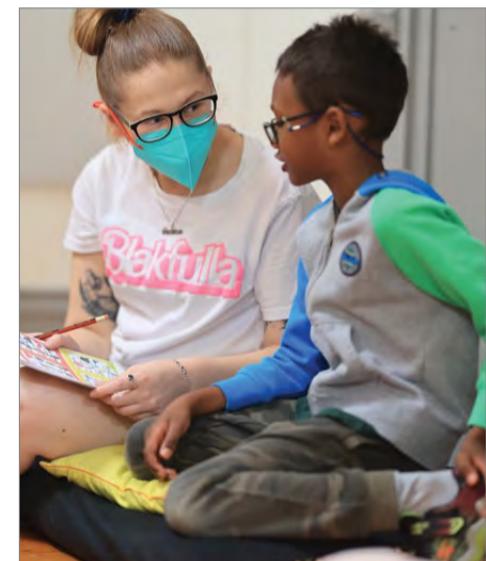




Flemington - Kensington

NEWS

WINTER 2023



Clockwise from left: Kennel support volunteer Nikki at Seeing Eye Dogs Australia; Wednesday lunch volunteer at KNH Elizabeth with David and Noreen; KNH Study Support volunteer Lillian with Mohammad; Volunteers at the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden.

Celebrating volunteers in Flemington Kensington

Sara Sterling

Between 15 and 21 May Australians celebrated National Volunteer Week. The annual event recognises the vital support that millions of volunteers in communities like ours provide and encourages more people to consider taking up a volunteer role.

This year's theme of 'Change Makers' celebrated the power of individuals to drive change and ensure volunteering is inclusive for all.

Volunteering today comes in all shapes and sizes. Where once it may have conjured images of the local sports club, CWA branch or op shop (all still dependent on wonderfully dedicated volunteers), the ways we engage are expanding.

Many of us now volunteer through our workplace, participate in citizen science projects in our local parks, or volunteer from the comfort of our home with a laptop and a willingness to get involved. Indeed, many of

the Facebook groups that we know, love and hate/hate are moderated by volunteers.

Volunteering is something that is near and dear to the heart of Flemington and Kensington residents. This paper itself could not run without its dedicated team of volunteers finding, researching, reporting and writing stories, taking photos, editing and collating community notices.

Every edition also highlights a wealth of organisations and events across Flem-Ken that are volunteer-driven and contribute to the vibrancy of our neighbourhood.

The Newmarket Stationeers featured in our Vox Pop have been preserving our local station since 2010, and in February celebrated thirteen years of operation. Local gardening groups including the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden bring people together to green our neighbourhood and find joy in growing food for the community.

The Flemington Theatre group, whose latest production is reviewed in this edition,

was founded in 2015. The theatre group is completely volunteer-run and each production is supported by a team of approximately 30 volunteers.

The Flemington Kensington Junior Sports Club have people who volunteer their time as committee members, coaches, managers, trainers and medical staff. They estimate several hundred volunteers contribute their time on an annual basis, ensuring 1200 local kids are able to access the benefits of sport.

According to the State of Volunteering report released by Volunteering Victoria in 2020, approximately 2.3 million Victorians volunteered on a regular basis prior to the pandemic, and it contributed an estimated \$58.1 billion to the Victorian economy.

While volunteering numbers have declined over the past few years, by looking at the pages of this paper you can see that the volunteering spirit is well and truly alive in our community.

Thu-Trang Tran, Volunteering Victoria CEO and local resident, urged people to think

about getting more involved in volunteering and local community.

She reminds us "There are no wrong doors to volunteering. Given the time and economic pressures on people, we understand volunteering can seem daunting."

"A hand here and there, to a neighbour near or far, virtual or in-person, all counts to your wellbeing, your CV, your social life; and all of it builds community."

Reaching out to local groups or organisations with causes that you are passionate about is a great way to get more involved.

Volunteer roles come in all shapes and sizes. For those not sure where to start, www.govolunteer.com.au is a great way to figure out what roles and organisations are out there.

Sara Sterling lives locally, is a long-term volunteer and works for Volunteering Victoria.

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Flemington Kensington News

The Committee

The Flem Ken News Committee consists of a group of people living or working in Flemington and Kensington. We carry on a tradition that is over 40 years young. The Committee encourages individuals and groups from within our community to join us in contributing to the pages of this paper. The News is a non-profit organisation that is run for the community by the Committee. Our income comes from advertising, donations and grants.

Editorial Responsibility

We reserve the right to edit articles when space is limited, and require contributors to respect our policy that opinions expressed are not divisive or derogatory. However we take no further responsibility for the opinions expressed by individual contributors or groups.

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Please submit all articles and images by email to fkneditors@gmail.com

Article size maximum 450 words unless otherwise agreed with editors. Please do not format text or paragraphs (e.g. no indents, tabs or spaced paragraphs). Please attach photos and graphics as separate files (PDF, TIFF, or high resolution JPEGs) rather than embedding in your text file or email.

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Discounts are available for subscription of four issues.

Community announcements are published free of charge.

Advertisers are requested to provide finished artwork as PDF or high resolution JPEG files. If you require design and layout services, please contact Derrick Wildey (design@derrickwildey.com).

The Flemington Kensington News gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Melbourne City Council, as well as the support of our advertisers.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to elders past and present, as well as emerging leaders in the community.

From the Editors...



Barbara Ward & David Fisher

March through May is an eventful time, and we're quickly learning one challenge of a quarterly paper is that there's far too little space to cover the breadth of issues, events and goings-on around our twin neighbourhoods over the three months between editions.

With that in mind, we wish all who celebrate a belated Happy Easter, Holi, Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr Mubarak. Many other moments of reflection, remembrance and celebration have passed since the last paper came out, and we hope you marked them well.

We've barely touched on some of the big changes afoot in Flemington and Kensington in these pages...

For example, many of our major thoroughfares are currently construction zones. (Had you noticed?!) And while it's trucks, cranes and road closures right now, squint while you're sitting in gridlock and you may get an sense of our future streetscapes.

From mid-year, residents in the Racecourse Rd public housing will see a new phase of the Paving The Way Forward (PTWF) program, a state government initiative that emerged after the devastating COVID lockdowns in Flemington and North Melbourne with the aim of increasing residents' participation and decision-making over issues affecting them. A localised employment plan is in the works as well as changes to the way resident action groups in the housing estate operate.

Meanwhile in Debney Park next door, the new Djerring Flemington Hub is edging closer to an opening date. Much like the old community centre, it promises to be an important place for people to come together.

Watch this paper for more on these issues. Meanwhile in this edition ...

Our cover story celebrates Volunteer Week (15-21 May), reflecting on the incredible level of community involvement in this pocket of inner Melbourne. For our part, we thank all the volunteers who regularly contribute their time to making the Flem Ken News, and gratitude to those people who for the first time have trusted us to publish their thoughts and words.

We're sorry to note the recent passing of a number of active community members.

Among them, Peter Donnellan was a great friend to the paper and someone who used his legal expertise to support a number of important local causes.

Dr Theong Low was an active Rotary member and respected medical practitioner with a long history of organising international medical aid expeditions. He ran a practice on Pin Oak Crescent for over 30 years.

Laurie Larmer was a World War II veteran and veteran publican of the Doutta Galla Hotel through rougher times.

And Sandra Day was a much beloved community advocate in Kensington, cherished by kids and adults alike in her role as crossing supervisor at Holy Rosary.

Elsewhere in the paper, Cathy Connop at

Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre is recognised for her work. Awatif Taha shares her experience as a resident action group member in the Flemington housing estate. John Dickie offers a fond farewell to the Flemington Association, which is shutting up shop after 16 years in its latest iteration. And the Flem Colts women's cricket team share their tale of success.

A bit of housekeeping. If you live, work or play in Flemington and Kensington, have a passion you want to share or an issue you want to raise, we'd love to hear from you. The direction of the paper is guided by the enthusiasm of our contributors and we are always on the lookout for writers, illustrators, photographers, editors, as well as those interested in helping out behind the scenes. Get in touch at fkneditors@gmail.com.

In the near future, we look forward to making available an archive of previous editions in a digital format. Now that's been said, we have to get it done!

With that out of the way, it's time to flick on the kettle, dig out the blanket, hug a pillow, pup, child or significant other and settle in. It's the Flem Ken News winter edition.

The Economy and You



Angelo Pratt

The budget and how it affects you

Treasurer Jim Chalmers announced the Australian Government budget for the coming 12 months starting on July 1.

The good news is that the economy has recovered from COVID lockdowns much quicker than expected. Lots of new jobs, and a big influx of migrants now that borders have re-opened means more people are paying tax, and less are claiming JobSeeker unemployment benefits.

Together with royalties from war-affected sky-high mineral and gas prices, money has been pouring into Canberra. So much so, that the budget is back in the black, and the Government has made a start repaying some of our massive debt.

The Treasurer had some very tough choices to make to help people slugged with higher inflation, sluggish wages growth, and runaway electricity price increases.

In the end he spent \$1 out of every extra \$5 to deal with these challenges. JobSeeker was lifted by \$40 per fortnight, doctors' incentives to bulk bill have been tripled, single parents retain their benefits a further 6 years until their kids turn 14, and low income earners will see their electricity bills discounted by up to \$500 in the next year.

Some taxes were increased for tobacco, high superannuation balances, and offshore oil and gas.

Of course, not everybody got what they wanted – they never will. All the expert recommendations to lift benefits were met only part way.

The Opposition found plenty to criticise, but little by way of better alternatives.

The biggest obstacle has been how to deal with affordable housing. The Government wants to create a \$10 billion fund so its earnings each

year can be used to build more social housing. The Greens see this as a gamble that may or may not generate any money each year to build new houses.

They want 30,000 houses built straight away – good luck with that if they can find the tradesmen and building materials, not to mention the land to build them on. Senator Jacqui Lambie came up with a compromise the Government could live with – guarantee an extra 1,200 homes in every state and territory every year. That's 9,600 new houses every year – I dare say that would need to be allocated more sensibly across each state according to its population!

Overall, the budget, though far from perfect, is a decent outcome, as it has found ways to improve the lot of those less well off without getting into more debt.

Much more needs to be done in the next budget, and the tough choices that have been put off for too many years need an airing at the next election, so people can appreciate the need for them and vote accordingly.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal



Connie Agius

Join the call: Victoria needs a #PoliceOmbudsmanNow!

Victorians have been asked to join the call and sign a petition for the Andrews Government to establish a Police Ombudsman that will ensure accountability and independent oversight.

The Police Accountability Project and a coalition of lawyers, non-profit organisations and community legal centres have launched a new campaign website and petition that will allow the community to ask for change at www.PoliceOmbudsmanNow.com.au.

Over 1,900 complaints were made against Victoria Police to Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) last year. Less than one percent were independently investigated.

Victorians have the largest and most well-funded police force in the country, but people who are harmed by the police are not being heard. Things need to change and you can help.

Community lawyers, experts and other organisations who work with people that have experienced police harm have said a Police Ombudsman is the solution.

A Police Ombudsman can independently investigate all complaints about misconduct and systemic failings if it is adequately powered and resourced, victim-centered, culturally appropriate, fair, timely, accountable, transparent and promotes systemic change to improve everyday policing.

"It's time for the Victorian Government to establish a Police Ombudsman to investigate allegations of police misconduct. We need to tell politicians that the community wants police officers to be held to account when they do the wrong thing. Victims of police misconduct need independent investigation. Now."

Have your voice heard and sign the petition at www.PoliceOmbudsmanNow.com.au

Vox Pop Winter 2023

Q. What do you enjoy about Volunteering?



Barb:

"I've always been tempted to pull weeds in public places. Now I'm a volunteer with the Stationeers, I can do it legally!"



John:

"There is great pleasure and a sense of achievement in working with this group to dramatically improve the look of Newmarket Station. A two hour, once a fortnight commitment is not onerous."



Roger:

"The transformation of the eastern Newmarket Station embankment from ugly eyesore to green oasis showcases what is great about volunteering with Stationeers."

In Focus



Kausser Maaruf

Please introduce yourself!

My name is Kausser Maaruf, and I am originally from Eritrea. I have had the privilege of being part of the Flemington Childcare Co-op for the past 16 years. For 13 years, I have worked as an educator, and for the past 3 years, I have had the honour of serving as the Centre Director.

My passion is ... Above all, my family is my greatest priority, and their love and support have been instrumental in my journey. I have a deep passion for educating and caring for young children, as well as helping others and learning about the world around us.

In my spare time ... I enjoy reading books and listening to music of all genres. I find solace in the sound of rain, which brings a sense of calm and tranquility to my day.

A job I would love to do ... When it comes to my career aspirations, I have always envisioned myself working for the Royal Flying Doctor or as a teaching aid in a refugee camp, where I can make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

The thing I appreciate most about my work is ... Politics is not an area that interests me, and I prefer to focus my energy on the noble task of nurturing and guiding young minds. As the Centre Director, I take pride in my role and appreciate the opportunity to see my team from different perspectives, which has broadened my understanding and enriched my experiences. Being able to support and guide my team brings me great joy.

Every day begins ... With a cup of coffee, a small ritual that sets the tone for the day ahead. The Flemington Childcare Co-op has become my home away from home, and I am grateful for the diversity within our team and the sense of Ubuntu that permeates our cooperative spirit. It is this unique combination that makes our co-op truly special.

The final word ... Lastly, I would like to emphasise that my commitment to the early childhood sector stems from my belief that children should never be used for profit. I am dedicated to creating an environment that prioritises their well-being and development above all else.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know me a little better.



needed more staff outside, so they asked me to do it. When I got onto the floor my boss was so happy because I could do both. It was an amazing opportunity for me.

I feel so blessed having a boss like him. It's not like an employer/employee relationship. We're treated as a family. He looks after us.

I sometimes struggle with my finances, because I am the breadwinner for my family back in the Philippines. My Mom got sick and was rushed to hospital. It was really terrifying because I don't have the money to pay for her care.

My boss was so amazing, he gave me a hand, genuinely helping and supporting me. He said, "Forget that you work for me, I want to help you like a brother, a family member."

I really wanted to share this with everybody, especially people in the community. because he's a private person.

The people who come to Fruits of Passion are so warm. I don't really experience rudeness from the locals, we have a good connection. If someone nice comes in, I think they must be a local. They are so warm, I love to serve them. One hundred percent.

Humans of Flem Ken - Lyneo Parrenas, Fruits of Passion

Keir Paterson

This workplace is a safe haven for me. It's a beautiful workplace.

I moved here as an international student studying cookery and chefing.

I was a former college professor in the Philippines, I worked in a Catholic academy, with the Sisters and Fathers. I was teaching hospitality management and tourism for eight years.

When I came here to study I started back at the bottom, but I don't have regrets because I wanted to explore something different and fulfilling. I've found that Australia is one of the best destinations.

Unfortunately, in 2020, during COVID, I was diagnosed with cancer. It was very terrible in my case but I felt lucky to be in Australia because my healthcare was free. So it was really terrible, but I consider it a blessing.

I had been looking for different jobs around Melbourne and I had good opportunities, but when I got to Fruits of Passion, I felt like it was the perfect place for me. I have a good relationship with all the people working here.

The beautiful highlight is that I want to shout out to my boss, Majed Morris. He is one of the most amazing people I have worked for in my life.

My boss is a blessing for me. When I started working here, they didn't know about my situation, that I had cancer.

I finished my chefing study in 2021, then I started here in the kitchen. One day they



The MAC update

Carla Iannarella

At Mount Alexander College, we are as busy as ever with student-led events, camps, and the opening of our new building. Our school address is now 78 Wellington Street, with the General Office, Heads of House, Attendance/First Aid Officer, and Principal team located on level 1 of our new building.

We can now hold classes on levels 2-4 for our Entry and Graduate 11 and 12 students. Our Arts rooms are currently underway as we move the art supplies from the portables to their new home on the ground floor of the new building.

Our Graduates of 2023 are enjoying their new Senior Common Room on level 4, which is fully equipped with kitchen facilities, spacious study and break-time spaces, and a balcony. Whilst we are excited by our canteen

opening this week, we are still eagerly awaiting the finalisation of some joinery, metal work, and landscaping to complete this monumental upgrade.

The amphitheatre will provide more outdoor space during break times, and this will be amplified when the basketball court opens on our rooftop. Students are buzzing with anticipation of the new building being fully furnished and complete.

Our Entry Camp at The Summit in Trafalgar East was a fantastic experience as always. Students were bustling with excitement and energy as they stepped off the bus. Our students participated in non-stop activities including the giant swing, rock climbing, laser tag, trust games, and a scavenger hunt during the next few action-packed days.

Our Entry Camps are great opportunities for students to connect outside the classroom; they return with established friendships that continue to thrive long after the camp has finished. MAC is currently preparing for our Above Entry 8 Camp, which will be taking place in mid-May at Lady Northcote.

Throughout term 1 and 2, MAC staff and students have enjoyed a myriad of student-led events spearheaded by our Student Leadership team. Highlights include a Karaoke Competition and the recent Teacher Nostalgia music event. Renditions of classic ballads such as Bat Out of Hell by Meat Loaf were enthusiastically covered by contestants.

Coming up this term, staff and students are excited for the Athletics Carnival, which will be our second whole-school event this year. Not long after this, our Above Entry 10 and year 11 students will be busy preparing for mid-year exams to best equip them for VCE, whilst our year 12 students will be completing the GAT.



St Brendan's Gala Sports Day

The 5/6 Koalas students and Carol Raffoul

Over two days, primary schools from the local areas participated in Gala Sports Days where we played cricket and soccer.

The weather forecast was gloomy but we didn't care about that. We were eagerly waiting for the rain to stop to take the field and let the games begin. After a short tram ride, we arrived at Fairbairn Park and made our way to find some shelter.

As the cricketers made their way to the middle of the pitch for the toss, we could feel the butterflies in our stomachs. We were ready and eager to start but we had to wait for the clouds to clear and the rain to stop. Nervously, we threw the ball to each other, had a few hits and ran around to keep warm until it was our time to play.

Our first game filled us with excitement

and hope. Although we had more losses than wins, by the end of the tournament we felt that we had all improved in our knowledge about the game of cricket as well as in our skills.

During the soccer games, we faced some very tough opposition from the local schools. Although we were nervous we tried to focus and remain calm to be able to put our skills into practice. Unfortunately we weren't very successful but we managed to win one game.

By the end of the tournament we could hold our heads up high as we all tried our best. We were determined to have a win and we used this determination and great teamwork to achieve our goal.

A special shout out to Jane from our school who organised the soccer tournament and Ben for organising the cricket tournament. This is one of the wonderful things the students of St Brendan's are lucky to be a part of.

Make sure you book a tour to see all the other magnificent programs our school offers. You can call us on 03 9376 0249 or explore our website on sbflemington.catholic.edu.au



Flemington Primary student.

Years 3 to 6 are characterised by a program that builds on the early years through the development of science, technology and student-led inquiry. A student driven approach is taken to enable students to deeply connect to their learning, make connections and develop comprehensive understanding.

Flemington Primary students have specialist teaching in Music, Arts, Library,

Mandarin-Language and Culture and Physical Education. Extension programs run weekly to build student voice and leadership or to extend gifted learners, or those who want to explore a passion or interest further.

Flemington Primary School facilities include an instrumental music wing, PE centre, science room, kitchen classroom, outside classrooms, sensory garden, wellbeing centre, and specialised classrooms for all subject areas. We are MOST proud of our student designed playgrounds that encourage cubby building, sand play, sports and FUN!

Come on a school tour with our students and Principal to find out more about Flemington Primary School.

TAX HELP PROGRAM

I am glad to announce that my office will be participating in the 2023 Tax Help Program.

Please use this QR Code to book or find out more information.

The Tax Help program is free and helps eligible people earning \$60,000 or less lodge their tax return online.

Bill Shorten MP
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Minister for Government Services

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Labor

Gathering Men: A place for men to talk, listen, learn and heal

Chris Ward

I was greatly privileged to spend an evening recently as part of the Gathering Men initiative which seeks to provide adult males with a safe place to share matters of the heart.

This initiative was conceived in 2017 by Andrew McSweeney, a long time Kensington resident, and his friend Brett Ellenport whilst 'on country' at Brett's property near Daylesford. In response to a personal tragedy, they felt that other men needed a place to be able to deal with the deeper matters of life, to be safe, to be loved and to be supported as they journey with all the challenges which face a man in the 21st century.

We met at The Venny, that now well-established risk-taking ground on Kensington Road. We sat around in a circle well into the cold evening as a fire smoked us, and we listened to others speak. Matters of the heart are confidential and have no place in this short space, but I witnessed honesty, vulnerability, reflection, and a deep desire to care for others. Stories were told without judgment. Care was offered without condition. Gathering Men reflects the values which are written boldly on the wall at The Venny; Respect for Place, Respect for each other, and Respect for oneself.

We were a disparate group that night, fifteen of us ranging in age from the twenties to late sixties. I was honoured to be called an elder due to my age at that upper end. It was a privilege.

Andrew and Brett are gentle men who are most able to direct the flow of conversation and teach others skills to listen and to learn. Gathering Men at The Venny was the second time the group had met in the Metropolitan area and plans to continue this in the future are well in hand. Three-day camps 'on country' near Daylesford have been running for years and come highly recommended.



Gathering Men at The Venny in May 2023 (Photo courtesy Brett Ellenport)

Gathering Men is a safe place. I repeat myself on this, for it is important. Men are often reluctant to open up on deeper matters, and fear judgment and the label of failure. We struggle to articulate our fears even to our closest partners and loved ones. I salute Andrew and Brett for their commitment to this work, and recommend to any man who is able to acknowledge a need to resolve these deeper life matters which trouble them, to step out with courage and become part of Gathering Men.

There is a website, www.gatheringmen.org which will inform you about how to take this step.

I came home smoky, cold and tired, but with a great peace from the shared experiences which were quietly and honestly revealed around that welcoming fire.

Chris Ward is a long time Kensington resident.

Advertisement

From Seddon to Flem-Ken

Sarah Franklyn

Spending many of my formative years as a resident of Flemington and Kensington, it is still a place that holds a huge place in my heart.

While working at McDonald's on Racecourse Rd, I became deeply connected to the locals in my role as the local area marketer. As Chair of Flemington Neighbourhood House, I was instrumental in running the Flemington Multicultural Festival that closed Racecourse Road, if you can believe it!

What I've learnt about this place is that the people have real heart, deep care for each other and a desire for everyone in the community to succeed. The multicultural nature of Flem-Ken is the essence of what makes it one of Melbourne's hidden gems.

Now living a little further down the road in Yarraville, I am privileged to be part of Community Bank Seddon. Recently, we made a commitment to the Flem-Ken community to create more opportunities for youth and community connections to continue the work of Community Bank Flemington.

Being a Community Bank, our role is to continue to invest in the communities

that support us. We use the profits from banking, with our partner Bendigo Bank, to invest in local groups that have an impact for people who live there.

The board and staff of Community Bank Seddon are so pleased to be able to support these fantastic programs that we know make a real difference for the people and places that participate. And the great news is there is so much more to come.

Flem-Ken shaped my attitude towards community, and I am so pleased that in a small way I am part of something that's giving back to the community that has a place for everyone.

If you want to get in touch about your banking or community group that needs support, contact our team at:

Community Bank Seddon
90 Charles Street, Seddon
P: 03 9687 2500
E: Seddon@bendigobank.com.au
Open: Mon - Fri 9:30am - 5:00pm

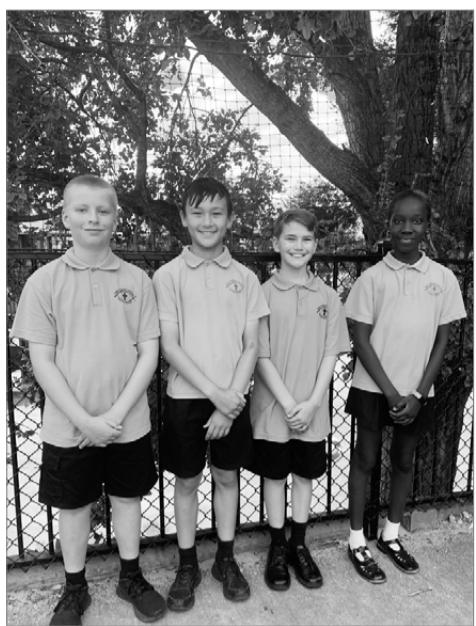
Community Bank
Seddon

 Bendigo Bank



Recently, Community Bank Seddon have made significant local community investments, including:

- 44 primary school kids attending Urban Camp
- 170 kids participating in The Huddle's school holiday program
- Four scholarships for students from Mt Alexander College attending university
- Community Planting Day at Kensington Stockyard Food Garden
- Flemington Traders Easter Egg Hunt
- Kensington Neighbourhood House's Food Pantry and Kids 'Out and About' Program
- Progress Kinder Fete
- Moonee Valley Bridge Club's 'Super Congress' event
- Union Road Traders Artisan Market



Holy Rosary sports

Year 5/6 House Team Leaders

We've had lots of fantastic sporting events at Holy Rosary so far this year. Our students have participated in District Swimming, our P-6 School Athletics Carnival at Aberfeldie, Summer Sports Gala Day and swimming lessons at Victoria University. Our Year Six House Leaders would like to share their experiences of these events. We are very proud of the way they have helped to prepare students for the Athletics Carnival, led their house team with responsibility and enthusiasm, and participated respectfully in the Summer Sports Gala Day.

In Term One our whole school went to Aberfeldie Athletics Track to participate in school athletics. Our families came along to cheer us on. We have four House Teams: MacKillop (blue), McAuley (red), Hennessy

(yellow) and Sion (green). The events for each year level include 50 metres for Preps to Year Two, and 100 metres for Year Three to Six. There are also field events: discus, shot put, long jump and triple jump.

The optional events were 200 and 800 metre races, and hurdles. There is also a range of tabloid events for our younger students. At the end of the day we went back to school and our PE Teacher, Andrea, declared the winners: MacKillop 1st, Hennessy 2nd, McAuley 3rd and Sion came in 4th place. It was a fantastic day.

In the first week of Term 2, the Year 5/6s went to the Summer Sport Gala Day in Ascot Vale. On the Gala Day there were three different sports to choose from; cricket, tennis and soccer. Both the girls' and the boys' soccer teams played three games.

The girls won all of their games and the boys won two of their games. At the end, the boys played for third place and won their last game. The girls played in the finals. It was hard at first but we won 5 - 2. Holy Rosary School was in Group B and the girls finished on top of the leaderboard.

I'm the house leader for McAuley. At the Summer Sports Gala Day I played cricket. We won a few games and we had fun which is the most important thing. All the kids had a great time. At the Winter Sports Gala Day, once again the Year 5/6s will choose between three options; T-ball, AFL and netball. We can't wait!

The Year 1/2s have recently started swimming lessons which will be held each week. In their first lesson they did backstroke, freestyle, monkey along the edge of the pool, and practised jumping into the water. The lessons are to help improve the children's swimming skills but they also had a great time.



Cooking and colour at Kensington Primary

Beth Wallace

Students at Kensington Primary always welcome the opportunity to get their hands dirty in the school's kitchen garden – a much-loved feature of the grounds and home to our resident chooks.

Grades are rostered onto our cooking and gardening program every Friday morning to undertake tasks such as planting, weeding, watering and mulching, but it was with particular excitement earlier this year that we reintroduced the cooking component of the class, which had been on hold for the past few years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Several year levels, starting with our Year 1 and Year 2 students, have already donned their aprons to unleash their culinary skills and creativity in the kitchen. It has been so lovely to once again experience the aroma of freshly

baked food permeating the school.

Another highlight of the year so far has been our Colour Run: a fundraising initiative to support further development of our gardens and outdoor spaces.

One gloriously sunny day towards the end of term 1, students and teachers alike raced through a series of obstacles at JJ Holland Park while dodging (or, on occasion, running directly towards!) showers of colourful powder, sprayed by enthusiastic parent volunteers.

It was a rainbow-splattered student cohort that walked back to school for the event's conclusion: the 'sliming' of some very brave (and obliging!) members of staff.

We have no doubt that the coming months will be equally – if not more – thrilling.

members of our community.

For many years he was a dedicated volunteer with Flem Ken News, providing sound advice to Mary and the team. He also volunteered at Kensington Community High School, mentoring senior students.

Peter was also a member of the Celtic Club and acted as their Secretary for a number of years.

A true gentleman and much respected community member, Peter will be very much missed.

Lesley McCarthy is Secretary of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington.



Vale Peter Donnellan

Lesley McCarthy

Peter Michael Donnellan, a resident of Ormond Street, Kensington and esteemed long term lawyer in Flemington has died after a long illness.

He is survived by his wife Kien and daughter Susan.

Peter was a member of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington from 2008 until his retirement in 2021. During those years he held the positions of Secretary for 3 years and of Treasurer for 3 years.

He also provided significant financial, legal and administrative advice to the club and was valued for his strong sense of social justice.

At Rotary, he could always be found at a BBQ or in the Op Shop, was a regular careers adviser at the MAC Careers Days and much enjoyed the social side of life including the dinners, Art Shows and gardening events. Peter was recognised for his efforts with the Jim Hosie Trophy in 2014 and as a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) in 2019.

An esteemed and well known lawyer, with a practice on Racecourse Road, Peter also volunteered with a number of organisations providing legal and financial advice, mentoring young people and supporting less advantaged

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Mini the cat comes home

Stephen Alomes

In our neighbourhood we often communicate as we walk the streets, and in virtual Facebook communities. Sometimes the Kensington Good Karma Network is great for moving boxes (and bubble wrap too), but weaker on public service announcements, including providing limited advice on pandemic dangers.

Despite its odd nuances, KGKN's empathetic best shows when someone's cat or dog goes missing. Usually the missing furry friend is found around their area, and sooner rather than later.

When the fluffy and beautiful Mini jumped off her balcony in the Henry St area on 5 January, she knew nothing about the world outside her warm and comfortable flat.

On KGKN we all offered our support and helpful advice - the 3am call, offers to put out food, post on lost pet sites ... Has she gone to nearby escarpment bushland? And our best wishes and fingers crossed.

Pets today are in the family more than ever before. Jess and Lee expressed their love and concern more than expected, not just online.

They orchestrated images of Mini, posters and beautiful circular stickers appeared on walls and poles - from the Maribyrnong River to Pin Oak Crescent, from Ormond St to Stubbs St near the creek.

Discussing The Voice and resilience in Flem-Ken

Sheila Byard

The VOICE in Kensington Flemington

What is happening locally about the planned referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Australia's parliament?

You may have seen a postcard like the one shown above, designed by Alkina Edwards for Together, Yes, and promoting 'Kitchen Table Conversations'. This is an initiative of the Victorian Women's Trust as a Trustee of the Dugdale Trust for Women & Girls. Together, Yes falls under the banner of the Yes Alliance, created by the First Nations – led organisation Yes 23, formerly known as From the Heart.

If you'd like to become a Conversation Host you can register at www.togetheryes.com.au/get-involved

One evening in early May about 20 locals – and some from further afield - got together at Hardimans to discuss VOICE over a drink and light refreshments. This gathering was organised by the local Not for Profit Grandparents Victoria. The idea was to share thoughts on how individuals might encourage support for a Yes vote.

As a discussion starter, copies were provided of a recent publication by Katie O'Bryan and Paula Gerber of the Castan

The visual callout proliferated as time went on. On Facebook, hundreds offered their emotional support and offered to keep watch. "Hope she comes home soon", "So cute", "Good luck", "thinking of you and Mini".

False sightings yes, but after many weeks people's hopes were fading. Then something happened.

Lee Carnie tells the story:

"Jess and I were absolutely heartbroken when our fluffy cat Mini escaped off our balcony onto the rough streets of Kensington, but we were bowled over by how much care, help and support we received from our neighbours.

"Locals rallied to help us stick up posters, drop off flyers into letter boxes, check their backyards and garages, and to leave out Mini's food bowl and blanket in case she found her way home. Our neighbours joined us on searches through thick shrubs and late at night, texted us when they saw an orange black and white cat that looked like Mini, reached out with kind messages of support, and so much more. We've lived in the area for 4 years, but this experience made us realise just how special our local community is."

"After seven weeks adventuring in the wild, Mini was found by a trio of cat-loving salsa aficionados leaving La Encantada Collective late on a Tuesday night. They took her to the 24 hour vet and saw a poster of Mini we'd put up in the lobby weeks earlier. We'd started losing hope, but couldn't have been happier to see her sheepish little face staring back at us in the photo sent by cat rescuers Abigail, Alissia and Catalina."



"Mini couldn't be happier to be safe and back at home with unlimited access to cuddles and tasty treats ... but she won't be allowed out on the balcony ever again!"

A furry local story with a happy ending.

Stephen Alomes is a long time Kensington resident.

clear what the wording is to be for the Referendum in October 2023.

If you'd like to be added to the mailing this for a local Yes campaign write to director@grandparents.com.au

Bousai Comes to Kensington?

"Bousai" means "disaster preparedness" in Japanese. Recently there was a City of Melbourne two part consultation with attendees from Kensington meeting.

This was to explore the idea of Community Resilience in our neighbourhoods, to better understand how the community can prepare itself a variety of challenging circumstances, including fresh epidemics, natural disasters like floods, fires, earthquakes and interruption to supply of essential services such as water, electricity, phones and internet.

We looked at maps and considered ways of being better prepared ourselves, as well as how to build a culture of resilience for particularly vulnerable groups. A survey was prepared and is available online. By the time you read this opportunity to provide feedback on the vulnerabilities and strengths of Kensington will have passed, as the survey was closing on 24 May 2023.

Who will take the responsibility of helping us see how we can best prepare to protect ourselves, our neighbours, children, seniors and our animals remains to be seen. Meanwhile those who can should get to know the Participate Melbourne process by visiting the Participate Melbourne website.
<https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au>



Centre for Human Rights Law, part of Monash University. Their view is that the Uluru Statement from the Heart was created as a generous invitation to all Australians from First Nations peoples to walk together towards a better future.

Having a referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament is the first step on that walk; a chance to change the Constitution to enable First Nations people to be heard in matters that affect them. But as they see it, "there are many myths and misconceptions muddying the waters, whether intentional or not". You can read what they say by visiting the Castan Centre website.

Given the wording of the Referendum question has not been finalised, it was decided to arrange a further discussion, possibly at St Brendan's School in June. By then it should be



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A tribute to Sandra Joy, community champion

The Unison Housing team

Vale Sandra Joy. A much-loved community champion.

Sandra, a Kensington local and well-known community advocate and leader, sadly passed away recently after battling a serious illness.

Kensington has been Sandra and her boys' home since the early 80's and she devoted many years of her life to the local community. She felt a strong connection to Kensington and represented her community on many high-level committees and working groups, including the Kensington Redevelopment Community Liaison Committee (a ministerial appointed committee), which oversaw the staged redevelopment of the former Kensington public housing estate.

Sandra stood up and was a strong advocate for community needs, including increasing homes for families, building the new park and barbecue facilities located outside 50 Clifford Terrace, strengthening community connection and removing the "public housing stigma". Sandra was happy that Kensington residents are proud of where they live.

Sandra sat around the table with local organisations planning the annual Kensington Community Festival, she was the Chairperson of the Kensington Public Tenants Association, was an active member of the Kensington 78 Seniors Club and was always involved in any activity in her Kensington community. Sandra was also well known in her role as the local school crossing supervisor near Holy Rosary

Primary for over 30 years. Sandra received numerous awards in recognition of her tireless commitment to her community.

Sandra was a mum, a friend, a listener, a volunteer, a strong voice, a doer, an advocate and a community champion. When asked why she does what she does in a story written about her a few years back, Sandra answered simply, "It makes me feel good to give something back to my community."

We'll miss you Sandra.



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This advertisement has been produced by Danny Pearson MP, Suite 1, 28 Shuter Street, Moonee Ponds, 3039. This publication is funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications budget.



Holy Rosary farewells Sandra Joy, the best Crossing Supervisor ever

Allison Azzopardi and Ruth Kelly

The Holy Rosary School Community was heartbroken by the sad news of Sandra's passing.

Sandra always brought cheer, kindness and care when she helped us cross the road. She

would always call us by our name and was able to remember all students, past and present. Sandra always enjoyed a happy chat, a hearty laugh and a warm cup of tea.

Students adored Sandra because of her genuine interest in them, their families and school events: she even read our weekly school newsletter and would attend school events such as Family Fun Day and the annual Disco.

Sandra's dedication to her job of Crossing Supervisor resulted in her being nominated by Holy Rosary for acknowledgement by the Melbourne City Council. She was a constant fixture in the fabric of our school and we appreciated her loyalty and reliability. Sandra was always waiting at the pedestrian crossing, come rain, hail or shine!

Sandra's care for others was not only confined to our school, but extended to the wider community. She was an active advocate for those in her neighbourhood and was always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need. Sandra didn't mind what walk of life someone came from, she was simply open and accepting of everyone she met.

When Sandra was unable to continue with her job of Crossing Supervisor, she was sorely missed. Sandra is in our thoughts and prayers. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family.

We will miss Sandra and know that the angels are looking after her in heaven.



Coming together at the 29th Kensington Women's Dinner

Meg Terrill

It was so wonderful to welcome *actual* faces back to the 29th annual Kensington Women's Dinner in 2023. It's been a few years out of whack for this event (thanks COVID), but if anyone can deal with a not-so-regular-cycle it's us ladies, #amiright?

The Kensington Women's Dinner is a long-running, lively annual tradition that aims to foster female fun, friendship and solidarity, and acknowledge women's contributions and challenges in our community. The dinner format varies each year, but always supports local venues and businesses. This year dinner guests were excited to try Mama Le's modern Vietnamese canapes and cocktails – with the 200 tickets selling out in record time.

On the night the venue was absolutely heaving - Apple watch sound warnings were chirping left, right and centre in the beautiful cacophony of 200 women catching up on 3 years worth of news. The drinks and delicious food were worth the wait. Whew, we might need to consider a more low key dinner format for next year...

Attendees enjoyed getting some free sisterhood snaps in the fabulous photo booth sponsored by Edward Thomas Estate Agents. Contributions to the silent auction prizes from local businesses also raised \$955 for the Kensington Neighbourhood House Street Pantry, to support families (and often women) facing household food insecurity.

Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the Kensington Women's Dinner tradition and we'd love to invite any new members of our community to come along and connect, send us your ideas, or - even better - jump in and join the event committee. Reach out to us at kensingtonwomensdinner@gmail.com.

Remembering Laurie Larmer

Danny Pearson

Just before Anzac Day of this year, our community lost a great man and a very good friend of mine, Laurie Larmer. Laurie was one of our last surviving WWII veterans and had spent his time in the war piloting Halifax bombers in bombing raids over Germany.

Laurie also was the publican of the Doutta Galla Hotel for many years in the 1980s. I got to know Laurie when I was first elected to State Parliament and Laurie talked with great pride about how he built the business up to be what it remains today; a safe welcoming pub that is part of the Flemington-Kensington community.

However, it was not always like this. Laurie talked about the first Saturday night he worked at the Doot. A fight broke out in the main bar and things looked like they were getting out of control. Laurie called the Flemington Police Station, only to be told they only went to the Doot if they had four officers available and, as there weren't four officers available, Laurie had to sort matters out himself...!

Laurie had ring-side seats to what life was like at that time in Flemington. He was so proud of the fact that he was able to turn the pub around that by the end of his time at the Doot, a single officer could come into the bar safely.

Laurie retired up at Strathmore and in his



WWII veteran and former publican Laurie Larmer with State MP for Essendon Danny Pearson.

retirement, spoke more about his war service. He visited many of the towns and villages he bombed to apologise. Laurie visited one town and gave a Mayor a few days notice of his impending arrival. The Mayor of the town put on a small service and apologised for its size, observing to Laurie that if Laurie had given more notice they could have put on a bigger

event for him. Laurie, quick as a flash, said that he gave more notice this time than when he last visited...!

Laurie is survived by his three daughters, Anne, Bernadette and Margaret, and at the service at St.Theresa's many spoke of Laurie's kindness and generosity.

Laurie lived his values. An honest, decent, hard-working man who took pride in his work and built firm and long-lasting friendships wherever he went. I am so grateful that I got to know Laurie. He taught me much about life and friendship.

Vale Laurie Larmer.



State MP for Melbourne, Ellen Sandell, with public housing resident Hana and her daughter.

Public housing residents deserve an apology for the hard lockdown

Ellen Sandell - State MP for Melbourne

I was really pleased to hear that high-rise public housing residents in my electorate recently won a large settlement from the State Government, after they were subject to the cruel hard lockdown in 2020.

I hope this outcome provides some sense of relief for those who suffered through that horrible time, though I know nothing can ever make up for what happened.

Unfortunately though, Daniel Andrews and the Labor Government still refuse to apologise to residents for the way in which they were treated.

These residents went days without access to food, medicine and other essential items before an emergency response was deployed. Kids didn't have laptops and internet access to be able to learn from home. One elderly resident went without the essential support of a carer. Police surrounded their homes, and wouldn't allow essential items to be delivered, which was incredibly traumatising for this community, many of whom have fled war and other traumas.

Hana, who is in this photo, had a premature newborn baby in hospital when the 'hard lockdown' happened. She wasn't able to leave her apartment to visit her baby in hospital or even get expressed breastmilk delivered to her baby. After a very distressing few days, we were able to lobby to get breastmilk from Hana to her baby, and eventually a visit with her baby, but it was an awful time for the family.

I recently ran into Hana and her little girl

(pictured) who is now 2 years old and thriving. It was so lovely to catch up with Hana and her family and see them all doing so well.

An apology from the Labor Government is a small thing, but it would make a big difference. Residents I've spoken to believe it's the least the government could do.

Sadly, public housing residents are too often ignored and neglected by governments. The Greens and I will keep fighting for more public housing homes to be built - to meet the need for them - and for more support for residents, like free WiFi and proper maintenance.

If there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch at office@ellensandell.com

Flemington - Kensington
NEWS

Editors note:

It is a long-standing practice of Flem-Ken News to provide newspaper space for members of the state and federal parliaments representing residents of Flemington and Kensington.

We alternate state and federal MPs with each edition, providing an opportunity for them to speak directly to communities they serve.

The articles are not a reflection of any editorial position of the Flem-Ken News editorial team, who remain politically independent.

Local author shines a light on Tanya Plibersek

Barb Ward

Well known and admired local author Margaret Simons' most recent book *On Her Own Terms* is a fascinating biography of Tanya Plibersek, currently Minister for the Environment and Water in the Albanese Labor Government.

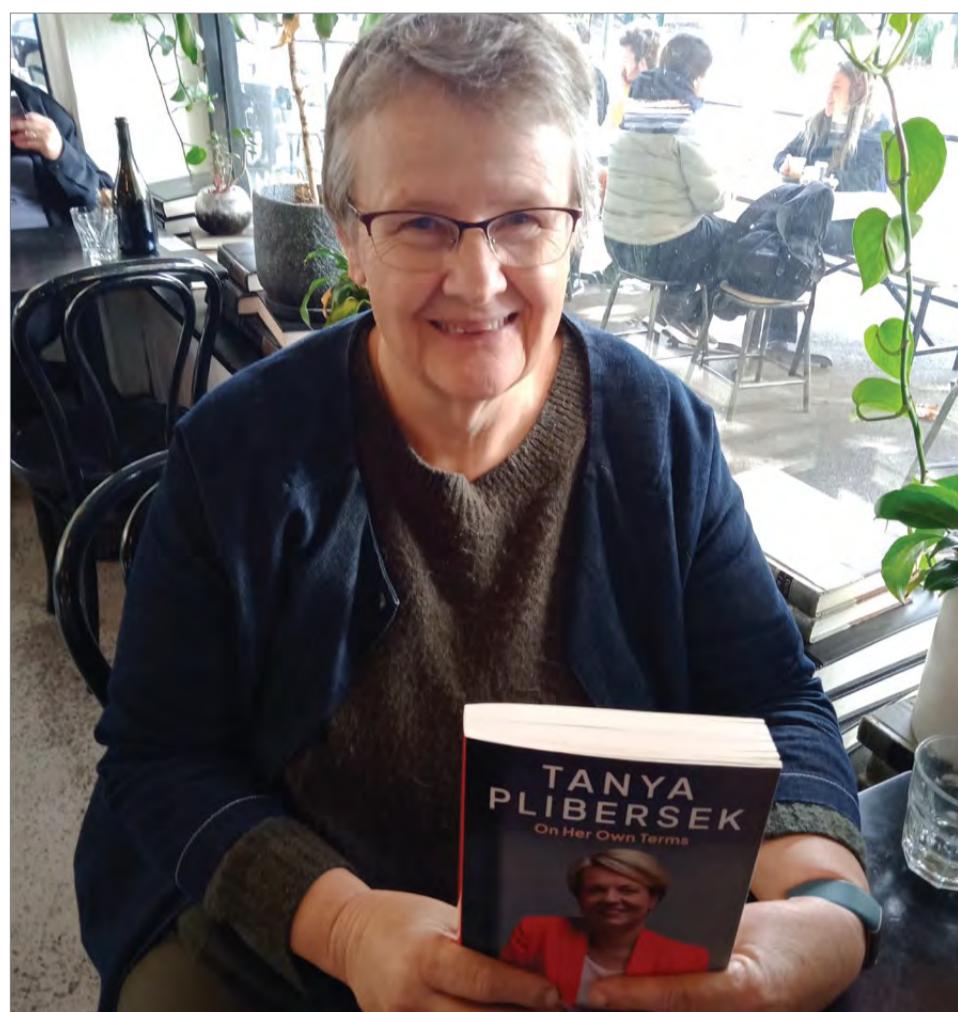
Margaret bought her Flemington house in 1989, while working for The Age and lived here for some years. After a ten-year stint in New South Wales, where her children were born, she returned to Flemington in 2003, and has lived here ever since.

On Her Own Terms is Margaret's fifteenth book (together with four other smaller publications) and her interests are wide-ranging. They include sustainable gardening, the media, national water policy, politics and political biography.

After a career in academia and as a journalist with major newspapers and publications, Margaret is now a freelance journalist, author and honorary journalism academic.

This biography of Tanya Plibersek is a beautifully written, measured portrait of a very influential politician, with insights offered by a range of people consulted for the book. It is generous, comprehensive and carefully interwoven with political events so that it reads effortlessly.

Plibersek's background as the child of



migrants who came to Australia to escape European chaos after the Second World War is a familiar but no less inspiring story.

Her marriage to Michael Coutts-Trotter, who overcame serious drug addiction and spent time in prison to become a senior

bureaucrat in the current New South Wales Government is covered sensitively.

For those interested in policy issues such as childcare, women's equity, family violence and education (and that is many of us) the book also charts Plibersek's involvement in policy

development in this area.

It is a fascinating testimony to her values, persistence and ability to identify the issues important to Australians before they became widely recognised.

This biography is also helpful in explaining some mysteries of the ALP factional system, although it frustrated me to be reminded of the time lost in factional battles and manoeuvring.

The Plibersek book was researched largely in COVID lockdown, which meant that many of the interviews for the book were done by Zoom from Flemington. Those who use Zoom will know that this presents challenges, particularly when dealing with nuanced relationships. However, the book shows no signs of impact from the limitations imposed by a once in a century pandemic.

Simons' other political and media biographies, *Latham's World: The New Politics of the Outsiders* (2004), *Malcolm Fraser: The Political Memoirs* (2010), *Kerry Stokes: Self-Made Man* (2013) and *Penny Wong: Passion and Principle* (2019) have all been very well received and add considerably to our knowledge and understanding of the exercise of power in our society.

Margaret Simons writes in a study in the roof of her home, with a view over Flemington.

It is reassuring to know that such a superb writer is ensconced high above our suburb as she toils away to enlighten us about these national figures.

Barb Ward is co-editor of the Flem Ken News.

Introducing the Flemington youth committee

David Fisher

A group of young people have been meeting regularly over recent weeks to decide on a suite of fun, inclusive activities for kids and young people around the Flemington estate. The activities are intended to fill a gap in services prior to the long-awaited opening of the Djerring Flemington Hub later this year.

Nabiha, a year 11 student who lives locally and is a member of the Flemington Youth Committee, describes the initiative best.

"The youth committee is here to allocate the \$65,000 dollars we've been given, and we're using that money to invest in certain programs and activities that we can run through school holidays and after-school programs for kids."

The youth committee is supported by staff from the Moonee Valley City Council Flemington Works team, who have a long history of working closely with young people connected to the Flemington estate.

The co-design social enterprise YLab has also been involved, running a number of sessions to help committee members develop a process for reaching decisions.

The whole program has funding from Paving the Way Forward, a multifaceted state government initiative that emerged in the aftermath of the COVID lockdowns with an emphasis on increasing resident participation and decision-making.

Nabiha spoke to me about the need for



the youth committee, and how getting young people involved in such decision-making can be an empowering experience.

"Personally, I think it helps kids that live here recognise that they have a voice and that they can be heard about what they want to be different."

"I think a lot of young people here just want to be understood, and two, to have the same things they know their friends and peers around them have access to. So things like the committee help to show that there can be positive things to gain from living here."

"And having a way to learn things in an accessible manner, where you don't need to pay, is also important. I know growing up I got help tutoring [at the old Flemington Community Centre], learned how to cook things, learned how to ride a bike. Just a lot of things that kids would want to do growing up."

The committee meets at the pop up hub at the edge of Debney Park. The sessions are full of fun and open discussion, as members break into groups and review expressions of interest for activities from local organisations and service providers.

Decisions have not been finalised, so you'll have to hold tight to find out what fun things will be available for young people and kids in the coming months. But the process of working in the committee and engaging with diverse perspectives has already proven a valuable experience for Nabiha.

"I think a skill I have improved in is speaking in a big group, and being able to confidently speak my opinion and not feeling like I'm being judged."

David Fisher is co-editor of the Flem Ken News.

On the Flemington Resident Action Group

Awatif Taha

Paving the Way Forward is a unique, innovative program that has connected the community and enhanced the voices of residents at Flemington and North Melbourne public housing precincts.

Here, one resident speaks of her involvement with the program and the legacy it will leave.

I am Awatif Taha, a Sudanese community worker. I was born in Shandi, near the Nile River in Sudan and raised in Khartoum. I studied at the University of Sudan and married a local journalist but after the military took power in Sudan, we moved to Egypt.

Because of the political instability in Egypt too, we chose to come to Melbourne as refugees. During the first days, I started learning English and working at childcare centres and schools.

I have been a community worker for a long time, serving the local African community and women and young people of all backgrounds.

There isn't a day that I am not involved in helping my neighbours to resolve housing issues. I support women who have been affected by family violence, help people with outstanding maintenance requests and transfer applications.

I became a local advocate and spokesperson on behalf of my community during COVID



-19 and was encouraged to join the Paving the Way Forward Resident Action Group – a group of residents who came together with the Department and other organisations to improve the North Melbourne and Flemington Public Housing Estates.

We have worked with local government over the last three years to listen to people on the ground and help shape their ideas into real and practical solutions for the estates.

I have stepped in to chair these conversations many times and always

encourage people from all backgrounds to participate.

During the pandemic, I worked persistently to provide essential emergency relief to Flemington and North Melbourne residents and other community members. I have enormous love and dedication to my community, sacrificing my time and sharing my skills and resources generously to ensure they thrive.

As a native Arabic speaker, I have also acted as interpreter and translator for members of my community. It was critical at that time, when I shared life-saving information with residents of Flemington and North Melbourne Estates.

I am also an advocate for women's mental health, consistently advocating for new approaches to improve mental health and wellbeing among multicultural communities.

Paving the Way Forward has helped me to understand my rights and encouraged me to participate in different reference groups – Homes Victoria maintenance group, multicultural women groups, and multilingual reference groups.

Through Paving The Way Forward, we have been able to identify people's problems and find solutions. We have learned a lot of things, met many people along the way and built good relationships.

Residents now have a stronger voice and can speak up – and I know the conversations will continue to help solve problems and keep the community connected.

A gecko on my pillow

Ros Nataprawira

When preparing for bed one rainy night in autumn, I was startled to find a tiny Marbled Gecko on my pillow.

My kind husband gently coaxed the delicate little lizard into his cupped hands and carried it to the garden shed where it could remain dry and undisturbed throughout the winter.

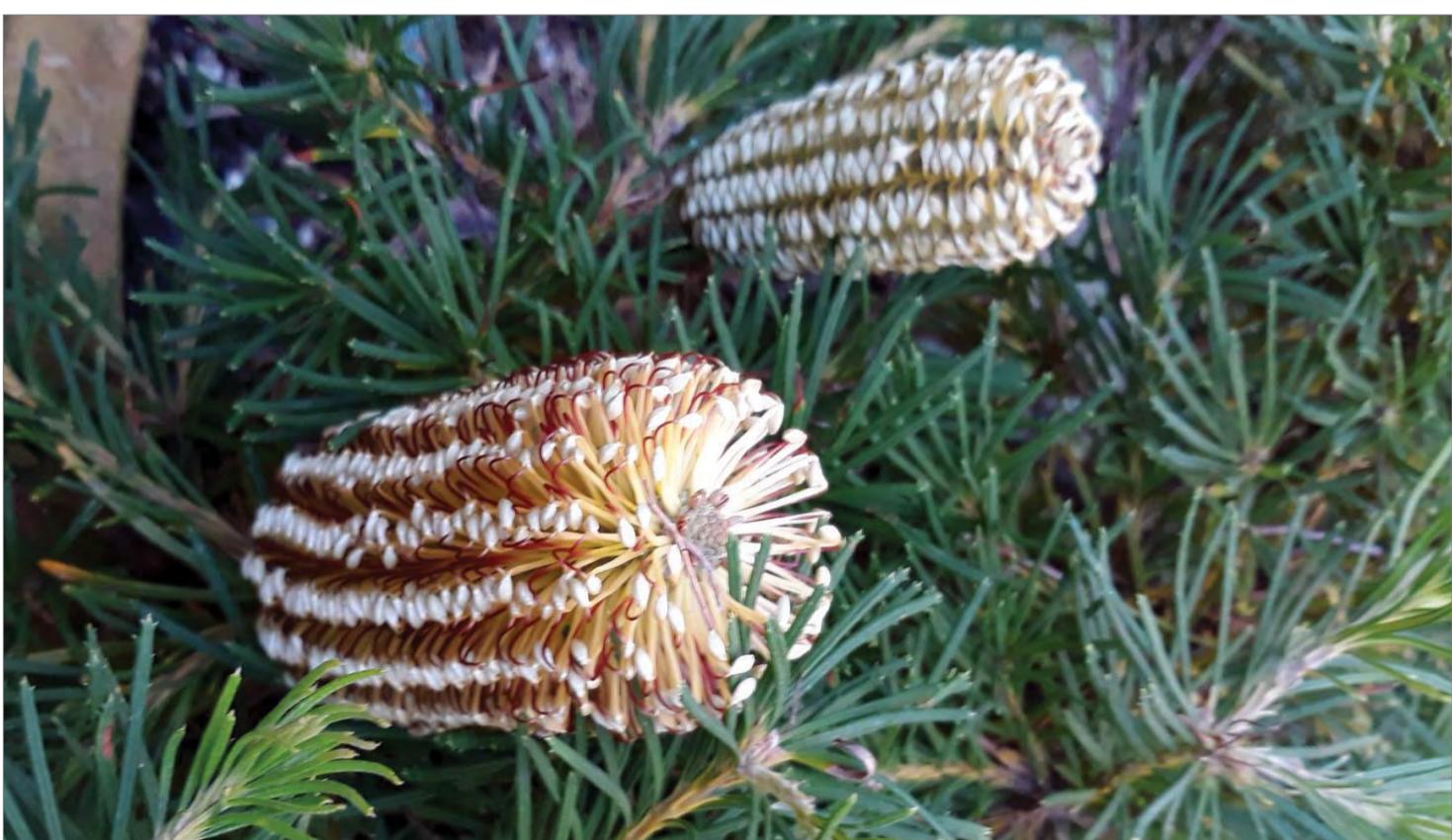
We have previously discovered geckos overwintering in a basket of old gardening gloves in the shed and in a stack of empty pots under a tree.

In nature, geckos hibernate in hollow logs, beneath tree bark or under rocks. In the warmer months geckos hunt at night for small invertebrates like moths, cockroaches, spiders and mosquitoes so they are good to have around and do us no harm.

Urban geckos inhabit most gardens but are rarely seen. In community garden groups I have twice witnessed knee-jerk reactions of alarmed gardeners when they encountered a gecko. In both cases the outcome for the gecko was not a happy one. So, dear gardener, tread gently and observe closely because we share our gardens with a myriad of fascinating creatures.

Winter flowering shrubs

Grevilleas, correas and banksias are available in nurseries now. I love banksias



and currently have three Banksia "Birthday Candles" growing in 35 cm terracotta pots.

The development of a banksia candle is a slow burn, beginning at the beginning of autumn. Gradually the nectar-bearing styles unfurl and darken as winter approaches. This time of year, is when honeyeater birds are desperate for a feed and banksias supply abundant nectar for them.

I have had little success growing banksias in the open ground because our soil is too heavy and nutrient-laden. However, dwarf banksias grow exceptionally well in pots.

Banksias are killed by phosphorous so I use a potting mix for Australian Natives. Over time the pine bark in potting mixes degrades so I include granitic sand in the mix to slow down the process because it is nigh impossible to repot a banksia.

Winter Crops for Containers

I have four broccoli boxes now and there is room for no more! We are harvesting baby carrots and Asian Greens from two of the boxes. Snow peas are just getting under way in another box and the final box is devoted to my favourite vegetable: the parsnip.

A broccoli box is ideal because it is deep enough and can be kept moist. Parsnips can be planted just 10 cm apart so I can fit six in a box. Parsnips must be grown from fresh seed and are notoriously hard to germinate. It generally takes three weeks but I have discovered it can take up to six weeks for some seeds to pop up.

So far, I have grown only three parsnip seedlings, now at various stages of development. Slugs ate another three. To prevent this happening again, I am sowing fresh seed under clear plastic cloches made from small drink bottles cut in half.



Long live community theatre!

Tom Collins

If you were looking for a show about time-travelling, bisexual, punk-rocking gods then the Flemington Theatre Company's *Cynisca* would've been right up your alley.

If you also wanted a show about courage, with awesome original music from Flemington locals, a bit of political satire and some thought provoking challenging of gender norms, this was for you.

There is always a risk with original productions but three sold out shows at The Clocktower Centre showed that the FTC has found a formula (and lots of family and friends) that makes it work.

They roped in locals who are professional musicians (Troy Portelli) or studying to be professional (Mq Iser-Smith), stage managers from the Victorian College of the Arts (Marcus Lew), sound and lighting technicians (Hugo Iser-Smith, Tim Vines- Dreier), image designers (Jules Violet) and backstage support (Cory Boardman, Maha Grice, Julia Paget, Chris Vines).

Eighteen Flemington, Kensington or

Travancore locals ranging in age from 6 to 66 also participated (Juliette Moore, Fleur Forbes-Rolfe, Alice Collins, Charlotte Hagger, Francesca Portelli, Clementine Shorten, Jutta Dreier, Paul Fung, Sarah Coat, Keighley Williams, Amelia Tooher, Naomi Fennell, Ramsay Smith, Tom Collins).

They brought the original script (Rose Iser) and sets (Ramsay Smith) alive with great lines and mad singing and dancing.

Cynisca was the first woman to win a gold medal at the Ancient Olympic Games in 396BC, but until now we know very little about her or her victory. How did she enter the male-only games? Why did she enter? How did she win?

The production didn't try to answer these questions factually but explored the role of fate, divine intervention, drunk gods, gender constructions, and human courage in shaping the course of history.

At the centre of the story is the bravery of two girls, one who wanted to play cricket with the boys in the 1980s (Elodie Moore), and the other who wanted to compete in the Ancient Olympics in Sparta in 396BCE (Alina Grice) and one woman (*Cynisca*, Carlotta Miglioli) who all fought for change. Josephine Immel was the narrator glued the whole thing together.

It was an uplifting show of courage (in the story, for those on the stage, and for those behind the scenes)!

To their bravery!!

PS: A Travancore friend sent this message after bringing his kids along, said: "... The show was fabulous ... I reflected whilst you, Alice, Frankie were on stage (and Troy up the back) how fortunate we are to live in a community which has a great theatre where we go and watch friends perform."



Bill's Underrated Classics - Julie Ruin

Bill Twyford

Welcome to Bill's Underrated Classics! the series in which I look at records and sounds from the past which I highly recommend you consider, either for re-listening or giving a spin for the first time.

Julie Ruin is not a real person, it's a farce. It's an eponymous title under a pseudonym created by Kathleen Hanna and was almost entirely self-produced by Hanna in the period between Bikini Kill falling apart and Le Tigre beginning.

The record was issued by Bikini Kill's record label Kill Rock Stars in 1997. It was largely forgotten about shortly after it was recorded as Kathleen focused on Le Tigre and eventually her solo band The Julie Ruin (Julie Ruin and The Julie Ruin are two entirely separate bands).

The record hasn't been reissued and remains a fairly obscure blip in the career of a most important musician in rock music's

litres of waste is fed through the composter, producing about 30 litres of compost a week. The compost will be used to improve soils for our local food producers.

Having dined at Cassette already and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, I am excited that we have a restaurant that is focused on local and seasonal produce to create the menu, with the exception of ingredients such as spices. The menu is creative, delicious and inclusive, catering for all dietary requirements. It will have something for all.

development.

Hearing the opening track, "Radical Or Pro Parental", and the following 14 tracks felt almost surreal. This record sounds like I stumbled across it on a bandcamp recommendation from a new artist. It radically morphs production throughout the album, going from samples of The Clash to blown out 4 track guitars over Kathleen's unmistakeable and city flattening vocals, which are a force of unrecognisable power.

Her songwriting fully shines through as nothing stands in her way, the way she wants the song to sound is how it's going to sound. There is little predictability with the record.

Even with the commitment to low fidelity production you can see that Kathleen knows her way around a lot of tools. Her use of sampling and drum machines behind guitar-based punk feels like a psychic vision of the past 10 years of independent punk.

Endlessly infectious riffs and layered vocals go through the full spectrum of emotions that can be expressed accurately in music. Equal parts being able to be cried at and fight to.

It soundtracks the highest and lowest points of some mountains made of melted records and cassette tapes with this fictitious character of Julie Ruin standing on top confidence in the face of extreme self-doubt.

The accidental burying of this record is criminal, especially considering it feels like a whole generation has been influenced by a record they've never heard.

If you ever see it buy it.

If you haven't heard it make sure you do as it is an underrated classic well worth stopping by for a listen.

Cassette is a great addition to the area. How lucky are we to have a restaurant that delivers on multiple levels. It allows our residents to not only sample delicious, locally sourced produce but also have the bonus of knowing everything on your plate has been cleverly created with no waste.

Personally, food waste and incorrect disposal upsets me, but my visit to Cassette put a big smile on Betsy's face. So I encourage all to enjoy visiting Cassette and support a business who are simply inspirational, clever and creative.



Clever Cassette

Betsy Beers

For this edition I was fortunate to visit one of our newer eating venues in Cassette, on Macaulay Road in Kensington. Many of us are increasingly worried about climate change and like to see businesses doing all they can to be conscious of their climate footprint. I feel comforted to find a venue that takes food waste seriously. Cassette have set up their business as an example to all restaurants and cafes.

A lot of time and resources go into producing food and head chef Laura and the team waste nothing, adopting a 'root to stalk' ethos. Unusable parts of the produce are used to make preserves, fermentations, stock and even a vegetable powder made from dehydrated vegetable scraps.

A biodigester composter has been installed close to the kitchen and is used for any food waste that cannot be re-purposed from the café (mainly egg shells and coffee grinds), as well as composting the food waste of residents living above the café. Approximately 50



Cassette's biodigester composter produces about 30 litres of compost per week, from food waste from the cafe and apartments above.

& Juliet knocks it out of the Theatre

Mary Keating

Lorinda Merrypor, who plays Juliet in the musical & Juliet, spoke with me about the production and her experience in the lead role.

What is the overall feeling you have about the musical? I asked.

"It's a big party of a show and makes me feel joyous. Its inspiring" said Lorinda." The female role is often secondary, but in this musical the role of Juliet leads and the story flips the stereotypical roles, which is very powerful.

"The heart and soul of the story is a woman's story. Juliet takes control of her destiny. The story is told through rollicking contemporary music and great acting."

Rob Mills plays Shakespeare, Casey Donovan puts in a groundbreaking monologue as Angelique the nursemaid and Blake Appelqvist is Romeo.

The music and lyrics by Max Martin include a playlist of pop anthems including Baby One More Time, Since U Been Gone, Larger than Life and Can't Stop the Feeling.

"One of the most moving parts of the show is the love story between May, Juliet's non-binary friend and Francoise Du Bois" said Lorinda. "We were lucky enough to be representing communities around us."

"We were able to work with Jennifer Weber the choreographer, to prepare for the show and the lighting designers did research by going to



a lot of pop concerts. The show makes the story of Romeo and Juliet more accessible and a lot of younger people are now enamoured with Shakespeare" said Lorinda.

Flemington resident Rob Hunt saw the musical and made the following comments. "It's a very modern musical and touches on sexual and transgender issues. Taylor Swift, the Backstreet Boys, Beyoncé and Adele came across as very uplifting.

"I thought the best act was Casey Donovan as Angelique. It's a powerful musical, a play, playing with the roles of Shakespeare.. Shakespeare is up there. Brilliant. It made me sit up and think, especially in relation to transgender issues. Go and see it if you can. You won't regret it."

Vale Dr Low

Lesley McCarthy

Dr Theong Ho Low, PHF was a Charter member of the Rotary Club of Flemington in 1987.

He was a long serving GP in Pin Oak Crescent Flemington and was renowned for his care and compassion, especially in assisting with medical aid to south east Asia.

Theong was an early member of ROMAC - the Rotary Overseas Medical Aid program for children and he encouraged the club to support this work bringing children from Vietnam and the Philippines to Melbourne. He was the first National ROMAC Medical Director in 2000 and in his tenure brought over 50 children to Australia for surgery.

In 1996 together with PP Allan Bruno and the club was instrumental in bringing the Bosin conjoined twins from Papua New Guinea to Melbourne for life saving surgery.

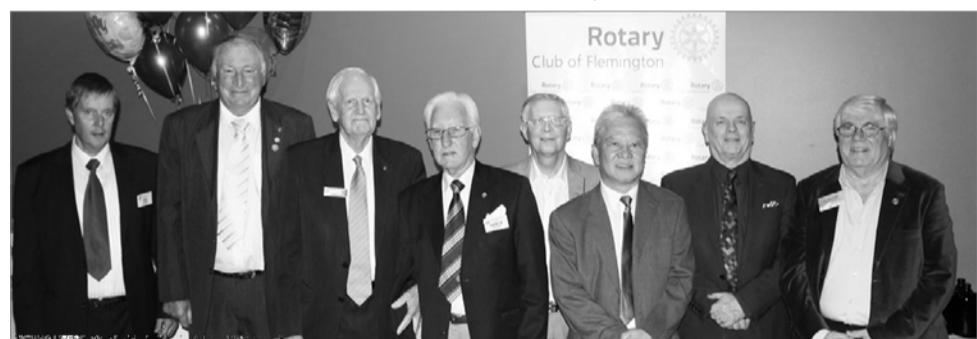
Theong later took on a role with UNESCO as a medical ethics director and worked on a team performing cleft lip/palate surgery in China. He personally sponsored the Samvedna (compassion) Project in Mussoorie,



Uttarakhand, North India providing care for the disabled in the surrounding villages. He started a foundation for this with Casey Tan from Rotary Carlton. Additionally, he was a strong supporter of the Western Autistic School in Niddrie.

Theong is survived by his wife, Sue, and our sympathies are extended to her and the family.

A funeral service was held on Monday 15 May 2023 at 10am at Tobin Brothers, Glen Waverley.



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CHESTNUTS

With a significant flu season predicted this year, we are now taking bookings for flu vaccinations through our new online booking management program VaxApp.

Bookings are now available for our community sessions, individual appointments and for the first time, on-site workplace immunisations.

Influenza vaccination significantly reduces the risk of contracting influenza and passing the virus to family, colleagues and friends.

For more information and to book, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/fluvaccine



QR code to book community sessions

BINS BOOST CONFIDENCE FOR MEN LIVING WITH INCONTINENCE

A trial of free incontinence product disposal bins across the City of Melbourne has been expanded to three extra locations to make the service more accessible to the community.

The bins are now located in the men's and all-gender toilets at the following Council-owned facilities:

- Carlton Baths
- City Library
- Fawkner Park Senior Citizens Centre
- Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre
- Kathleen Syme Community Centre
- Kensington Neighbourhood Centre
- Library at the Dock
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets (on Collins Street)
- North Melbourne Community Centre.

Melbourne is the first capital city in Australia to install incontinence product disposal bins in Council-owned facilities.

The 12-month trial began in September as part of the BINS4Blokes men's health campaign, an awareness and advocacy campaign promoting the installation of incontinence bins in public toilets.

The City of Melbourne is an inclusive and accessible city and we want people who experience incontinence to have access to the facilities so they can feel confident to get out and about.

In launching the trial, Councillor Jamal Hakim said it's important more people have access to proper disposal bins for their incontinence products – particularly given many instances of incontinence can be much better managed with the right resources.

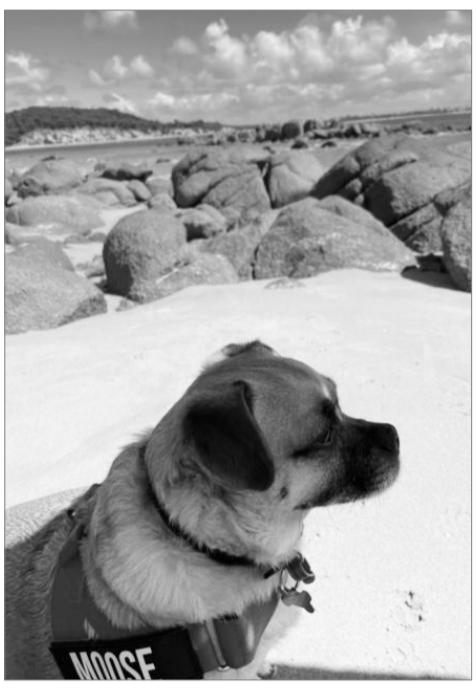
"With the proper facilities to dispose products, we hope those living with incontinence can continue getting out and about, and doing what they love when they're here in the City of Melbourne," Cr Hakim said.

"The trial will not only showcase a practical solution for those living with incontinence, but importantly, raise awareness and facilitate a much-needed conversation on the topic."

The bin trial runs until the end of September.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/bins4blokes





Pet Neighbours

Dr D.O. Little

Welcome to the first edition of Pet Neighbours, an ongoing column where we meet an animal friend living in the neighbourhood. In this first edition we introduce Moose, a sometime boisterous Jug who lives on Bellair Street.

Tell me a bit about yourself and how you came to live with your 'hooman' family?

Woof, woof, ruff ruff woof

Sorry could you speak in human?

Oh, apologies for that, my name is Moose and I'm an almost 3 and a half year old Jug, a

cross between a Jack Russell and a Pug. I met my hooman family at the lost dogs home at Cranbourne. I live with Marsharl and Jondrew and my two adult siblings, Billiam and Maggie. I am a little bit of a quirky pup, but that means I fit in really well at home with my family. I have tendencies from both my Pug and Jack Russell heritage.

How do you like to spend your days?

Leaning more to my Pug side, I never like to be more than a metre away from my family at any point in time. I love to bark at passing dogs and hoomans when I am in my front yard, bark loudly any time the front doorbell rings, morning and afternoon naps on either the couch or the bed, but most of all I love a pat and particularly a belly rub.

Where do you like to go for walks?

I normally only go for walks if both Marsharl and Jondrew are with me, unless they trick me and I prefer to go for a drive in the car first. I don't like dog parks because I get a bit scared.

Do you have any other canine pals?

I like to bark or growl loudly at any pups walking past my house but really I am just protecting my space and when out of the house on a walk, I can get quite scared so I don't really have any puppa mates. I guess I like my hooman pals the best and any time there are people over at our house, particularly if there is a bit of a party, I love to catch up with my hooman mates or meet new friends and hopefully get more 'belly rubs'

If you have a pet friend that would like to be interviewed, please get in touch with the editorial staff.

Winter 2023 Flemington Library notices

Join in World Wide Knit in Public Day and meet fellow knitting enthusiasts and knit a square for charity.

Date: Saturday 10 June 11am – 1pm

Location: 40 Crown Street Stables, 40 Crown Street, Flemington

Author talk: In Conversation: Isobel Beech – Sunbathing with Jaclyn Crupi

Date: Saturday 5 August 11am – 12pm

Location: Crown Street Stables, 40 Crown Street, Flemington

Sunbathing is the first novel from Melbourne writer Isobel Beech. It ranges from Melbourne to Italy as it explores the grief left behind by a father's suicide. Join Isobel Beech in conversation with Jaclyn Crupi as they discuss *Sunbathing*, a stunning debut novel.

Writing for Wellbeing Workshop

Date: Saturday 24 June 11am – 1pm

Location: Crown Street Stables, 40 Crown Street, Flemington

This workshop offers a gentle introduction to writing as therapy, a creative tool for self-awareness, self-acceptance and self-transformation. Learn how to use playful writing techniques to identify your internal conversations (the 'dialogical self'), and discover how these conversations can help you resolve some of the questions and challenges you may face in your daily life. No previous creative writing experience necessary.

Celebrate National Science Week with a day of fun for the whole family with STEM kits to be won!

Date: Saturday 12 August Please see online or visit in branch for session times for activities

Location: Flemington Library, 313 Racecourse Road, Flemington

Bookings for programs and events are taken via:

libraryevents.mvcc.vic.gov.au

You may also call the Flemington Pop-up Library on 9243 1975 or visit us in person to book.

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Farewell to the Flemington Association

John Dickie

In December 2007 twenty locals gathered at Farnham Street to be inspired by Richard Reilly, then chairperson of the Kensington Association, to reinvigorate what was, at that time, the dormant Flemington Association.

Fast forward to March 2023 and only a handful of sombre realists met to agree to unincorporate and disband as a group. A sign of the times, it was an online meeting.

From 2007 there was the introduction of a website, newsletters, monthly meetings, a Facebook page and emails. What was essential back in 2007, the old post office box, eventually became redundant. Sadly, for some at least, so did the Association. It is trite to say this, but times change.

Europeans have only settled on these

E-bikes and e-scooters and the angst they bring

Therese Fitzgerald

Micromobility is the new term to describe the rise of the rental e-bike and e-scooter concept. It looks very appealing to have the option of jumping on an e-bike or scooter and getting home or to work regardless of waiting for private or public transport. However it may be a case of being careful what you wish for.

Recently Parisians voted against having hire e-scooter companies operate in their city even though they had been one of the first places to embrace the concept. The reasons appear to be straight forward as to why they are not wanted, irresponsible behavior and speed being the main factors.

In the UK e-scooters are illegal on any public footpath or road and the main reason is that they don't have rear lights and registration plates. Like the rest of the world they are finding their way with these new modes of transport.

Melbourne has just had an extension given to a study on the hire scooters and as well has had private scooters capable of 25kph legalised so we are at the opposite end of how many Parisians see this transport option playing out.

There have definitely been deaths and injuries directly attributable to the scooters and the bikes. Both young and older people

fine stolen lands we call Flemington for 180 years. Colonists were quick and eager to organise, grow, set up public buildings and infrastructure and, at times, look after others. Associations were vital for that.

Within 20 years, we were establishing local government with Essendon. By the 1880's, the Flemington & Kensington Ratepayers Association was striving for change, with a short-lived and ambitious attempt at our own separate borough.

There was optimism then, and immense civic participation, but times changed. There were wars and struggles and industrial advancements, all leading to bigger governments and public bodies to set and implement broader agendas.

There were always local groups in the interim, but it took until the 1970's to bring back real action and engagement on a community level. That's when committed locals, led by Bill Gardner, established the Flemington Association.

Through active and persistent lobbying, volunteers helped create our neighbourhood

parks and reserves, develop local services (like our legal service, community health service and community houses), protect and celebrate our unique built heritage and take measures to make our community safer, kinder and more inclusive and welcoming.

Many of these things we now take for granted. But they all arose from community action. Led by locals.

The Flemington Association aimed to foster community-led action. Bold aims, perhaps, but it was worth trying. And, on and off, that's what members did for the past 50 years. Including during its recent 15-year stint.

There were many failures. Attempts to restore political boundaries to reflect the shared communities of interest in Flemington and Kensington did not persuade the politicians and bureaucrats. There were rarely concessions in our efforts to make some of the bigger developments, like 1 Ascot Vale Road and the Lombards buildings, better integrate into their surrounds and contribute to all.

There were many things to celebrate. Avoiding East-West Link and the demolition of



have recounted near misses to me in recent conversations. Footpath riding, no helmets, double dinking, drunk driving are all occurring on these devices. And the really challenging issue is that many riders and their injured

victims because of their reckless behavior are not covered by any insurance. As a city and society how are we to manage this?

As a culture we adore speed. We don't have

Newmarket Station. Winning commendations in the Victorian History Awards for our heritage website and walking brochure. Contributing to the renewal of Flemington's housing estate. Sponsorship of the Newmarket Stationers and Flemington Green Ninjas. Promotion of local events. Conducting history walks and talks. Connecting people and other community groups.

Hopefully there is enough good karma out there for others to set up and support similar objectives in the future. But in what form?

What led to the demise of the Flemington Association? It might be symptomatic of the changes in our boundaries and differences in how locals perceive our neighbourhood and local activism. The shift to the online world and the lockdowns of COVID-19 no doubt contributed.

Perhaps we are in good times, and there is less need for community-led advocacy. Younger people are maybe distracted by other commitments.

It would take a cover-to-cover Flem News to profile all the members who valiantly contributed to the Flemington Association over the past 15 years. Flicking through old editions you will see their names in regular reports, articles and activities. Reading these, however, will never fully capture the fun and frustration of some meetings and events over the years.

Without meaning to leave anyone out, and in no order, my own personal thanks go out to Les, Jennie, Karen, Katie, Steve, Hamish, Penny, Meagan, Roger, Marilyn, Ros, Margaret, Chris, Marina, Kerry, Sharon, Annika, Rob and Ed. What an eclectic, interesting, and interested, group of people!

Farewell, for now at least, to the Flemington Association. Long live the Kensington Association!

a slow bike/scooter riding culture. Taking risks and "dare devil" behavior seems to be normal for certain groups in our society. It seems that if we are to have these alternative modes of personal transport operating then we have to consider the wider resources that they will use.

And this is where a lot of work needs to be done. The legal, insurance and even the retail industries have to work together to address these problems. Who is going to compensate accident victims? Do we go down the "No Fault" insurance path? Do we register all privately owned push bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters so that they can then be covered by insurance?

Pedestrians in Paris were clear that the streets felt unsafe with the speed of the scooters and bikes and yet that is their appeal to the users.

Lots of serious questions are being raised. To remain a livable city we have to put our thinking caps on. How do we want our roads and footpaths to operate? Do the new micromobility devices undermine or complement our public transport system? Will walking become dangerous in a walkable city? Are we happy to have police resources used up regulating these new transport options? We have to closely monitor what is being done in other cities.

In the meantime go carefully on our streets.

Therese Fitzgerald is the police liaison for the Kensington Association (KA), and this article was submitted on behalf of the KA.

School, but not as you know it

Rebecca Smith

Imagine this... It's a regular school day at a public primary school. Mums and baby siblings say goodbye to the school students and wave them into the building. Then instead of going home, the mums head to a different area of the school where they drop their youngest children at playgroup and spend a couple of hours taking part in adult learning classes.

Some of the mothers need assistance with housing or healthcare appointments. A community worker who speaks their language is on hand to help – explaining things and supporting them to fill out forms and contact services.

A maternal health nurse drops in to offer consultations. Information sessions are held to help parents understand everything from the school system to employment services to NDIS options.

When the school day ends, a range of activities start – homework club, soccer programs, circus skills, The Venny to You. Children of all ages are active and engaged while their mums gather under the trees of the playground to talk about their lives.

This is exactly what's happening every day at the Debney Meadows Community Learning Hub in Flemington. The Hub is a four year partnership between Kensington

Neighbourhood House (KNH) and Debney Meadows Primary School (DMPS).

Funded by a generous grant from the William Buckland Foundation, The Hub aims to support parents, carers and the wider community to be more involved with the school. This in turn helps improve children's learning and wellbeing outcomes.

"When I first started here, parents would never come into the school," says DMPS Principal, Koreena Carlton. "Now we have family members actively engaging with teachers and getting involved with School Council. During Ramadan we held an Iftar dinner at The Hub and over 150 people attended. Mums, dads, kids, teachers, volunteers. It was wonderful."

The school has also had its largest ever intake of new students, something Koreena attributes to the increased communication between the school and the local community.

Hub Coordinator, Amran Guleid works closely with DMPS Community Liaison Officer, Marwa Zakzouk to make sure that information is shared between families and the school. Together, Amran and Marwa speak 5 different languages and are well respected in the community. This helps to build trust and bridge cultural gaps.

"Parents are really happy to have someone on site to help them with their needs and concerns," says Amran.

"I have parents who just drop in for a chat. Others come to ask for specific help. For instance, I can assist them to apply for the



Hub staff (L-R) Rawia Bid, Amran Guleid, Freyja Dixon

Power Saving Bonus or recently, I helped 20 families apply for sports assistance funding. They wouldn't be able to do this on their own because of language barriers and lack of access to technology."

In addition to DMPS and KNH, a number of other organisations are contributing their expertise to The Hub. These include Edmund Rice Refugee Services, Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Moonee Valley Council, The Venny, Cultivating

Communities and cohealth. It's a great example of a community pulling together to make a huge difference to children's lives.

If you are interested in learning more about the Debney Meadows Community Learning Hub, please contact Project Manager, Freyja Dixon on 9376 6366 or education@kenhouse.org.au

Rebecca Smith is the manager of Kensington Neighbourhood House.

Cathy has been the Manager of Farnham Street for over 30 years. In that time, she has fulfilled a vital community role; flexing to meet the needs of learners, forging strong local connections and ceaselessly offering support at a personal level.

It was a surprise to no one when she received her Finalist nomination.

A celebratory BBQ held in our lovely next-door park was attended by Pierce Tyson, Mayor of Moonee Valley, Helen Sui, Moonee Valley CEO, Rose Iser, Moonee Valley Councillor and Farnham Street Committee Member, Georgina Ryder, Manager, ACFE Regional Engagement, Jennie Chappell, Electoral Officer for our local State MP, Danny Pearson, Celia Rice and Mohnogo Fumbelo from Moonee Valley Council's Arts, Culture and Place Department.

Farnham Street staff and participants were also there to cheer her on.



Celebratory BBQ with representatives from state and local government

Board in partnership with the Victorian Skills Authority and the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

people, helping them gain new skills to return to study, improve digital, language, literacy and employability skills to get a job, change careers and learn skills to adapt to rapidly changing workplace requirements. All in a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment.

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Parish Priest: Fr. Thang Vu
 Priest in Residence: Fr. Joseph Danh Truong
 Administration: 103 Wellington Street, Flemington 3031
 Tel: 9412 8495
 Email: flemken@cam.org.au
 Website: flemkencatholic.com
 Pastoral Centre: 35 Gower Street, Kensington 3031
 (By appointment only)
 Mass Times:

St. Brendan's Church:
 Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday - 9.15am Mass
 Wednesday & Friday - 9.15am Communion Service
 Saturday Vigil - 6pm
 Sunday - 10.30am

Holy Rosary Church:
 Wednesday & Friday - 9.15am Mass
 Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
 Sunday - 9am
 Reconciliation: Saturday 9.45am - St. Brendan's Church
 Marriage & Baptism: Please contact the Administration office
 St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Relief: 1800 305 330

Baptist Church: Tel. 9376 0208
 12 Brighton St, Flemington
 Pastor: Rev. Andy Staunton and Rev. Marcus Curnow
 Sunday Services: 4:30 pm-6:00 pm
 Play Group: Tel 9376 0208
 Hall Hire: Tel 9376 0208
 Flemington People's Pantry: Wednesday 2: 00 pm-3:00pm

St George's Anglican:
 Tel: 0419 334 645
 Cnr Baroda and Lucknow Sts, Travancore
 Vicar: Rev Richard Murray, vicar@stgeorges.org.au
 Website: www.stgeorges.org.au
 Services: Eucharist Sunday 10.00am
 Hall for Hire: David Oliver, 9370 1835

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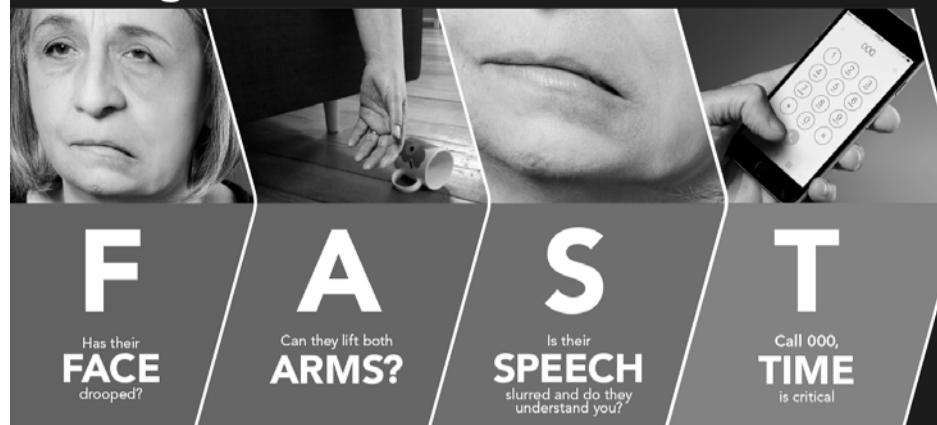
Inner West Church (Anglican)
 Pastor: Peter Greenwood: 0405 764 276
 Meets: Sundays 4pm to 6pm
 Address: 26 Norwood St, Flemington VIC 3031

St Stephen's Presbyterian:
 26 Norwood St, Flemington (9376 3777
 Minister: Mr. Andrew Wong
 Email: st.stephens@scotschurch.com
 Service: Sunday 10:00 am
 Mission: Every Tuesday, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
 Food assistance (1st / 3rd Tuesdays of the month)

St Virgin Mary Coptic Orthodox:
 1-11 Epsom Rd, Kensington Tel. 9376 6005
 Services: Wed, Friday 10am-12pm;
 Sunday 6.30am-9am, 9am-11am

St Michael's Catholic Church:
 Brougham St, Nth Melb, 0418 344 806 or 9376 4864
 Services: Weekend vigil 7pm,
 Sunday Masses: 8.45am, 11.30am, 5.00pm
 Weekday Mass: Tues 6pm (winter), Wed 10am,
 Thurs 6pm (winter),
 1st Friday monthly 6pm (winter)
 Reconciliation: - half hour before Mass time, except Sunday

Ecumenical Lunches
 Contact: robwboud@bigpond.com

Recognise STROKE Think F.A.S.T.

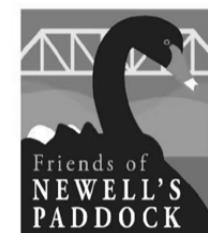
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Women's cricket Grand Final against Point Cook, Sunday 5 March 2023

Eloise Verbeek

After a stellar season, the Flem Colts women's cricket team travelled to Point Cook for their grand final game. There were some nerves initially but batting first, the Hornsby sisters Grace and Hannah took to the crease with the message from coach Pardeep to just bat the full 20 overs.

The Hornsby sisters only have one setting: hard, fast and at the boundary. After the first over, we were 0/16. The fourth over went for 20 runs, and when the Hornsby sisters were compulsorily retired we were already 0/50.

At this point, Lizzie and Vid strode out, dealing with all the Avalon air show traffic overhead. Running and calling well before Lizzie was bowled at the same time as a C-130 Hercules flew very low overhead. With most of the spectators missing the wicket there were calls for the ball to be re-bowled, but Lizzie was happy to walk, with what was later suggested was "too much enthusiasm".

Mads and Alanah were next in and after finding the boundary a few times they were also compulsorily retired – Flem Colts 1/107 after 12 overs. Alissa was next and right back in form with some impressive pull shots. Katherine was out there with her but was caught short in a run out – 2/122 after 14 overs.

The Hornsby sisters returned for the last few overs. We finished our 20 at 4/177. After a short breather Lizzie and Vid opened the

bowling. We kept it tight, with very few extras and only a few singles scored by Point Cook in the first four overs. Our fielders were spread on the boundary, and despite their openers' best efforts, nothing was getting through.

Grace bowling the fifth saw an attempted pull shot to fine leg but instead straight into Hannah's gloves – a bold catch at close range – caught Hornsby, bowled Hornsby – Point Cook 1/24.

Katherine on to bowl, with a total of 12 straight, legal deliveries, two of which were dots: well done Katherine!

Alanah and Jas were next in line to bowl, with the whole team working hard to protect those boundaries – with just a few going through at this point. Point Cook 1/70 at the 10 over drinks break and still with plenty to do if they were to pass the Flem Colts total.

Alanah came out with three dots in her next over, and Mads added three more dots in the 13th. Helped along by the big Flemington Colts crowd, the girls could smell the victory, but knew the extras could still hurt.

Vid back to bowl, and in the 17th, a run out – with their batters tangled and an accurate throw from Alissa on the boundary.

In the last over, Vid created another run out and after 20 overs in the heat Point Cook were done – finishing on 3/150 and the premiership was ours!

The Missing Mansion of Travancore

John Dickie

Local historian Alex Bragiola remembers how, on a school excursion to Essendon City Council Chambers many years ago, his attention was captured by an 1866 Charles Nettleton photograph of Flemington House. Where was this mansion? Why was it in Flemington? Who lived there? When and why was it lost? What stories might be discovered from within its walls and from its extensive surrounds?

For more than 30 years, with considerable dedication and tenacity, Alex pursued his deep curiosity. This has culminated in the recent publication of his outstanding book, *Flemington House, Travancore: Built with Wealth for Status*.

On Friday 12 May 2023 the publisher, Essendon Historical Society, formally launched the book. Fittingly, the event took place on the former estate of Flemington House (later renamed Travancore House) in the hall at St George's Church on Baroda Street.

The Hon Bill Shorten MP, federal member for Essendon (which includes Flemington and Travancore), spoke about the significance of our history and heritage, and how they inform our present and future. A Travancore resident, Bill remarked on how, particularly during the Covid restrictions period, he and his family would explore the neighbourhood and how he was inspired to conduct his own research on local history. Bill recommended everyone read Alex's excellent book.

Alex chronicles the development of Flemington House and the stories of its many occupants. He reproduces incredible images of the mansion's interior and exterior and its beautiful gardens. Some pictures have never been publicly seen before. There are also photographs of residents and employees and instructive family trees, maps and diagrams.

In what became a community predominantly (but not exclusively) populated by workers living in terraces and cottages, it is hard to imagine the scale and grandeur of Flemington House or the vision of the man responsible for its construction. As the title of Alex's book proclaims, it was built with wealth, for status.

Hugh Glass arrived in Melbourne in 1841. By 1849, when he purchased Flemington Estate from James Watson, Glass had already acquired considerable wealth. Initially this was from providing services to early squatters, but later grew through his own property



acquisition. Glass's status in the new colony was to be visible to all in the years that followed the 1851 Gold Rush and his acquisition of vast areas of land. His stately mansion on the hill, with its impressive gardens, constructed from 1856, manifested his position. By 1861, Glass was reputedly the richest person in Victoria.

Present at the book's launch were descendants of Hugh Glass and his wife Lucinda. Alex has over many years spoken with family members. He remarked how, through his research, he felt part of the extended Glass family. He certainly knows their history.

Alex's book also comprehensively sets out the history of Henry Madden and his family, who moved into Flemington House in 1899. It was later renamed "Travancore" after the destination in southern India where Madden made his fortune exporting horses.

Alex details the subdivision of the Travancore Estate in 1918, and the building of what is now Flemington Primary School and the use of the house from 1926 as a school for children with intellectual disabilities. There are photographs of other Travancore School buildings constructed around the old house. Most, like Travancore House itself, were long ago demolished.

As Bill Shorten remarked in his speech, after change, even significant and even within living memory, it is often difficult to remember what was there before. It is vital that we try to record and understand our past. We rely heavily on historians to do so.

Alex has managed to vividly capture and present what stood on the hill on Flemington (and later Travancore), and who lived there, from the 1840's. He brings it very much to life. We are all fortunate for him having done so.

Flemington House, Travancore: Built with Wealth for Status is available for purchase via Essendon Historical Society.
<https://esshissoc.org.au/> for details.

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

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