groups.

Foyles music store in Charing Cross Road sold cheap, second-hand LPs I could play on my portable Phillips Dansette (the one with a plastic removable lid and 45-sized turntable), while Ronnie Scott's Soho cellar club featured jazz regulars like Tubby Hayes, Stan Tracey and a host of visiting US stars.

At that time, BBC radio limited its contemporary musical repertoire to folk, jazz and rhythm and blues. This was led by the likes of John Mayall and Long John Baldry, whose groups included future stars like Elton John, Jimmy Page and Jeff Beck. We still thought of Chuck Berry and Buddy Holly as 'cool'. (Don McLean's song 'American Pie' memorialised the fateful 1959 plane crash that killed Holly.)

By the early '60s Elvis had lost his rocky edge. Remember awful movies like 'Blue Hawaii' and 'Follow That Dream'?

(Continued on next page)

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Film Review: A Complete Unknown

(Continued from page 17)

Then along came young folkie Bob Dylan, fresh from New York's Greenwich Village. His 1962 debut LP consisted mainly of folk covers, plus a heartfelt ode to his ailing hero, Woody Guthrie. But the follow-up, 'The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan' (with Bob arm-in-arm with girlfriend Suzi Rotolo on the front cover), was a revelation.

Songs like 'Blowin' in the Wind', 'A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall', 'Don't Think Twice, It's All Right', 'Masters of War' and 'Girl from the North Country' would redefine modern folk music.

And the follow-up, 'The Times They Are a-Changin'' packed an even greater punch, especially the title track with its rallying cry to our young, politically aware generation. Who could resist 'Come senators, congressmen/Please heed the call/Don't stand in the doorway/Don't block up the hall ... The battle outside ragin'/Will soon shake your windows/And rattle your walls/For the times they are a-changin'?

Dylan went on to scandalise 1965 Newport Folk Festival diehards by picking up an electric guitar and playing rock originals like 'Maggie's Farm' and 'Like a Rolling Stone' with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. The rest, as they say, is rock history.

Dylan recently turned 84 and along with notable achievements like a Nobel Prize, an enormous back-catalogue and endless touring, he has also been guilty of a more recent erratic recording and concert repertoire.



But he also deserves our lasting admiration for lyrics like 'How does it feel? /To be on your own/With no direction home/Like a complete unknown/Like a rolling stone'.

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IMAGINE a 50,000 word English-language novel that doesn't contain the letter E.

That's exactly what *Gadsby* is; although its author, Mr. Wright, must have been gutted when he first looked at the front cover and remembered his name as Ernest.

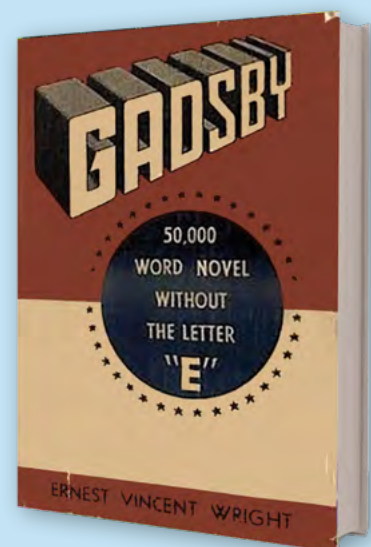
This is an example of a lipogram, which comes from the Greek meaning to leave out a letter. And it does just that. It's a text where a writer leaves out a letter or letters.

lipograms

It doesn't just have to be long-form, like a novel. It can be a poem or even just a sentence. And it's not just in English. There have been Spanish and French books released that were lipograms on "A".

But probably the most impressive example is from Sousi Yasutaka. In his novel *Lipstick on an After Image*, the number of usable syllables kept dropping off until the last chapter, in which there was only one syllable left.

If lipograms sound difficult to write, it's because they are. In Wright's first edition of *Gadsby*, he accidentally included four letter E's, three times "the", and one time "officers".



For those who are interested, more information about *Gadsby* may be found at <https://www.abebooks.com/books/gadsby-lipogram/>



A call for help from Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation

Virginia Burns

LIKE many community groups, Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation (WFFR) has survived because of committed members who have served over several decades. We have now reached the time when WFFR cannot continue without an injection of new people.

We ask you to consider becoming members of WFFR.

This would entail as a minimum commitment:

- payment of a subscription (\$20 or \$10 concession)
- preparedness to attend most meetings, currently monthly
- preparedness to assist on WFFR stalls

We want people who can contribute to the management of the group

This covers a wide range of tasks including organising meetings; management of our financial and treasury obligations; promotional activities; and any other project considered useful in creating a stronger, more creative relationship between First Nations people and non-Aboriginal Australians.

The WFFR has a proud history of carrying out projects within Whitehorse over the last 25 years.

Among the many highlights over this time are

- weekend Forum in 2003 called 'Whitehorse Deliberates on Indigenous Issues';
- a project in which Whitehorse students made pavers with Aboriginal motifs, under the guidance of Aboriginal artists, for the Nangnak garden;
- the Long Walk in Whitehorse;

- the production of the DVD 'Nobody's Child' highlighting the experiences of 5 stolen generation First Nations people, who had spent time in Government institutions in Whitehorse;
- a tennis exhibition with young Aboriginal players mentored by Eyvonne Goolagong-Cawley, who attended;
- many student days, cultural days, picnics at Blackburn Lake, film nights;
- the creation of the very unique 'Reconciliation Message Stick', an example of two cultures walking together; and
- a Forum at the Box Hill Town Hall in September 2024 discussing the premise, 'The world is in trouble and let's look at some ideas from Aboriginal culture to help put our heads in a better place for contemplating the future'.

And there were many smaller activities in between these, more major projects.

Find out more about WFFR

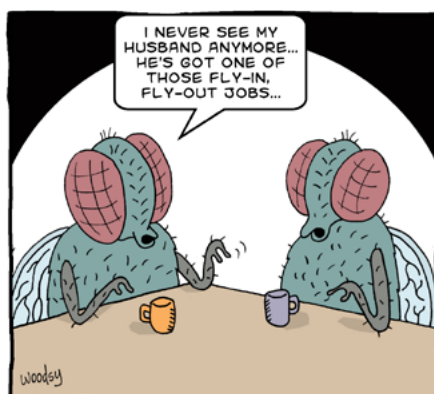
To help you decide, we invite you to join us at a normal meeting where we will provide you with a wider picture of reconciliation and to answer your questions.

Our monthly meetings are held at Blackburn Neighbourhood House, 109 Koonung Rd, Blackburn North. We look forward to seeing you there. To register your interest, please contact Howard Tankey by email: howardtankey@bigpond.com or phone 9898 2514.

Virginia Burns is Convenor of WFFR

woody

insert brain here



Box Hill/Mitcham VIEW Club

a friendly, welcoming group

Val Evans and Anne Edwards

BOX Hill/Mitcham VIEW Club meets for a delicious lunch; a happy time together, and to hear a variety of interesting guest speakers on the 4th Monday of each month at Bucatini's in Whitehorse Road, Mitcham.

VIEW Clubs of Australia are an organization closely connected with The Smith Family, helping disadvantaged students reach their potential.

This vibrant group of 20-30 women enjoy convivial times of friendship while raising valuable funds to support nine students' on-going education through the Smith Family. We welcome women of any age to come along and join us.

The guest speaker at our May meeting was John Barnao who regaled us with a wonderful history of how Italian migrants forged their niche in Australia's fruit shop

trade, and his knowledge of Box Hill general history, accompanied by a slide show of the 'old fashioned' fruit shops of our youth had us all walking beside him down memory lane.

At our next meeting, on the 23rd June, our speaker will be Kirsty Porter from the Umbrella Dementia Café and in July we will see slides and hear the entertaining and rollicking tales of Geoff Bransbury's amazing motorbike journeys around far-flung and rarely traversed areas of the world.

We meet at 11:30am for 12 noon lunch. Please come along and join us - it's wonderful to know that while you're having such a great time in good company, you are also supporting disadvantaged Australian children on their learning pathways to a better future.



Probus Club of Mitcham Nunawading

Update

Chris Summers

THE Probus Club of Mitcham Nunawading has continued to grow its membership at a steady rate which is very pleasing.

Our monthly activities are always very popular and well attended. These have included Monday Morning Coffee at Gourmet Girl, Laburnum; Sunday lunch at varying venues; outings by the photography group as far as Ballarat or closer to home including the Botanic Gardens, Box Hill for market views and high-rise buildings, or Frankston for street art; a Film day at the Balwyn Cinema followed by lunch; Talking Shares with their phantom portfolio; Yarra Valley winery; Gulf Station at Yarra Glen and more.

Monthly speakers are always extremely interesting. The May speaker was Elida Brereton speaking on her

treks to Nepal and Afghanistan. When at last minute a speaker cannot attend due to illness, some of our members step up and give a most interesting talk.

In April, member Glenn spoke of the famous and interesting people buried in the Box Hill Cemetery.

If you would like to consider joining this friendly group, please come along to a meeting which is held in the Willis Room, Whitehorse Council buildings, 379-399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 10am.

Alternatively, please phone either our President, Gerry Cross on 0418 130 499 or our Secretary Dale Perkins on 0427 967 855. You can also email us on mnprobus@outlook.com or write to us at P.O. Box 15, Nunawading, 3131. Our website is <https://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamnunawading/Welcome>

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determined to reduce youth deaths on the road

Glenys Grant and Anton Hockey

HOW many families lose a young loved one to road trauma? Or perhaps they survive but are disabled for life? Road trauma from crashes is the second largest cause of harm for those aged 16-25 in Australia, often with lifelong consequences.

In 2024, Australia's road toll reached 1300 deaths, making it the deadliest year since 2012 and the fourth straight year in which fatalities increased. Victoria accounted for 281 fatalities and Victorian Police acknowledge young people aged between 18 and 25 continue to be vastly over-represented in our road trauma statistics.

Young Victorians in their first year as a licensed driver are almost four times more likely than more experienced drivers to be involved in a fatal or serious injury accident. A major reason is that young people learn with an experienced driver beside them. After sometime driving under the close supervision required by learner plates, the thrill of driving without this restraining oversight can tempt the newly launched P-plate driver to take fool-hardy driving risks.

Contributing factors include lack of experience and road awareness, limited skills, making bad choices or poorly judging a situation on the road, underestimating risks, deliberately taking risks and alcohol and drug use. Regional and rural young people are exposed to more risk for many reasons including longer drives on roads with higher speed limits.

This became a very personal experience with the loss of three young friends, another permanently disabled and another disfigured for life due to driver distractions at night after celebrating a win at a country footy match. The grief lessens, but stays with the families for life.

The Ryda program is determined to assist in decreasing this toll.

For many students, driver training is basic and does not equip them to face the challenges they will encounter. Ryda fills that gap, utilising professional facilitators to give the most thorough road safety education these students will receive before joining others on the roads.

Ryda supports schools teaching the specialty subject of road safety. The program is created for seniors in high schools, supporting youth development in a number of areas including social resilience and anticipating and managing risk. It gives students a unique opportunity to set road safety goals and build strategies alongside the friends they will most likely be riding with, as drivers or passengers.

The program includes a one-day practical workshop, supported by online and classroom learning.

The workshop features six sessions of practical demonstrations, real-life narratives, videos, quizzes and interactive role plays. Students typically attend the workshop at a dedicated external venue.

Ryda's online teachers' portal provides classroom and homework activities to continue the learning throughout the school year. Students also have access to an online revision course through the Learning Management System.

Progress to date:

By the end of 2024/2025 in Victoria, 8500 students will have participated in Ryda. Schools in the Boroondara and Whitehorse LGAs that have attended Ryda this year include Carey Baptist Grammar School, Koonung Secondary College, Mullauna College, Scotch College & Vermont Secondary College. More are inquiring.

Ryda runs out of more than eight venues throughout Victoria and in schools as an incursion. Rotary is a community partner of the program, with clubs supporting schools and volunteering at workshops.

Anton Hockey, Victorian Ryda Program Coordinator says 'Regular and robust evaluation shows that Ryda is a highly impactful experience for students. There are substantial increases in understanding of road risk factors, such as speed, following distance, distractions, car safety features, hazard perception, and the role of personality and mind-state.

'Evaluation tools tell us that before participating at Ryda workshops, students grossly underestimate the impact of risk in key situations. Retained knowledge (measured three months post workshop), virtually doubles to 73%.'

For more information on Ryda, [click here](#) or contact 0412 625 847. For information from Victoria about keeping younger drivers safe, [click here](#).



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Addressing Classroom Hunger

Supporting Our Local Kids

Robyn Stokes, President Box Hill Central Rotary

IN today's cost of living crisis, many local children face the daily challenge of attending school hungry. Without access to adequate nutrition, students often struggle to concentrate, behave appropriately, and engage fully in their learning. Recognizing this urgent need, our Rotary Club has launched *Addressing Classroom Hunger*, a program dedicated to supporting the wellbeing and educational success of our young community members.

Started in April 2025, Addressing Classroom Hunger provides free cheese sandwiches to requesting schools each month. These sandwiches are stored in school freezers, allowing designated staff to distribute them at appropriate times during the school day. This simple yet vital initiative ensures that children have access to nutritious meals, helping to improve their focus, behaviour, and overall health.

Beyond addressing nutritional needs, this program relieves teachers and school staff of the burden of meal

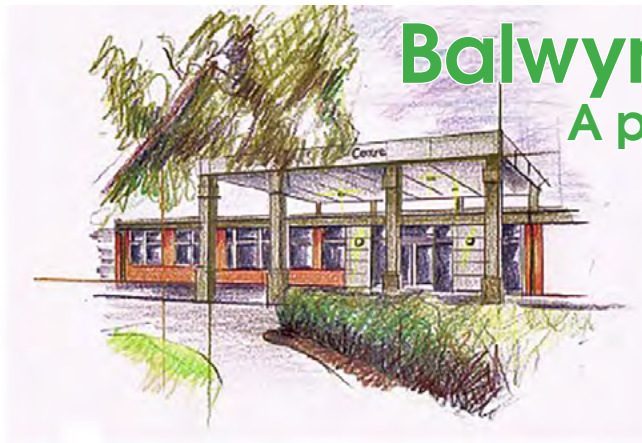


preparation, allowing them to focus more on their students' education. Our Rotary volunteers enjoy making these deliveries, experiencing the joy of service and connection with the schools and children they support.

We meet monthly at Forest Hill Chase (near Aldi) on Wednesdays from 10am to 11am. Our next scheduled meeting is set for June 18, 2025. We warmly welcome community-minded volunteers who wish to give a helping hand and make a positive impact in our neighbourhood.

Interested in volunteering? [Register here](#).

Together, we can combat hunger, foster brighter futures, and strengthen our community—one lunch at a time.



Balwyn Evergreen Centre

A peek at what's been happening

BALWYN Evergreen Centre is a community hub dedicated to keeping older individuals active, healthy and socially connected. Here we give you a quick update on some of the things happening there in recent times. To find out more, you can go to the Eastsider News webpage [here](#).

Balwyn Evergreen Centre's 2024 Consumer Survey revealed that 94 per cent of participants would recommend the centre to others. Exercise programs remain the biggest drawcard, with 74 per cent of participants listing them as their favourite activity, while social connection and health were flagged as the top two benefits of participation.

As part of its program to champion men's health, the Centre has a thriving men's exercise group designed to improve fitness, foster friendship and continued independence.

Founded 13 years ago, the group was created in response to male clients dropping out of mixed exercise classes after just a few weeks. Since then, the dedicated men-only program has grown from four to more than 25 regular attendees. The one-hour class is held every Thursday at 9:30am and welcomes newcomers of all fitness levels.

The Centre currently hosts a dedicated Falls and Balance Program, alongside individual physiotherapy consultations. This partnership with local provider Elevate Physiotherapy will give older people access to evidence-based support close to home. The weekly classes and personalised consultations are designed to improve strength, flexibility and stability, helping participants reduce their risk of falls and live more confidently.

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Balwyn Evergreen Centre

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A transformative renovation for the Centre including the all-new Evergreen Connections Café & Hub, is designed to create welcoming and modern spaces that bring people together. The upgrade of the premises at 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn is being coordinated and funded by the City of Boroondara. The Café & Hub will create a welcoming community drop-in space available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This is being done with the support of Bendigo Bank Balwyn Community Grant and Boroondara Annual Seniors Group Grant, Balwyn Evergreen.

For bookings and enquiries, contact Balwyn Evergreen Centre on (03) 9836 9681 or visit the Centre's website [here](#).

(Below): Balwyn Evergreen survey



Celebrating worthy Probus members

Ken Pakes

BLACKBURN South Combined Probus Club is proud that two of its members have been honoured with Order of Australia Medals. While their achievements have been in very different fields, they share a capacity for dedication, persistence and commitment to working within the community.

Sandra Knight

At our March AGM meeting we elected Sandra Knight OAM as our incoming President.

Sandra was awarded the OAM in 2024 in recognition of service to those who have low vision or are blind. She has been president, treasurer and secretary of Blind Citizens Australia (Melbourne Branch).

She has worked at Vision Australia and has worked with and volunteered with Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria. She has received numerous awards for participation in local and international Blind Sports and tenpin bowling. Sandra is also on various committees at The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and is a committee member of Guide Dogs Victoria.



Sandra with the other elected committee members with her guide dog.



Dot Browne

The club has another member who has been awarded the OAM. Her name is Dot Browne OAM, who was awarded her OAM in 1992.

Dot went to Camberwell High as a student in 1953 to 1957 where she was Form Captain at every level. She took part in athletics and was a champion while at CHS.

It was not until Dot turned 38 that she joined the Victorian Veterans Athletic

Club. She discovered that she was a good distance runner and took part in some 10km races. Her first marathon was in the Melbourne Marathon in 1979. Becoming an athletic coach in 1980 and represented Australia in the London Marathon in 1983. 8 of the records she set between 1980 and 1986 still stand. Dot was awarded the OAM for her contribution to Athletic Australia.

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Portraits with Passion: George Petrou

Sal Dugan

Recently released is *The Art of Humanity*. This comprises 40 stories by as many writers, each piece revealing insights into the lives of people who have devoted or continue to devote their energies to contribute to the welfare of others.

The short but detailed history of Joice Nankivell Loch is excellent. Reputed to be Australia's most decorated woman, Joice received 11 medals of honour from Greece, Poland, Serbia, Britain and Romania for her work with refugees through both World Wars and beyond. Her story should be incorporated into all Australian history syllabuses.

Also featured is Alice Anderson, who ran the first all-female service station in Australia, which opened in Kew in 1919. She worked tirelessly there for 10 years, before taking a holiday. Not long after her return she was shot and killed, aged only 29.

Constance Stone, Australia's first female doctor and John Springthorpe, a 19th century medico dedicated to improving public health are also found in these pages. Stone graduated in 1887, having had to travel overseas to be accepted as a medical student. Women students were not welcome at Australian universities in those days. Springthorpe, the first Australian graduate (albeit from a British university) to be admitted to the Royal College of Physicians, was an advocate for social reform, medical accessibility and workers' rights for all.

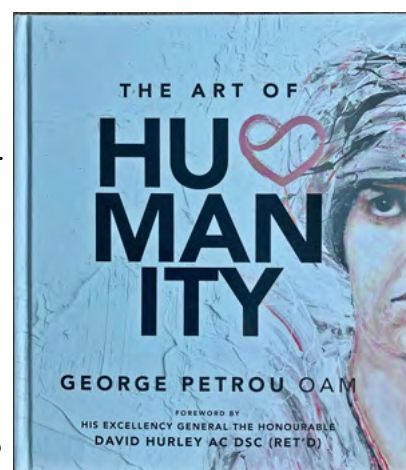
The latter three can be found among the 'underground community' at the Boroondara Memorial Cemetery.

In his fascination with Australians who devoted their lives

to the betterment of the wider community, Petrou has collated a wealth of information, illustrated liberally with photographs and his own exceptional portraiture.

Charities that have benefited from Petrou's work include TPI Victoria, of which he is patron, Turbans 4 Australia, Orange Sky, Street Side Medics, among others.

Books can be purchased direct from the author [here](https://www.georgepetrou.com) or by email at george@gpdesign.net.au



IMAGINE a man with a passion for history and humanity, an exceptional talent for observation and an ability to wield a paintbrush with care and flair, and you're likely to come up with an artist, more specifically a portraitist. And this is what we have in Mont Albert resident, George Petrou.

Born in Cyprus but educated in Melbourne, Petrou, a graphic artist, spent the majority of his life as a self-employed graphic designer, working predominantly for the corporate sector.

In 2010, a cancer diagnosis saw George wind back his professional work for a while. Needing an outlet to distract his mind from the possibility of not surviving, he turned to another passion, that of portrait painting. This was both a therapy and a way of putting on paper Australians he had long admired through his reading of their lives in biographies and histories. Men and women of great courage, who devoted their lives for the benefit of others. Some of whom we have all heard, but many of whom few of us have come across during the course of our own lives.

Petrou is a man of vision and seemingly endless energy, with a vast output of fabulous portraits that line the walls of his home and studio. How could he bring them to the public eye? Books came to mind.

The Covid-19 lockdown gave him time to produce his first major work, *The Art of Sacrifice*, a collection of 70 portraits accompanied by photographs and text. People from our ANZACS to heroes such as Nancy Wake and Charles Kingsford Smith. Many of their stories are told by descendants of those who feature. It is a lavish and very informative production, published not long after lockdown.



Bob Batrouney

a Balwyn Rotarian with 44 years of honourable service

Julie Mulhauser

Photo: Julie Mulhauser

AT the end of June 2025, Bob Batrouney will retire from Balwyn Rotary after 44 years of service. Bob, who joined Balwyn Rotary nine years after its inception in 1972, reflects that the club has ‘taught me so much’.

Fundamental to Rotary’s mission to ‘provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace’ is the concept of a project. For example, in 1976 Balwyn Rotary established the Camberwell Sunday Market. The Sunday Market has become a tourist attraction and has raised \$24 million to fund projects and grants.

Bob explains that the idea for every project originates with an individual, then is further developed with the support of their peers. He has been involved in two significant projects that mark important centenaries. Rotary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Scholarships (RATSITS) mark the centenary of Rotary International in 2005 and the Balwyn Centenary Grants to commemorate the centenary of Rotary in Australia in 2021.

Rotary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Scholarships (RATSITS)

The idea for the scholarships was put forward by Ken Davis, whose daughter was a doctor in Darwin. After consultation with representatives of the Victorian Indigenous community, the decision was made to establish scholarships of \$20,000 annually for Victorian Indigenous students to study at tertiary institutions for up to four years.

The Indigenous community advised that tertiary education was the key to increasing incomes of aboriginal Australians. Recipients were chosen by an independent advisory board as the ‘person(s) for whom winning the scholarship would make the greatest life changing experience’.

The Scholarship distributed \$1.4 million over 12 years of which \$400,000 came from Balwyn Rotary and \$1 million from the Victorian state government. Each

scholarship recipient was supported by two mentors, one being a Balwyn Rotary member and the other an Indigenous community member. Scholarships were awarded to 31 students, all of whom were first in their families to attend a tertiary institution.

Bob was one of four Balwyn Rotarians who were on the RATSITS board. The other Balwyn Rotarians on the board were Ken Davis, Hugh Trumble and Peter Blundell.

Other board members included many notable people from the tertiary and secondary education sector, industry, science, and the indigenous community. Patrons were the Honourable Sir William Deane and Professor Sir Gustav Nossal.

The Scholarships ended in 2017 when the state government’s focus shifted to early childhood and primary school years. Without state government support it was not possible to continue the funding model.

Balwyn Centenary Grants (BCG)

In 2020 Bob put forward the idea for Balwyn Rotary to distribute \$1million as grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 to other Australian Rotary clubs over five years. The project started in 2021, the centenary of Rotary in Australia.

To bring his idea to fruition, Bob chaired the committee that developed the processes and procedures for the grants and awards the grants biannually. To date, \$730,000 has been distributed. Examples of projects funded by the grants include the Ballarat Soup Bus initiated by the Ontrack Foundation and operating in South Ballarat, upgrading of water and sanitation at a school in Uganda by the Assisi Centre for Social Justice and Peace and a Wellness Retreat for Street Children in Manila by Bahay Tuluyan.

Fellow Balwyn Rotarian Kevin Walsh sums up the success of the Balwyn Centenary Grants program as a tribute to Bob Batrouney’s vision and commitment.

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Pam Welsford

an inspiring volunteer

Glenys Grant

NATIONAL Volunteers Week was celebrated at the end of May. All over the country volunteers were acknowledged for their efforts.

This year's theme 'Connecting Communities' highlighted how volunteers can meet different people and become part of a wider interest group, learn new skills, gain confidence and have fun all the while giving back to and strengthening their local community.

One environmental volunteer group that is expanding rapidly and strongly is the KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA). This is an organisation of over 20 Friends groups working in the Gardiners Creek catchment, to enrich and enhance its land and ecosystem while protecting its future.

The growth and success of the organisation is by virtue of their strong committee and its members. One of the stars in the KKA has always been the Secretary, Pam Welsford. She is the inaugural and current Secretary of the KooyongKoot Alliance and the Convenor of the Marketing and Communications and Fundraising Sub-Committees.

Pam has lived in the Gardiners Creek catchment for over 30 years. She has worked in education in secondary schools and as the education officer for Environment teachers across Victoria. She was a science teacher at Strathcona, including the Hawthorn campus on the Yarra River, where she initiated a revegetation program.

Pam is known to be inspirational and tireless in her volunteering efforts and has been recognised for them. One notable achievement is that for 20 years she has been President of Friends of South Surrey Park. The focus has been on revegetating the park, so that the area becomes a significant aspect of the Back Creek biodiversity corridor.

As KKA Secretary, she has, amongst many other things, worked to establish KooyongKoot Alliance as an important charity; create networking opportunities for Friends Groups within the catchment; and raise the importance of having a management plan for Gardiners



Creek. Gardiners Creek is the only tributary of the Yarra River without an overall management plan.

KKA has only been formally in existence since 2022, but in that short time, it has helped support the 20 or so Friends and Advisory committees in the catchment. It has also added substantially to the biodiversity of the catchment through numerous initiatives and helping to develop a strategic plan for the Gardiners Creek/KooyongKoot Catchment.

All of these achievements in such a short time are due to the hard work and dedication of volunteers like Pam. Now, Pam and her husband John are starting a new life on the Great Ocean Road which means that she will be leaving the KKA and her role.

Graham Ross, KooyongKoot Catchment Keeper says 'We will certainly miss Pam's lively presence and can-do attitude, but nevertheless wish her and John a happy new life by the ocean. It's a huge loss for us but we are happy she is following her dreams.'

To volunteer for KKA, email Graham Ross at KooyongKootAlliance@gmail.com

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From *The Reporter* 1 June, 1923.

VANDALISM BY BOYS.

Four small schoolboys entered the Methodist Church at Heidelberg and caused damage to the extent of between £40 and £50 (says the lo-

cal journal). Almost every window in the building was broken. Hymn books were found about the floor, some had pages torn out, and others were destroyed beyond repair. A fine upright grand piano, valued at over £100, was taken to pieces, notes, strings and other valuable

working parts being thrown on the floor about the instrument. It is stated that the boys responsible for the destruction (whose ages range from seven to nine) were members of the Sunday School, and their parents are well known and respected in the district.



A look back at the past: the death of a Mounted Constable in Camberwell in 1894

Reverend Jim Pilmer PSM OAM OStJ

THIS is the little-known story of Mounted Constable James Foley 3811.

Foley was born in County Limerick, Ireland, on 15 January 1864 and joined Victoria Police on 4 March 1887. After initial service at Russell Street, Melbourne he was stationed at Leongatha and eventually transferred to Caulfield East police station. He was a single man and an enthusiastic steeple chaser.

On Tuesday, 11 September 1894 Foley was on duty when he was required to ride to Camberwell as he had received information that some pigeons stolen in Caulfield were there. The horse on which he was mounted was described as a 'splendid jumper'. Foley was accompanied by a friend, Mr Charles Chambers, an estate agent from Malvern. Together they rode to Camberwell and, after Foley had completed his enquiries, he and Chambers set out to return to Caulfield. While doing so they rode up to a paddock on Camberwell Road.

The paddock was enclosed by a two-rail fence. Apparently taking time for some light relief Foley decided to jump his horse over the fence. He cleared it but in attempting to jump his horse back onto the road the horse baulked three times. On the fourth attempt it struck the top rail with its front leg, causing it to turn a complete somersault. After that it rolled on top of Foley who had been thrown from the saddle.

Chambers hurried to Foley who had time to say in a low tone 'Jack I am killed' before lapsing into unconsciousness and dying almost immediately.

Chambers hailed the driver of a passing spring cart, put Foley in the back and took him to a Dr Looslie's residence where life was pronounced extinct. The body was then taken to what the record describes as the 'Camberwell Hotel' (most likely the Camberwell Inn, then at the corner of Burke Road and Riversdale Road) whilst those assisting awaited the direction of the State Coroner.

Police records contain full details as to the cause of death but emphasise that Foley was perfectly sober at the time and that the fence 'was a pretty stiff one to tackle'.

The funeral took place on the afternoon of Thursday 13 September 1894. The cortege moved from the



Camberwell Hotel to Melbourne General Cemetery at 2pm. It was largely attended by police members. The coffin and grave were covered with flowers, among which were wreaths from the police at Russell Street and other stations.

Interestingly the inquest into Constable Foley's death took place on the morning of his funeral. It was conducted in Camberwell. The exact location is unclear but the same hotel seems likely. Foley's relatives were represented and an equine expert attended on behalf of Victoria Police. Members from Caulfield attested to Mounted Constable Foley's 'excellent character' and the inquest was told that there was nothing in police regulations against mounted constables jumping their horses, either for practice or in the discharge of their duties. Market gardener, W. Meehan gave evidence and stated that he had seen the event take place.

The *Oakleigh Leader* newspaper of Saturday 15/9/1894 reported that the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

The above article is drawn from research conducted by retired Chief Inspector Ralph Stavely, Chair of the Victoria Police Memorials Committee. Jim Pilmer is an Anglican priest and chaplain to Boroondara and Camberwell Police stations.

Box Hill Town Hall turns 90

Eli Kelly

HEADING to the polls? Organising a meeting for your not-for-profit group? Seeing a Wiggles performance? Well, you'd be heading to the Box Hill Town Hall.

Nestled amongst local businesses, this old Néo-Grec style building is just a 5-minute walk from the station and has served as a civic and cultural hub for the community since its inauguration in 1935. Built by architects J.S. Gawler and J.C. Aisbett, the heritage-listed building will be 90 years old this year – a milestone worth celebrating.

While many aspects remain preserved, the Town Hall has undergone numerous changes, reflecting the broader transformation of the region itself. Originally part of the City of Box Hill, the building came under the City of Whitehorse in 1994 following a council merger with Nunawading.

Prior to its construction, the council's first official meetings were held in Shire Hall, in 1889. A piece of this history is preserved in one of the twin foundation stones placed during the construction of the Town Hall.

Comprising 10 diverse spaces, the Town Hall houses functions, events, and meeting spaces for not-for-profit groups, such as the Migrant Information Centre and the Box Hill Historical Society (BHHS).

Box Hill's multicultural standing is reflected through the 'Matsudo Room', named for Whitehorse's sister city in Japan. As such, the Town Hall plays host to the Japanese Festival each year, the most recent attracting around 7,000 people. With upcoming events such as the Persian, Japanese, and Indonesian festivals, the Town Hall never ceases its vibrant cultural scene.

One of the most charming spaces is the old courtroom. As you head down a corridor lined with portraits of former mayors, you enter a space frozen in time: from the scent of the old wooden benches, old council maps upon the walls, and the gavel resting on the bench. It is

truly indicative of the preservation of the building. No wonder it became a filming location in the TV show 'Neighbours'.

The Whitehorse Artspace is one of the more modern spaces in the Town Hall, its open plan immersing visitors as they are greeted by the famous 'Whitehorse' statue, which once stood upon the White Horse Hotel – Box Hill's first brick building. After enduring the test of time and the 1985 fire, the fibreglass replica of the original statue was relocated to the Town Hall in 1986 and remains on display as a symbol of the city. As the Box Hill region is the birthplace of Australian Impressionism, the Whitehorse Artspace is also home to significant pieces by these pioneering Australian Impressionists. It also welcomes a diverse range of exhibitions in various mediums, such as its upcoming exhibit Annemieke Mein: Nature revealed (11 July – 30 August), representing Australian flora and fauna through textile art.

Box Hill Town Hall is a picture of the past and present, as it aims to preserve yet progress. From the maintenance of its original pipes to adopting solar panels to aid sustainability efforts. This is a testament to the staff who contribute to the continuance of the Box Hill Town Hall and the community that keeps it thriving after 90 years.

Currently, the BHHS is inviting individuals to share memories of their involvement in events at the Town Hall, as part of a project to create a social history of the building. If you have memories of your involvement or work with the Box Hill Town Hall – whether at events or functions – the BHHS is compiling a social history for publication. Written material can be emailed to boxhillhistory@gmail.com or sent to P.O. Box 268, Box Hill 3128.

I'd like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land where Box Hill Town Hall stands.

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The picture of the new Town Hall that appeared in *The Reporter* of 19 April, 1935.



Growing up in Surrey Hills

Church on Sunday

Gill Bell

ON a chilly winter morning in the late nineteen fifties our family arrived at the Surrey Hills Methodist Church for the usual 11am Sunday service. Our breath puffed out in clouds as we followed our parents through the west door. Mr Rayment, as rigidly erect as if he were still a soldier in the Great War, greeted us.

Inside the church there was a hushed murmuring, and the organ played softly. Our family took its place in the second pew from the back. My father had sat here almost every Sunday of his married life, and only strangers attempted to sit here.

The air was still chilly inside, and I settled my feet gratefully on the heated bar suspended under the pew. Black hearing trumpets were provided at several locations for those with hearing loss. There was also a tinny broadcast of the service piped into the porch for mothers (never fathers) who may have to take a crying baby outside during the service.

I gazed around. The wooden floor was raked down towards the front of the church as in a theatre. The aisle was covered with a floral runner edged with red. There was the sweet fragrance of flowers and of face powder. Large bouquets of flowers stood at the front of the church. The stained-glass windows featured alternate bunches of purple and yellow grapes. Half-way down the church was the David window, framed in brilliant shades of blue. It showed the young shepherd boy gazing steadfastly into the distance. Our parents told us that he represented the bravery of our soldiers in the war. The Second World War was not yet fifteen years in the past, and it was still vivid for many in the congregation. The wooden pulpit was decorated with

carved gum leaves which stood out from the surface in intricate detail. The centrepiece of the church was the magnificent organ. Its golden pipes were mounted in gleaming honey-coloured panelling.

The choir was already in place. The minister entered in his black robes and white reversed collar. The organ struck up in majestic chords and the music rose to the high wood-panelled ceiling. My father's bass echoed the deep notes of the organ. I could read the words and sang along while my mother ran her gloved finger along under the music to show me how the notes went up and down.

As children we were not expected to sit through the sermon. There was a children's address. 'I'll tell you a story' the minister began, and we waited expectantly. After the children's hymn, the large contingent of youngsters – were there fifty of us? – filed out to Sunday School. Here there were more stories and singing. After half an hour the organ music swelled for the final hymn and we made our way back to our families. Now it was time for chat and catching up with the week's news.

On our arrival home we were greeted by the inviting sizzling sound and scent of roast dinner. Before we left for church, our mother had managed, by some magic, to prepare roast lamb and baked vegetables.

These were simpler times, and at the time it felt as if this routine would never change. Of course, much of this world is now lost. However, the memories remain: the beauty of the music; the ancient stories; the beautifully arranged flowers; the gracious surroundings and most of all the warmth of the community which wrapped its arms around us so that we felt its love.

In our Hearts

Gill Bell

ON Mother's Day this year I was strolling along an autumn street in Surrey Hills when I was charmed to see a display created for the occasion.

The chalked image was poignant. There was a large heart surrounded by smaller hearts, but at the heart of them all, nestled in the centre, was the word MUM. Beside the chalk art stood a container of flowers. It bore a message urging us to take a flower for our own beautiful mother, or in her memory. A lovely reminder of the special people (not only mothers) who shape our lives.

Thank you, graffiti artist, for your inspiring words to the community.



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Acts of Respect

Tributes, rituals, ceremonies

Reverend Jim Pilmer PSM OAM OStJ

EARLIER this year I viewed a TV news item about the tribute paid to Lance Appleby who went missing off South Australia's west coast; the victim of a shark attack. We briefly saw friends and surfing colleagues in wetsuits who had formed a large circle in the water near the site of Lance's disappearance. Even in that difficult setting appropriate words were expressed and Lance was given a farewell that reflected his love of the surf in that location and people's respect for him.

I recall another creative act of respect at Leeton in New South Wales some years ago where hot air balloons hung in the sky at daybreak. It was a moving tribute to a much-loved community member who had also died in tragic circumstances and a powerful expression of support for her family and loved ones.

More recently the Row Past for Melbourne Grammar student Edward Millar who died during rowing training was a moving tribute by his fellow rowers.

Rituals and creative ceremonies give us a framework into which we can insert our own thoughts, identify with national, local or family history and from which we can derive comfort. Life's ritual moments, including the joyful ones, serve to remind us that we live within a time span and that it passes all too quickly. They may be wholly religious, completely secular or a blend of both. They can strike a chord in our hearts or just wash over us. At a funeral, for example, the fact that family and friends gather in the one place at the one time speaks volumes. The sprinkling of earth, the releasing of doves or balloons, each encapsulates a message in a nutshell.

Part of the beauty of such moments is that, as individuals, we can attribute meaning to them within the privacy of our own thoughts and feelings and in



the light of our own experience.

They touch each of us uniquely because of that.

We are not being told what

we ought to think or believe

and, for that reason, symbolic acts in such a context respect the individual.

For a time, I believed that our community understanding of the value of ceremonial and ritual was being lost.

Perhaps in some instances it has faded, but I think now that it's part of adapting to the multi-faith and multi-cultural community in which we live. Of late there seems to be a growing understanding that ritual and ceremonial observances really do feed a corporate and individual need and that participation in them is a healthy way of expressing unity in diversity. ANZAC observances have been a shining example of this and the deep offence felt at this year's disruption of Melbourne's Shrine observance perhaps emphasises the point.

The basic ingredients of grief and loss, remembrance, respect and sympathy may all be represented symbolically. Placing flowers, lighting candles; such things may speak to the soul rather than the intellect. They are valid expressions of faith and hope when words won't do the job.

The Last Holiday

Owen Clark

I have a cousin who has just arrived in Hobart. Last time they were there, they told me firmly that that was their *very last holiday*. When I knew they were in Hobart again, I couldn't resist writing this, which I sent to them. (It has more impact if it is read aloud.)

I'm glad you are having *another last holiday*. I thought the last holiday was the last holiday. Will this last holiday be the last holiday, or will there be a last holiday after this last holiday? I am confused as to which last holiday is the real last holiday. Be sure to enjoy this last holiday, as it might be the last holiday. [Return to Contents](#)



Reflections on ageing

Carmel McNaught

I have had a wonderful summer. I decided that three-quarters of a century was a life milestone that needed to be celebrated in style; it was a party night I will always remember. Friends and family came from far and wide, including a collection of eight friends who are now in the elite '75 in 2025' club. Celebrations thus can continue throughout the year in several countries.

Of course, all this fun has involved my reflecting on 'time' and what ageing means in terms of the passing of time. My husband, David, and I are amazed at how so much of our time in this phase of life is about maintaining health. It is more than doing sufficient exercise and getting annual health checks. It is, for me, a much deeper recognition that, while I no longer have seemingly limitless energy, I feel that a broad life experience working and living in many countries has enabled me to be balanced in my reading of current global disasters, to be grateful for what we have here in Australia, and not to give up hope that we can mitigate some of the worst aspects of wars, disease and the increasing trail of disasters that will accompany climate change. It is a question of balance which, however, can often seem like walking a tightrope.

Let me explain the tension that I feel I need to negotiate as I tread the path into future years. For many years, I have often turned to *Desiderata* (Max Ehrmann, 1927) for its elegant balance. In particular, this sentence is significant for the 70s: 'Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.' However, now that I have passed the time of youth, this is not quite enough for me. I find myself turning to the powerful poem by Dylan Thomas, *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night* (1947). The oft-repeated phrase in the poem, 'Rage, rage against the dying of the light',

fits my determination to live this remaining quarter of a century (or part thereof) to the full, to enjoy each day, and feel part of this complex and fraught global society.

So, how to achieve this balance between 'surrendering' and 'raging'? I will return to health as an example.

I have succumbed to the old-lady practice of falling a few times; mostly, just with a few bruises, though occasionally a tad more serious. I recently had MRIs done on both knees as my right knee was not functional for a while after one such fall. The orthopaedic surgeon noted that both knees are 'ragged' (descriptive technical term!) but anyone who regularly walks 7-8 km does not need knee replacements. So, I have committed to a gym session each day for life ... I am now several months into this routine. I have surrendered to the increasing risk of falls, while raging against the inevitability of declining further. This is empowering.

A final example. David and I believe that engagement in our local community assists us in maintaining balance. We accept the challenges of living in a huge city with its concomitant reduction in freedoms; in that sense we surrender to the complexity of urban life. However, our raging is through joining local environmental and community groups because each little action can support meaningful change. Together we do things like walking for Neighbourhood Watch, supporting Lighter Footprints, teaching karate (David), being involved in some tree-protection activities, volunteering during the recent election, contributing to this grand community newspaper, and so on.

I will continue 'surrendering' and 'raging' simultaneously.

Carmel McNaught is an ageing but sprightly 75-years-old retired academic.

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A blast from the past

participating in the 1970 Round Australia Ampol Trial

Clarke Ballard

The following is a summary of an article by Clarke Ballard recounting his participation in the 1979 Round Australia Ampol Trial. You must [go here](#) to read the full version which paints a riveting tale of this exciting experience.

A proposal by Rotary to set up a Satellite Club based on police members reminded me of an episode in my mis-spent youth in 1970.

In my youth, I was involved in car trials and rallying. This led to me being asked to navigate for a senior policeman in the 1970 Round Australia Ampol Trial, with which I had no prior experience.

The car was a Volkswagen 1500S, a sporty model with twin carburettors, and had been fitted with a new, sponsored Repco reconditioned 'Gold Star' motor. The event started from every capital city and took competitors through similar distances and roads to a central point at Port Augusta.

We initially performed well, but discovered the need to clean the VW's air filter daily or twice daily due to dust build-up. After resting in Cooktown, we encountered a dry river crossing and bent the right front wheel. This we were able to fix with the help of our Townsville police contacts.



The event involved various stages, including Brisbane to Adelaide, Adelaide to Melbourne, Melbourne to Albury, and Albury to Cooma. We finished 49th out of 160 starters and 112 finishers, and the prize money from our class win helped us rebuild and panel-beat the VW.

How Eden hovers a reflection on an ancient story

Owen Clark

THE summary below is of an essay written by Owen Clarke, exploring the Garden of Eden narrative as a metaphor for humanity's growth from naivety to maturity. As Owen says, this reflection may sound religious but it actually applies to any sphere of humanity. At its core, it's about the unavoidable life voyage we all undergo.

Eden represents an idyllic but limited state of perfection, where its inhabitants are shielded from struggle and the knowledge of good and evil. While this innocence fosters safety, it also restricts personal growth and a deeper relationship with God, who desires connection with beings capable of grappling with life's complexities.

The act of eating the forbidden fruit symbolizes humanity stepping into a world of complexity and choice, leaving behind Eden's naïveté. Once innocence is lost, it cannot be regained, and life becomes a journey forward toward maturity and understanding.

To read the complete essay, [click here](#).



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World Knitting Day
Saturday 14 June 2025
1pm- 4pm

To be held at Manningham Uniting Church & Community Centre
 109 Wood St, Templestowe

The annual World Knitting Day event is a great opportunity for those who love knitting and those who would like to learn, to come together. Wool, needles and patterns will be available for all to use or bring along your current project. Experienced knitters will also be on hand to help teach and encourage those less confident.

Hand-knitted garments & blankets will be on sale with proceeds to the EACH Refugee Health Clinic, Ringwood.

If you have spare balls of 8ply wool, donations would be appreciated.

Afternoon tea provided. This is a free event.
 More information: 9846 2012; info@manninghamuc.org
 Register your attendance:
manninghamuc.org/worldknittingday2025

 REGISTER HERE

 **Manningham Uniting Church**
 109 Wood St, Templestowe 3106
manninghamuc.org; 03 9846 2012

Sunday 15 June at 2pm

Box Hill Historical Society.

The lost railways of Box Hill

Box Hill Library, Bert Lewis Room (Meeting Room 1), 1st Floor 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.

THE Box Hill Historical Society invites you to their general meeting on Sunday, 15 June to hear their special guest Mark Cauchi speak about The lost railways of Box Hill.

As part of his presentation, Mark will answer questions on the two railway sidings that were built for the Box Hill brickworks. One operated between 1888 and 1892, and the second between 1922 and 1932. He will look at where they were and what has happened to them since.

Visitors are most welcome. Admission: gold coin donation. To register your interest, phone 0480 651 323. To learn more about the Box Hill Historical Society, [click here](#).



Event postponed

Indigenous Futures: talking with Uncle Shane



WHITEHORSE Friends for Reconciliation are disappointed that they have had to postpone their event scheduled for Sunday 15 June with Uncle Shane Charles, a local First Nations elder. The organisers are hoping to reschedule it to Sunday 6 July

Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation are hoping they can reschedule this discussion because we believe that we all have much to gain from listening to First Nations' wisdom on ways of being on this planet. Uncle Shane Charles will talk about his recent involvement with Indigenous groups around the world and other important issues.

Uncle Shane Charles is a Yorta Yorta, Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung man, who has worked in the education, justice and cultural heritage sectors, most recently with the City of Melbourne. He has been Co-Chair of Reconciliation Victoria and Co-chair of the Aboriginal Studies and Indigenous Strategies Committee at La Trobe University. He is currently, among other things, President of a Global First Nations Dialogue group based in Switzerland

This is an important discussion for our community. We expect that the rescheduled event will be held at the Whitehorse Uniting Church, 559-561 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham (cnr Doncaster East Rd) from 2:30 - 4:00pm and will include a Q&A session, followed by afternoon tea.

If you would like to attend, please contact Howard Tankey to confirm this event is happening. Email: howardtankey@bigpond.com or phone 9898 2514.

Sunday 15 June

Blackburn Lake Wetlands Regeneration Project. Community Planting Day

MEET at the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor to be part of the Community Planting Day.

Your help will make a big difference. Wear appropriate clothing. Tools and good company provided. Join us for refreshments and a well done/getting to know you / catch up chat.

[Return to Contents](#)



Silver Swan

The Melbourne Recorder Orchestra and friends
present a concert of music for recorders from the
sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries

Conducted by Rachel Snedden

Tuesday, 17 June 2025 at 8.00pm

Flockart Hall, MLC Music Department
Methodist Ladies' College
207 Barkers Road
KEW VIC 3101

Adults \$10 | Children Free

Pay cash at the door or use TryBooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/DBQHK>



Enquiries: MROmail2025@gmail.com

Go to their website here: <https://vrg.org.au/>



Wednesday 18 June at 7pm for 7.30 start

Find out what you need to know about home
batteries

Ashburton Community Centre

160 High St Ashburton

Sarah Hegarty on behalf of Lighter Footprints

WITH the weather cooling, many of us will be thinking about how best to keep our homes warm and comfortable without breaking the bank. Making the move to an all-electric home energy system is a great way to achieve this.

The Victorian Government estimates that going all-electric can put up to approximately \$2,000 back in the pockets of new or existing homeowners¹. Even better, an all-electric home avoids the health risks associated with burning gas or wood^{2,3}, and is better for the environment⁴.

Many local homeowners are experiencing the benefits of going solar and electrifying their homes. In Boroondara and Stonnington, for example, a respective 19.6% and

14.7% of houses have solar panels⁵. This is a lower rate than Victoria overall (30.4%), or in neighbouring Manningham (24.3%), Whitehorse (22.9%), or Monash (25.7%) Council areas⁵, but it's moving in the right direction!

Cheaper Homes Batteries Program

To support households to reduce or eliminate energy costs and encourage the shift to all electric homes, the Albanese government has announced the Cheaper Home Batteries Program⁶. This exciting new initiative (starting on July 1st) provides around a 30% discount on the upfront price of a typical home battery!

Information evening

If you've wondered about going all-electric at home, or have already started your journey, you may want to learn more about this program, and about whether a battery is right for you. We invite you to join us for an information evening on Wednesday, June 18, 7pm for a 7:30 start, at the Ashburton Community Centre.

We will hear from expert solar and battery provider Trent Jones of All Electric Homes, and from David Coote, a renewable energy and energy efficiency consultant. They will give us an overview of the types of batteries available on the market and how to choose the right product for you. Join us to learn about home batteries, home electrification, and get expert advice on your questions!

[RSVP here](#)

References:

- 1: [Victorian Government](#)
- 2: [University of NSW](#)
- 3: [The Climate Council](#)
- 4: [Grattan Institute](#)
- 5: [Australian Photovoltaic Institute](#)
- 6: [Australian Federal Government](#)

HOME BATTERIES

Are you interested in the home battery subsidy but don't know where to start?

- Factors in battery choice
- Price range
- Potential savings
- Questions to ask your supplier

Industry expert panel
Wed, June 18 7.30-9.00pm
Ashburton Community Centre,
160 High St, Ashburton

Sunday, June 29, 2025 between 12 and 3pm
Clean Waterways Expo 2025
Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre and
Picnic Grounds, Central Rd Blackburn.
Graham Ross

FOLLOWING the tremendous success of last year's event, we are delighted to announce that an even bigger and better Clean Waterways expo is planned at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre and Picnic Grounds, Central Rd Blackburn.

The event is happening between 12 pm and 3 pm on Sunday June 29, 2025.

Hosted by the KooyongKoot Alliance, and the brainchild of Blackburn Lake Advisory Committee, the day will showcase not just the major organisations who manage our waterways and catchment such as Melbourne Water, the EPA and Whitehorse Council, but also many of the key environmental groups who devote their time in caring for both the land and waterways from a community perspective.

A key goal is to raise awareness of how we can, as a community, reduce our use of single use plastics, prevent pollution and littering of our local waterways. Also, why we need to, and the benefits of doing so.

The numerous stalls will showcase the various groups' work and provide a great opportunity for the public to ask questions and gain knowledge from the diverse array of participants.

- Who do I contact about a messy building site?
- Who do I contact to report pollution in the creek?
- How can I help in a meaningful way?

All these questions and more will be answered.

There will be a series of guest speakers on topics such as the Strategic Plan being developed for the whole of the Gardiners Creek Catchment, the newly released Melbourne Water Litter Toolkit and many more, all in the warmth of the Visitors Centre. As well, there will be many interactive experiences and showcases amongst the 12 exhibitors - so plenty for everyone including for the young ones.

A sausage sizzle is to be provided by the scouts so get there early. AND you get a free sausage in exchange for making a pledge to reduce your use of plastics

If you care about your parks and creeks and want to know more about them, then this is the event for you and your family.

See you on the June 29 at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, the headwaters of the KooyongKoot (Gardiners Creek).

Graham Ross is the KooyongKoot Catchment Keeper. Contact him by email at Kooyongkootalliance@gmail.com or by phone at 0407 046 358. To explore the work of KooyongKoot Alliance, go to their [website here](#).

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S IOLANTHE OR THE PEER AND THE PERI



Presented by

Sunday 29th June 2 pm
HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
177 Union Rd, Surrey Hills

Tickets \$25 Includes light refreshments afterwards.
Proceeds will go to towards charity Dream Stitches
(dreamstitches.org.au) to support migrant and refugee
women, whilst teaching them dressmaking skills.

Artwork by DAVID ZINN

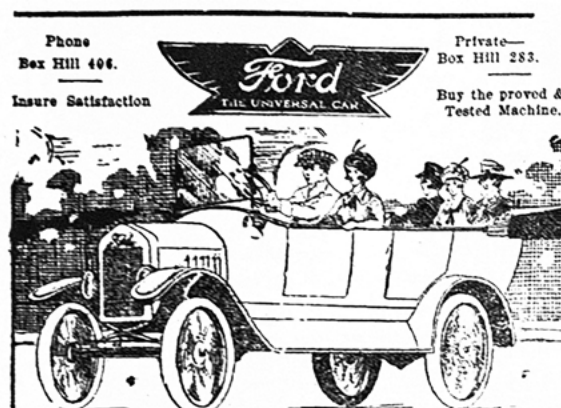


Singularity is a 30 voice SATB
choir who perform for charity.
Singularity is auspiced by
Coonara Community House,
Upper Ferntree Gully

SOMETHING for you to come and enjoy as the Singularity choir returns to Holy Trinity with a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's popular *Iolanthe* – or *The Peer and the Peri*.

Admission \$25 (payable at the door) which includes light refreshments afterwards in Trinity Hall.

All proceeds will go to the local charity, [Dream Stitches](#) to support migrant and refugee women, whilst teaching them dressmaking skills.



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THE opening and award presentations will be held at the Box Hill Lower Town Hall on 11 July from 7:30pm. The exhibition will be open on Saturday, 12 July from 10am to 5pm and Sunday, 13 July from 10am to 4pm. You are invited to a fabulous Art Show featuring works created by artists from our local area. Come along to the Box Hill Lower Town Hall at 1022 Whitehorse Road, and bring a few friends to enjoy the great variety of artworks we have available at the 73rd Box Hill Art Group Annual Exhibition and Art Sale.

Whether your taste runs to intuitive and innovative interpretations of local and overseas landscapes or cityscapes, a traditional still-life with fruit or flowers, animals, portraits, tasteful nudes, prints or abstracts, soothing washes or bold, vibrant and thought-provoking multi-media creations, you are sure to find a genuine original work of art that stirs your soul.

This is your opportunity to not only see brilliant artworks created right here in Whitehorse, perhaps by your neighbour or someone you know but also to purchase the perfect gift for that hard to buy person. We all have one, don't we!

If you have ever wanted to draw or paint, this is your chance to talk to people who can help you to get started. Come and meet some of the artists and talk to them about how they began and how they go about creating a new piece of art. Joining a community art group might be just the spark you need to turn a dream into a reality under the supportive and inspiring guidance of our great tutors.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Eastsider News June 2025

Thursday 17 July 2025 7.30pm to Sunday 20 July 2pm.

**Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria brings you
The Mikado at Alexander Theatre
Alexander Theatre, Monash University. 48 Exhibition
Walk, Clayton.**

Thursday 17 July 2025, 7.30pm

Friday 18 July 2025, 7.30pm

Saturday 19 July 2025, 2pm

Saturday 19 July 2025, 7.30pm

Sunday 20 July 2025, 2pm

Tickets

THE Mikado is an enduringly popular comic opera with memorable music, endearing characters and some of the wittiest lyrical comedy in the English language. Featuring much loved songs such as *I've Got A Little List* (the better known title of *As Someday it May Happen*), *A Wand'ring Minstrel I*, *Three Little Maids From School Are We*, *The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring* and many more.

The Story

Nanki-Poo loves Yum-Yum but she's betrothed to Ko-Ko, the new Lord High Executioner. When the Mikado (or emperor) orders a beheading, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko try to come to an arrangement that doesn't involve anyone losing their head! However, the arrival in town of the spurned Katisha turns everything topsy-turvy. With melodious mischief and preposterous plots, the tangled web unravels; will the punishment fit the crime?

Gilbert's imagined Japan was inspired by the opening of a London exhibition featuring a Japanese village inhabited by 100 citizens and the European obsession with everything Japanese following its re-opening to the world. The distracting beauty of his Japanese setting allowed Gilbert to get away with poking fun at the staid social norms, absurd etiquette, and weighty bureaucracy of a colonising Victorian England.

This delightful comic opera enjoyed immense popularity throughout Europe where 17 companies performed it 9,000 times within two years of its premiere in 1885. And, in 2006, the Japanese Tokyo Theatre Company presented *The Mikado* as part of the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in England.

Music: Sir Arthur Sullivan. Libretto: W.S. Gilbert.
Director: Andrew McGrail. Musical Director: John Ferguson

Bookings:

To book your tickets for the performance at the Alexander Theatre, [click here](#).

The Mikado is available for group bookings of 25 or more. For enquiries and booking via GSOV at tickets@gsov.org.au

See also advertisement on page 16.

URBAN FORESTS

WHAT ARE THEY, WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND WHY THEY NEED PROTECTION

- **Dr Greg Moore:**
Snr Research Associate, Melb Uni, Burnley Campus
- **Dr Judy Bush:**
Snr Lecturer, Urban Planning, Melb Uni
- **Chris Spencer & Amy Shaw**
Team Leader Arborist and Coordinator Urban Biodiversity, City of Boroondara

Wed, July 23 7:30 - 9:00pm

Marwal Centre,
9 Marwal Ave, Balwyn Nth

WHILE Boroondara is fortunate to have a magnificent tree canopy, it is under threat from climate change and development.

Hear Dr Greg Moore (Senior Research Associate at the University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus), Dr Judy Bush (Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne), Chris Spencer (Boroondara Team Leader Arborist) and Amy Shaw (Coordinator Urban Biodiversity and Revegetation) talk about urban trees, urban forests and urban biodiversity.

Ask your own questions and find out what you can do to help grow Boroondara's tree canopy and improve biodiversity.

[Register now here.](#)

Saturday, 2 August to Sunday, 3 August
Australian Model Railway Association
Victorian Branch. Model Train Show
Town Square Pavilion, Melbourne
Showgrounds. Epsom Rd, Ascot Vale


THE Australian Model Railway Association Victorian Branch based in Glen Iris is the Victorian Branch of the Australian Model Railway Association (AMRA).

We run Victoria's premier model train show in the Town Square Pavilion at the Melbourne Showgrounds in August each year. A great opportunity to view operating model railways of many sizes and formats, get ideas and visit multiple vendors all in one place and one day. Some of the products are not available in stores, only at exhibitions.

A great place to share modelling tips with most of the model exhibitors happy to chat about their models. To find out more, [go here](#).

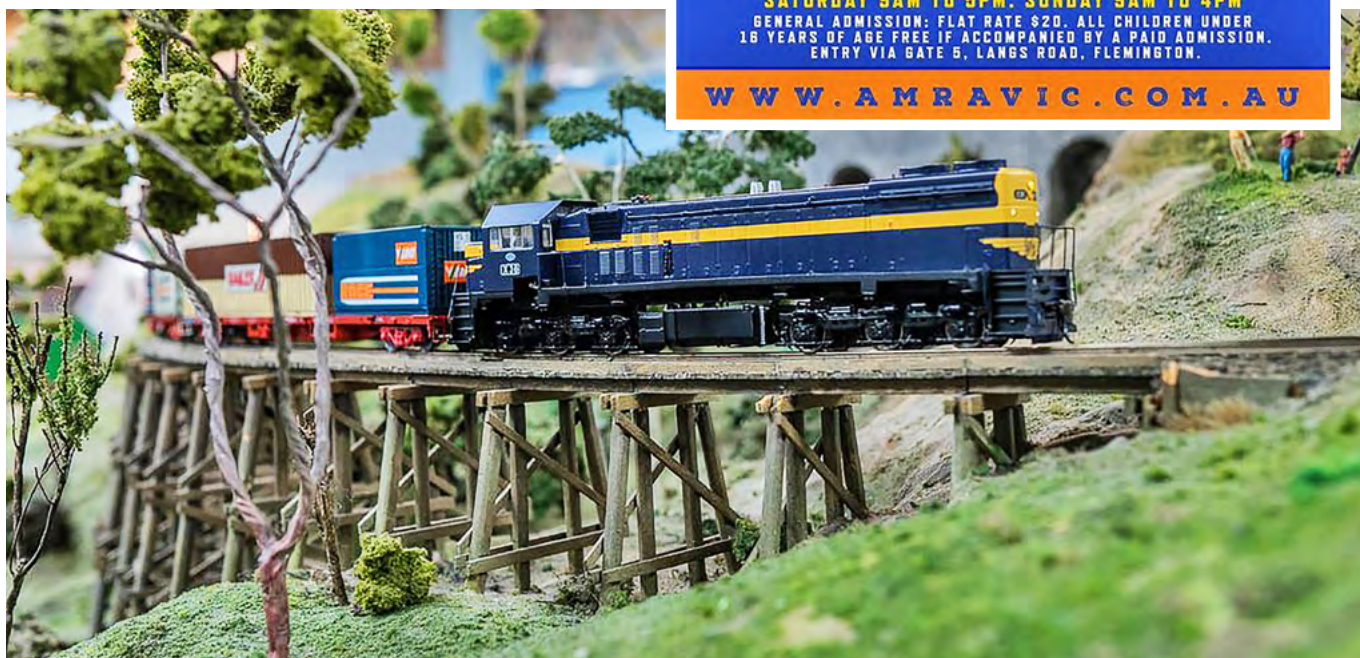
AMRA VICTORIA PRESENTS

The 53rd
model train show 2025



August 2 & 3
TOWN SQUARE PAVILION, MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS
SATURDAY 9AM TO 5PM. SUNDAY 9AM TO 4PM
GENERAL ADMISSION: FLAT RATE \$20. ALL CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE FREE IF ACCOMPANIED BY A PAID ADMISSION.
ENTRY VIA GATE 5, LANGS ROAD, FLEMINGTON.

WWW.AMRAVIC.COM.AU





The next edition

The next regular edition of Eastsider News will be in August 2025. The deadline for contributions will be 20 July, 2025.

But don't wait till then. We love hearing from you at all times and we will continue post your articles, newsworthy material, stories and other content on our website. Whenever you are inspired, please send us your contributions, written and visual to eastsidernews1@gmail.com

We encourage you to send us photographs and images that relate to your contribution. Send them as a separate jpg/jpeg file and to get adequate resolution, please try to make them at least 250dpi and preferably larger at 300dpi or more.

Your opportunity to get published

We encourage our readers to also become writers for Eastsider News. Guidelines are available on our website at <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/guidelines/> When writing your article, please consider our editorial values at www.eastsidernews.org.au/editorial-values/

If you have any queries, email us at eastsidernews1@gmail.com

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If you value Eastsider News, please consider volunteering with us

The *Eastsider News* team needs your help to keep us on the road. We hope we can tempt you to become involved in the production of *Eastsider News*.

We are looking for volunteers to help in many ways. This includes administrative tasks such content receipt and management; editorial duties; advertising manager, website management and maintenance; local news reporting; and people with new ideas on and experience in digital publishing.

We'd love to hear from you. All positions are voluntary and unpaid. Get in touch so we can chat about making best use of your skills and time at eastsidernews1@gmail.com

Guidelines for writing articles

Guidelines for writing for Eastsider News are on our website at www.eastsidernews.org.au/ All contributions should be emailed to eastsidernews1@gmail.com We will always acknowledge receipt.

In summary, we prefer articles of no more than 600 words or 250 words for letters to the editor. Submit your article as a word document and images as a jpg. Editors will usually accept material as written, but may make changes to improve clarity, readability, or focus. Please be respectful, non-defamatory and factual in your writing and choice of topic. As a community newspaper, we seek material of local interest or with a broader context if relevant.



Quizling Answers

1. Upsilon + eta = epsilon + tau
2. Cap+one, Scarf+ace

Contact Eastsider News

Eastsider News is the business name for Independent Community News Group Incorporated. The primary contact point for ICNG and Eastsider News is eastsidernews1@gmail.com or PO Box 392, Mont Albert Vic 3127.