

EAST MELBOURNE 3002 community magazine JOLIMONT



CHRISTMAS PARTY

OUR LOCAL MPS

Adam Bandt & Ellen Sandell

HERITAGE COUNTS

History makes you happy



east melbourne group

AUTUMN
2015

EAST MELBOURNE JOLIMONT

community magazine 3002

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The East Melbourne Group first produced a local news magazine in 1980 with past editions held by the State Library.



east melbourne group

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COVER IMAGE

Beautifully painted faces at the community Christmas party.
Lucy Battersby

PHOTOGRAPHY

Siusan MacKenzie

With financial assistance from



EMG – become a member

By Murray Hohnen

President East Melbourne Group

In our last magazine, I wrote about the continuing relevance of the East Melbourne Group and the importance of volunteers to its success.

I must say that the community support shown for our Christmas Party in the grounds of Bishops Court is testament to the community that is East Melbourne. More than 600 people filed through the gates to sit on the lawns as twilight settled to enjoy good food, drink and company in a magic place. The carols and other entertainment provided the icing on the cake. The number of families with three generations in attendance was gratifying.

If you enjoyed yourself, look to the EMG Updates for details of the upcoming program for 2015. And, of course, if you don't get the EMG Update each month it probably means that you are not an EMG member and you should be. Elsewhere in this magazine is the form you need to fill in and return to become a new member or renew a lapsed membership. The fees are modest and the benefits great. The greatest benefit of all is knowing that you are standing shoulder to shoulder with your neighbours and committed to keeping East Melbourne as the special place it is.

We have 3400 rateable premises in the suburb. If we were able to enrol one member from each premise, our voice would be undeniable when we confront authorities on matters such as planning.



Murray Hohnen, EMG President

A letter received recently from the office of the new Minister for Planning, confirms that the government has committed to an independent review of the residential zone changes including protocols for best practice consultation. It has also committed to considering reforms so that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal can take into account the weight of community opposition to planning proposals.

A new initiative the East Melbourne Group will instigate this year is a community roundtable discussion so that you can have the opportunity to contribute to a conversation about East Melbourne and what matters to you. Look out for the posters that will promote this autumn event.

SAVE THE DATE
MON 16TH MARCH

EMG Annual General Meeting
at Mercy Place at 6.30pm

East Melbourne Group

emg.org.au

Working together to keep 3002 the way you like it

Why become a member?

- 1 To help preserve all you love about East Melbourne and Jolimont
- 2 To support the work of EMG to connect the community
- 3 To add your voice and influence decision makers

Membership fees are very reasonable at just \$50 single, \$100 household and \$30 concession but every contribution helps EMG and its committee achieve its stated purposes.



If you would like to have a chat about EMG membership and how you might become involved, please provide us with your details and we will be in touch soon.

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Thank you very much for your interest. You may like to visit our website
www.emg.org.au for further information.



Heritage Counts

By Barbara Paterson

'History makes you happy' is the catchphrase which emerged in the press following the release of Heritage Counts 2014, an annual survey of the state of England's historic environment.

The theme of Heritage Counts is the value and impact of heritage (in this context the built historic environment) and the different ways in which heritage affects people's lives. Heritage Counts 2014 attempts to quantify in cash terms the lift in spirits experienced during a heritage visit. It makes an economic case for heritage by presenting credible data to show the measurable contribution that heritage makes to the economy, to wellbeing and physical health. I am not presenting the economic data here which can be found at www.heritagecounts.org.uk. Instead I have picked out some of the salient findings of the survey.

Heritage Counts looks at three different types of heritage impacts. The first is individual impacts such as pleasure and fulfilment, meaning and identity, challenge and learning and the relationships between heritage participation and health and wellbeing. For example, out of eight different types of heritage site, visits to historic towns and historic buildings were found to have the greatest impact on wellbeing. Interestingly, the impact of heritage visits on life satisfaction was found to be slightly higher than the impacts of participating in sport and the arts.

The second type is community impacts including social capital, community cohesion and citizenship. This happens in various ways, for example, people visiting heritage sites and participating in heritage projects enables people to form new friendships and networks. Heritage projects can become part of the currency of the conversation within a local community. People living in a historic area or building are more likely to know and trust their neighbours. Heritage can contribute to a shared sense of place and increased civic pride. Heritage sites and projects can promote a greater public spirit and mutual understanding in an area. They can act as safe, equitable and non-market social spaces encouraging greater social interaction.

The third type is economic impacts such as job creation and tourism. Heritage is a key driver of overseas and local tourism and tourist numbers are continuing to rise. Heritage provides employment (in 2011 there were 393,000 jobs in built heritage tourism in England). The historic built environment is a source of demand for the construction sector. Heritage can play a role in influencing personal and business location decisions. In terms of influence, according to the survey, heritage ranks

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Interestingly, the impact of heritage visits on life satisfaction was found to be slightly higher than the impacts of participating in sport and the arts.

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equal with road access as a determinant of business location. There is evidence that over 5, 10, and 30 years the annualised total return on heritage-listed offices has been higher than for offices overall. Also, being located in a conservation area reportedly adds around 9% to property prices.

Heritage Counts concludes that ultimately it is in the local context that heritage can make the greatest difference to individual and collective lives. So although heritage promotes happiness, safety and success, just living in an historic area is not sufficient - interest and engagement with the historic area are crucial to a heightened sense of place and social capital. It follows that local historic groups play an important role in developing and supporting community engagement with the historic environment.

Community Christmas Celebrations

By Siusan MacKenzie

How fortunate we are to live in a community where so many people see the value in coming together and lending a hand so we can connect and have fun.

If you missed the first East Melbourne community Christmas party held at Bishops court in December, you missed a great night where a sense of old fashioned fun and community spirit was palpable.

Every outdoor event organiser is anxious in the days leading up to a function, trembling at forecasts of rain and wind. And while that is exactly what Melbourne experienced before our event we were blessed with a balmy evening as people lined up to pay their way in. (I promise we will do better on that front next time!)

Families, friends and neighbours found their spot on the lawn and took in the gorgeous surrounds of the Bishops court garden. They settled in to catch up and enjoy a drink, (it did not take long until we had to replenish the supply of red!) and the spit roast dinner or sausage sizzle while the kids were bewitched by the magician and face painters.

The music program was traditional Christmas carols injected with a contemporary feel by young local performers Alex and Simone who had the children dancing and ringing their bells. To the tune of 'Santa Claus is coming to town' the big man in red arrived on an antique fire truck and he was suddenly swarmed by eager kids, with hands outstretched, hoping to catch a fist full of chocolates.

As darkness fell, a flash mob choir performed, the children created magic of their own by waving candles, fabulous homemade cakes were devoured, more red consumed and people seemed very content. The consensus seems to be, 'let's do it again!'

But we couldn't do it without the support of Philip and Joy Freier who welcomed our community to their home, the many volunteers who put their hand up to help, or local business including:

- **Caine Real Estate** who supplied fabulous design and marketing support
- **Dixon Advisory** who lit up the night with candles and provided the songbook
- **Epworth Health** who ensured Father Christmas made a visit
- **Mercy Health** who provided magic for the children
- **Park Hyatt** who made possible children's face painting.

Save the date
6 December
for our 2015
twilight party



“

PARK HYATT MELBOURNE™

“It was great to catch up with friends in the community and celebrate the festive season with them.”

Brett Sweetman, Park Hyatt

“Another outstanding community event, brilliantly organised by the East Melbourne Group. A wonderful way to cap off a great year for the suburb – good cheer, great company, delicious food.”

Jacob Caine, Caine Real Estate

“We had a fantastic time. The work that was put in by volunteers really shone through and ensured we had a wonderful time in the picturesque setting.”

Ashley Woodhead, Dixon Advisory

“Our Mercy residents loved it. They told me, ‘It feels like a Christmas Garden Party. I feel very privileged to be sitting in the Bishop’s garden. Loved seeing the children chase Father Christmas down the driveway, I remember when Santa used to come by horse and cart in my country town.’”

Rose Hobbs, Mercy Place Aged Care

“The Epworth Freemasons staff were delighted to attend the fantastic East Melbourne Community Christmas event and join in with the community with which they work every day

Our Father Christmas was a definite highlight...Where there is Santa there is Christmas cheer – and there was loads of cheer for all at this fantastic event – we were extremely glad to be a part of it!”

Rachel Weston, Epworth Freemasons

”



Is it Yarra Park or is it a car park?

By Siusan MacKenzie

For scores of Melbournians Yarra Park is just a convenient spot to park their cars when attending major events in the precinct. This infuriates many local people who hold the view that Yarra Park's significance, as a heritage listed park should prevent its use as a car park.

Over the summer of 2014/2015 Yarra Park has been open for car parking for 27 day and 18 night car parking sessions. The winter of 2015 has 44 football games scheduled at the MCG, with two or more games each weekend for 21 of the 23 rounds. In addition, there will be finals and all of the other major events in the area, which will see the park open to cars.

Is Yarra Park a park, in the true sense of the word, and as Governor LaTrobe intended when it was given to the people of Melbourne, or is it actually a car park?

The East Melbourne Group holds the view that car parking should not be allowed and that dedicated car parking (such as has recently been built next to Hisense Arena), should be provided nearby for those for whom public transport is not realistic and that public transport be made more frequent and more accessible. Upgrades to Richmond

Station and the tram stops in Wellington Parade should improve accessibility.

Knowing that parking is unlikely to be restricted in the short-term, EMG work with the Melbourne Cricket Club (which has responsibility for managing Yarra Park) to minimise the impact of parking, to the extent that is possible. For example, we monitor that the park is closed for parking when the weather will lead to major damage. Details of EMGs position can be found at www.emg.org.au.

In 2009, the East Melbourne Group led a campaign to have Yarra Park recognised for its historical significance. This was based on the concern that the practice of car parking is inconsistent with the park's central place in Victoria's early settlement days, that it is part of the ring of greenery around the CBD, and that car parking denies the public its 'right of use' as a park for which the land

was originally intended when it was set aside by Governor LaTrobe.

People's efforts at the time were fundamental to the Heritage Council's 2010 decision that Yarra Park was indeed of cultural and historical significance and should be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. However, this has not stopped car parking in Yarra Park.

Some of the key events, which make Yarra Park so historically important, include:

- 1835 the Wurundjeri people used the area when Melbourne was founded. A scarred tree still exists in the park.
- 1838 the Melbourne Cricket Club was established
- 1853 the MCG was built
- 1858 the first recorded Australian football games were played on Richmond Paddock in Yarra Park
- 1876 construction of the MCC's first public grandstand began
- 1877 the first test cricket match between Australia and England was played at the MCG
- 1889 elm trees were planted along the pedestrian avenues
- 1901 Collingwood railway line opened, forming the north boundary of the park
- 1956 the Melbourne Olympic Games were held at the MCG
- 2005 the MCG was included on the National Heritage List in recognition of its significance to the nation
- 2006 the Commonwealth Games were centred around the MCG

Walkers, cyclists, children visiting the playground, tourists and many others use the park each day. It provides the only off-leash area for local dogs to play safely and socialise making it a meeting place where so many people from across the community connect. It is our local park, and should not be overrun by cars. I cannot think of another park anywhere in Melbourne where people and dogs face the same challenge.

While bus lanes and bike lanes have been introduced in areas of the suburb to help lessen the impact of cars on the city, the residents of East Melbourne have their local park regularly taken over by cars. I find this very inconsistent. Am I just too grumpy?



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Our local MPs

Adam Bandt and Ellen Sandell

Hello, East Melbourne residents!

We are your local members of Parliament. Adam Bandt is your local Federal Member of Parliament and the Australian Greens Deputy Leader and Ellen Sandell, recently elected to the Victorian Parliament, is your Greens State Member for Melbourne.



At an informal meeting at the George Street café in February Ellen and Adam met members of the community

Together we have the enormous privilege and responsibility to represent the East Melbourne and Jolimont areas in the Commonwealth and State Parliaments.

We wanted to share with you some of our values and priorities and some of the work we have been doing for local residents.

East Melbourne is a wonderful place to live and work and we want to keep it that way, but like the rest of the city it is under pressure.

We are working to keep Melbourne liveable by protecting our communities from over-development, investing in public transport and maintaining and growing our open space.

The previous state government threatened the heritage and amenity of Melbourne by pushing inappropriate development. That is why one of the keys to liveability is returning full planning powers to Melbourne City Council. We are also pushing for the new Labor state government to review the former

Minister's residential zoning laws.

Our successful campaign to prevent the East West tollway now means we have an opportunity to work for greater investment in our public transport. We can now redirect \$3 billion in Federal money towards much-needed public transport projects like Melbourne Metro, upgraded train signalling and more trams. We also want to see Doncaster Rail built, so that traffic is taken off the Eastern Freeway and Hoddle St.

As many of you would know, for many months we have worked with local residents to find a solution to the problem of excessive aircraft noise in East Melbourne. Residents should not have to live with unacceptable and increasing noise. Adam has met with industry stakeholders and raised the community's concerns in Parliament. Ellen will now pursue the matter in State Parliament too.

In 2015, we are seeking formal monitoring

of this noise and we will push for reform of regulations if industry stakeholders are not able to bring forward a solution.

Adam's office also secured funding for the East Melbourne Historical Society's Anzac Centenary project, which commemorates the strong local involvement in a devastating war.

We regularly help residents with issues as diverse as immigration & citizenship, planning and housing.

We are here to work for you and to advocate strongly and independently to protect what is good about East Melbourne. If you would like to raise an issue or require assistance, please contact us at any time.

Ellen Sandell, MLA

Electorate Office

Opening Hours:

9AM-5PM Monday-Friday

146-148 Peel St,
North Melbourne

T: 03 9328 4637

Adam Bandt, MP

Electorate Office

Opening Hours:

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LIVING ROUGH

By Charlie Hohnen

'Homeless people bad for tourism and should be moved on, say residents and businesses' was the title of an article published in the Age on 15 January this year.

An editorial headlined 'Can't Stand the View? Swap places' and numerous letters to the editor followed. Mention was made of the 'homeless camp' in the electricity substation in the Fitzroy Gardens at the corner of Albert Street and Landsdowne Streets.

Readers may be interested to know why that camp was closed down last October and the substation fenced off.

The camp had been at that location for several years but it was only relatively recently that numerous complaints began to be received by the city council about the state of the camp and the behaviour of the people living there. It seems a different group had moved in and taken over the space.

Because people living rough often refuse offers of accommodation - because drugs and alcohol are banned and a small fee is payable for a night's shelter - it is sometimes very difficult to find somewhere suitable for them to live.

The council and park rangers were aware that the group had 'complex and varied problems' as one council employee put it and they were careful to handle the situation as gently as possible. They deserve commendation for the way they dealt with an escalating problem.

The document on the Council's website mentions 'an increasing level of aggressive and erratic behaviour exhibited by some people staying at or visiting the substation' believed to be made worse by substance abuse. Certainly passers-by noticed an increase in the amount of rubbish strewn on the path each morning (usually cleaned up by park rangers early in the day). In hot weather the smell of urine was pervasive.

Park employees had to clean up the verandah of the substation regularly and it was becoming quite a health hazard. Police were needed to assist on some occasions when cleaning required temporary evacuation of the area.

The 'skirt' of one tree had to be pruned to prevent people squatting underneath to defecate within a few feet of walking paths. Requests to use public toilets close by were ignored.

On 29 October the council announced that public access to the substation would be restricted.

It is a live electrical substation. Weapons, uncapped syringes and gas bottles were found at the location and many of the people using the area smoked. There had been previous fires at the site and the situation presented a hazard to life, limb and the electricity supply.

The council has a policy relating to homeless people within the City of Melbourne which can be found on the Council website. It deserves support in implementing this policy. Sometimes compassion has to be tempered with common sense.

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Lotte Mulligan

by Charlie Hohnen

Most mornings Lotte Mulligan may be seen, stick in hand, striding around the MCG and Fitzroy Gardens. After starting slowly a couple of years ago she now makes good time. As a retired history lecturer she finds interest in the historical aspects of East Melbourne and its remaining early buildings.

Lotte Nettel arrived in Australia from Czechoslovakia when she was 9 years old.

After completing her schooling she studied history and philosophy at the University of Melbourne. She particularly recalls four philosophy lecturers, 'all Dunera boys'. She was also taught in the History Department by Kathleen Fitzpatrick.

Her PhD in 17th Century English history, was started in Melbourne, continued in London and completed in Adelaide. At La Trobe University where she was senior lecturer and then associate professor from 1967 to 1995 she taught history from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment.

Lotte was born in Prague in 1930, and lived in the Sudeten area. Her father was a manufacturer and when the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia the family moved to Prague and prepared to emigrate.

A German friend helped the family settle into Melbourne. According to Lotte her parents were 'very good migrants and loved Australia'.

Lotte says she remembers amazing student parties in East Melbourne in the '40s and the little cottages down laneways where the students used to live when the area was 'less gentrified than now'.

Lotte (with her husband Glenn) chose to live in East Melbourne when she retired because it reminded her of the London of her student days in the 1950s.

Lotte has had considerable involvement in community life. She was part of the East Melbourne Group's heritage and planning group for eight years and remembers how terrifying it was to face off against the highly-paid and arrogant SCs who often ran the cases for developers at VCAT. Her other quasi-legal role was to act as deputy to the Ombudsman at La Trobe University. She is now (less stressfully!) course coordinator at U3A in Stonnington.

Lotte has five grandchildren. She says she writes letters to her grandson, Ben, who lives in New York because they simply cannot understand each other's accents. She is working on her memoirs.

A story to tell

by Robert McColl

Two qualities of the effective writer are arguably, a nose for life's telling or amusing moments, and the ability to scatter them throughout their work. An argument could be made, therefore, that a keen interest in people and their lives, is extremely conducive to both. Not that I would ever be so cheeky as to suggest this is something I've stumbled upon myself (it's a parroted and mangled amalgamation of advice and wisdom from writing's big guns) but I can say, though, that it is nice, after hearing all of this many times, to be able to personally attest to it.

This is thanks in part, to an internship I undertook whilst studying creative writing at RMIT. 'It helps students convert what they've learned in the academy and put it into practice in the workplace,' programme director Francesca Rendle-Short says. As a local resident, I admired this magazine from a distance so I enquired about doing my internship with the Editor. This in turn led me to writing and editing the life story of East Melbourne resident Jan Burke. 'There are a lot of people of my vintage with stories to tell,' says Burke, and when asked for a quote, encouraged me to mention the person who sparked my interest in life stories. As I told Jan, I think it began with my grandfather. Through writing down his stories, I no longer saw him just as 'Pop,' but a canny mind who I think could have been a great academic or scientist with better opportunities and in different times.

A perspective I would never have found without writing, and one that I am glad I did. It is great to see we are now capturing some other interesting life stories in this magazine. Lotte for instance. Is there someone you think we should speak to for the next edition? Let us know at 9415 7570.

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Market volatility has continued into 2015 and many people are worried that their life savings may not be able to support their retirement plans especially in the face of lower Australian interest rates.

If you have \$200,000 or more in investable assets, feel you have too great an exposure to a single asset class or are worried that your investments may not

be diversified, now is the time to revise your portfolio with the help of Dixon Advisory's investment specialists who can discuss a number of the asset classes that exist between cash and shares.

As a proud partner of the East Melbourne Group, we would like to extend a special offer to all members. **Call to book your complimentary portfolio review today.**

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The Diver\$ification effect

These recent months have been a stark reminder of the volatility of share markets and the impact it can have on your life savings and your retirement.

In 2002, United States Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld famously stated:

'There are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know.'

Put this statement in the context of the assets needed to fund your retirement. There are risks to investing that are known but uncontrollable (known unknowns); such as interest rate movements and there are risks that we can't predict (unknown unknowns), e.g. geopolitical crises.

Diversification can assist in managing your investment risk and planning for both "known unknowns" and "unknown unknowns"; by not having all your eggs in one basket.



In a diversified portfolio, investments are spread across different asset groups and investment regions. This can assist to offset negative movements in some investments by the positive performance of other assets. This can help smooth out investment returns over the longer term providing more certainty for investors.

Here are some examples of risks and the impact of diversification:

\$ DOMESTIC BIAS \$

Australian investors generally have a high proportion of investments in Australian equities. Yet Australia represents only a small portion of the global market – around 2% of global market capitalisation (Source: World Bank, July 2013). Investing in other

global economies could reduce the risk of a poor investment outcome if the Australian economy underperforms global counterparts.

\$ CURRENCY IMPACT \$

The impact of fluctuations in currency can have significant impact on a portfolio. During the GFC, the US dollar weakened relative to the Australian dollar, however over the six months from July 2014, the Australian Dollar has fallen around 15%. Investors with exposure to US investments have benefited from this fall as the value of their investments has increased in Australian dollar terms.

\$ LOW PROTECTION FROM SHARE MARKET VOLATILITY \$

A portfolio with high exposure to a single asset class will provide below average returns if that asset class underperforms the market. This means that holding investments in a variety of asset classes such as fixed interest, cash or property in comparison to predominantly equities may help smooth the returns of your overall portfolio during periods of high share market volatility.

If you feel you have too great an exposure to a single asset class or would like to understand more about diversification, please contact local firm Dixon Advisory, supporters of our community, on 03 9411 4023.

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GOT A GRIPE?

Don't be shy. To keep our suburb how we like it, sometimes we need to ask for service. I have rarely been disappointed by the response.

By Siusan MacKenzie

I am pretty sure that I am known at the Town Hall as 'Mrs Grumpy from Albert Street' because I certainly make use of the Melbourne City Council's service which encourages people to make contact if they:

- have an enquiry
- need to make a request for a service
- would like to give feedback
- wish to make a complaint

Recently I lodged an online complaint about the neglected median strip garden in Albert Street near Hoddle Street and I was assured that it would be attended to by the end of the week. And it was!

By using the online service found at 'contact us' on the council's website (www.melbourne.vic.gov.au), rather than contacting individual staff, the complaint is centrally logged which makes it easy for council staff and residents to keep track of communications and the time frame for responses. Alternatively, you can call 9658 9658.

Council's website states:

Council complaint resolution process

'We do our best to resolve complaints within 10 working days. If we cannot resolve your complaint within 10 working days, you will be kept informed of our progress and be provided with:

- the name of the person responsible for resolving the complaint
- the estimated length of time it may take to resolve your complaint
- a timeframe for when you can next expect an update from us



How your complaint will be investigated

When we receive your complaint, it will be recorded in our customer request system. You will receive acknowledgment from us that your complaint has been received and be provided with a customer reference number to assist in tracking your complaint.

When we receive your complaint, we will direct your concern to the most appropriate person within the City of Melbourne, who will be responsible for keeping you up to date on the progress of your complaint.

Throughout the process, we may need to contact you to discuss your concerns or to ask for more information. Providing us with current contact details will ensure we provide a response as soon as possible.

After investigating, we will respond and aim to resolve your complaint, giving reasons for our view.'



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A BRUSH WITH SAM

By Siusan MacKenzie

Sam Lord moved to Melbourne CBD in 2007 and soon met another dog owner, Nick, who introduced her to the G.



"When we got to the G for the first time it was magic! My girl Shelby (Great Dane x mastiff - Ridgeback) could run and run and I have been coming with her ever since," said Sam.

Sam loves the dogs she meets in the park but says she learns so much from the human characters from all walks of life, who have such different views and ideas.

"It is a community that has touched my heart and helped me in many ways – a community of diverse people who love their dogs, a chat and know how to have a good laugh."

Sam was intrigued by the personalities of the dogs and felt she had hit the jackpot, as it was perfect inspiration for her style

of painting.

"I've done a lot of paintings around Melbourne in which my doggy friends feature, but the *Dogs of the MCG* painting is one where I tried to capture the many people I knew but most of all, their dogs. It was great fun," said Sam.

The original painting is a large oil on canvas. It is now in Geelong owned by the parents of one of the dog owners, Lizzy.

"I had not met the buyers so they took a photo of themselves once the painting was hung in their home holding their own dogs! Of course their daughter Lizzy was in the painting and so was her dog Woofie. Oh, it made me laugh, I loved it."

The *Dogs of the MCG* is now selling as a card as well as a high quality print 60 x 60cm, framed or unframed. It can be viewed at the Curry Vault in Bank Place Melbourne or at www.samanthalord.com.au

Sam has worked as a professional fine artist for the past 15 years. She is the founder of local galleries and her work, which covers several styles, features in collections all over the world. As well as private commissions, Sam paints live at weddings and major events including the 2013 MCG Grand Final, which she did for the AFL from the Olympic Room

Today she is on the hunt for a new gallery – perhaps a neat shop dwelling in East Melbourne or close by.



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FITZROY GARDENS

Works that have been underway in Fitzroy Gardens since 2011 are now complete and include:

- a new garden area for public use
- a new visitor centre (which includes the Tourism Melbourne visitor information service, Cooks Cottage ticketing and merchandise and a café)
- a modernised depot and maintenance facilities
- a storm water collection and re-use system for the Gardens



The Garden

The public garden area is about 4500 square metres in size and includes a new section of watercourse. Fitzroy Gardens has always had a watercourse through the centre, an ephemeral tributary of the Yarra River. One of the purposes of the overall design of this new area was to recreate the missing part of this element in the gardens. The overall theme of the planting along the watercourse is to use species associated with stream sides in Victoria. Planting in this area is not yet complete and it will take some years for the planting to fully establish. Additional planting will occur later in 2015 when temperatures drop.

Between the watercourse and the visitor centre a new lawn has been created, and a range of specimen trees typically found in Fitzroy Gardens has been planted. A one million litre tank is hidden under this lawn. The water in this tank is cleaned through the biofilter (reed) bed at the southern end of the visitor centre, stored in a second tank and then reused for irrigation in the Gardens.

The visitor centre will eventually be wrapped in a green façade of climbers. These are already evident on the supporting façade outside the building.

Changes have also been made to the rear garden of Cooks' Cottage to allow the new garden area to link in with the existing watercourse which runs along the central spine of the Gardens from the Boy on the Turtle pond to the Dolphin Fountain.

Information on Fitzroy Gardens

The new computer touch screens in the centre contain a wealth of information about Fitzroy Gardens, other parks and gardens within the City of Melbourne and also provide more detailed information about the storm water harvesting collection and reuse systems which have been installed in a number of locations around the City in recent years.



The new watercourse

Fox as friend

By Charlie Hohnen

Foxes are usually considered to be vermin but there are circumstances where they might actually be welcome. The resident fox at Bishopscourt seems to have an appetite for rats and mice, the same rats and mice that nibble at the apples, munch the tomatoes and make holes in the zucchini and generally damage anything they can get their teeth into.

How do we know the fox is responsible? He (we have seen the animal but no sign of cubs that would indicate a vixen) leaves us the occasional dead rodent decorated with a large scat or dropping. Perhaps he is marking territory.

We suspect he also has a munch on the occasional possum as bits of said pests are frequently seen on the lawn. For that he would probably be given a vote of appreciation by numerous residents of the suburb.

There is a downside, of course. The ginger blur that rocketed out of the shrubbery recently was after pigeons but other birds may be at risk. We haven't seen the banded rail this season.



Books we've loved

The House of Niccolo by Dorothy Dunnett

Review by - Linda Longley

East Melbourne Library

If you have a penchant for historical fiction and have not yet encountered master of the genre Dorothy Dunnett OBE then spoil yourself with the story of Nicolas vander Poele of Bruges and his rise from uncultured apprentice dyer to powerful merchant banker. This ambitious, densely plotted series of eight historically authentic stories will immerse you in 15th century renaissance Venus, Florence, France, Trebizond, Cypress, Scotland, the gold coast of Africa, Iceland and much more. It is a lavish and vivid account of life in 15th century Europe and the Mediterranean created through the richly imagined and dangerous world of the adventurous trader and ingeniously clever fictional character Nicholas vander Poele. The series will most certainly be counted among the classics of popular fiction.

The eight volumes in the series are:

1. Niccolò Rising (1986)

Set in 1460 the story begins with good natured dyer's apprentice Claes (Nicolas vander Poele), traces his rise from wastrel to prodigy, and immerses us in the mercantile extravaganza of Bruges and her trading partners.

2. Spring of the Ram (1987)

Set largely in the last remaining outpost of the Byzantine Empire this is an exotic high seas adventure with the advance of the Sultan's armies as backdrop.

3. Race of Scorpions (1989)

Set largely in Cyprus, during the wars for control of the island kingdom. A dangerous game of love, political intrigue and powerful mercantile maneuvering.

4. Scales of Gold (1991)

Set during a voyage to discover the source of West African gold, and a West-East route to the Christian Ethiopian kingdom of Prester John.



5. The Unicorn Hunt (1993)

Filled with the pageantry of the court of King James 111, mercantile schemes, dangerous chases in Cairo during the Feast of The Assumption and carnival time in Venus.

6. To Lie with Lions (1995)

A dramatic Iceland tour with some of the best adventure writing and a scale of plotting which is jaw dropping.

7. Caprice and Rondo (1997)

A most exciting book with Nicolas maneuvering against hidden enemies.

8. Gemini (2000)

The dazzling conclusion of the series set primarily in Scotland in 1477.

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Myotherapy is a form of physical therapy used to treat or prevent soft tissue pain and restricted joint movement.

The philosophy of myotherapy is founded on Western medical principles including anatomy, physiology and biomechanics.

It involves the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and management of the musculoskeletal system (muscles,

ligaments, tendons and fascias). After a series of tests to find which structure is dysfunctional, a treatment strategy is devised for the patient, which can include massage, dry needling, cupping and trigger point therapy. This is combined with a program of exercises tailored to their condition for home management and rehabilitation to correct the issue and strengthen the muscles for future use.

John Moran has been working his myotherapy magic for six years and over that time has worked with elite athletes from various sporting codes and he has a growing local client base at his East Melbourne practice.

Depending on your private health insurance cover, myotherapy costs (\$60 - \$80) are claimable. You don't need a referral from a doctor to make an appointment with a myotherapist.



John Moran, Myotherapist, practices in East Melbourne

The one with the waggly tail



Bec and Ewan displaying their waggly tails.

People come and people go but the dog owners of East Melbourne and Richmond who are Yarra Park regulars have maintained the tradition of a get together at Christmas. Although their four (and sometimes three legged friends) remained at home on this occasion, they were rewarded with a doggy bag.

This year the invitation stipulated to wear a tail. Bec and Ewan were deemed to have the most impressive and waggly tails and they were suitably rewarded and emboldened to walk home with tails in place.



PEOPLE & PETS *you meet on the streets*



WENDY NEAVES

It was Wendy's husband Ivan who initiated the move to East Melbourne from Canterbury 13 years ago. It took Wendy some time to adjust to living here in what felt like a narrow train carriage. She left behind a large garden and the comfort of knowing almost everyone. She had owned a local shop, which specialised in French furniture and home wares, and attracted people with an eye for style from all over Melbourne. Wendy maintains her love of all things French and vintage but these days it is just for pleasure. A neighbour suggested Wendy join the EMG Social Committee and she is now very involved in this local community and feels right at home here.



JOHN BARRY

John and Arda Barry moved their family into East Melbourne in 1983, from Brighton. They decided on East Melbourne because good friends lived here and they liked the proximity to the city, the parks and gardens, buildings and the quiet atmosphere. And, of course, they found the house they wanted. Arda was a practicing architect at that time and John spent a lot of time at their vineyard and winery at Avoca (Mt Avoca Vineyard) and finishing a course in viticulture and winemaking. Tasting the wine is, of course, an essential part of winemaking and something John still very much enjoys. He would like to see the area improved by the imposition of height restrictions and by strict parking restrictions on new dwellings.



BERNIE HOLTSCHKE

Bernie and his wife Lorraine came to Melbourne from the bush 10 years ago. He was a dairy farmer at Fish Creek in South Gippsland and over the years his body took a beating from life on the farm. At first they chose to rent to get a feel for life in the big smoke and East Melbourne was the logical choice being so close to hospitals for body repairs and more importantly close to the MCG to follow the mighty Demons. Now Bernie volunteers as a handyman at the football club. It was a surprise to Bernie how similar the East Melbourne community is to a small country town, where people know each other and are not afraid to stop for a chat. When he noticed someone walking our streets in gumboots he was surprised though!



ANN GLADE-WRIGHT.

Originally from Tasmania, Ann and her husband Rob, with Daisy the dog have lived in East Melbourne for five years. In that time they have resided in two locations and Ann has got to know many friendly locals. She has always been interested in complementary therapies and gained professional qualifications. For some years she has worked in the area of reflexology and more recently facial reflex therapy, both treatments which restore energy to the body and induce natural healing. The peace, parks and being close to everything make life here good although she does enjoy exploring areas like Northcote. There is not a single thing she would like to improve about East Melbourne.



CAZ HEDLEY

Caz thinks the sense of community here in East Melbourne is something to brag about. When she first arrived from Sydney 10 years ago, Caz joined a yoga group in our library started by a local resident whose motive was to unite the people of East Melbourne and encourage them to come out from behind their doors. It was here Caz made some wonderful friends. When living in Sydney she answered an ad for people wanting to do extra work on movies and TV shows. Her idea was to get her very shy son involved to boost his self-confidence, but he refused to go to the interview unless Caz and her daughter accompanied him. They did, and they were all hired! Caz now works on 'Neighbours'. She might be a pop star next.



TULLAH

Tullah is short for Tallulah (Bankhead), an actress of the 1950s known for her lavish eye makeup. She is nearly two years old and has certainly mastered the art of batting her eyelashes. She was born on a farm, the product of a Jack Russell terrier mother and a poodle father. Sadly, both her parents died from snakebites and some of her siblings did not survive. A friend of Daryl and Lou Dawson's from Bairnsdale intervened to rescue Tullah when she was to be sent to the local pound. Tullah had been kept confined in a chook pen for some time and her health and care had been neglected. She now has a much happier existence in East Melbourne with Daryl and Lou where she runs free with her friends at Yarra Park, especially Champagne (Walsh not wine).

Community Notice

AT THE LIBRARY

Lego Squad

Calling Lego enthusiasts! If you are 7-13 years and love Lego, show off your skills in our weekly Lego Squad. We have the Lego, you bring the skill. Beginners most welcome. Bookings essential.

East Melbourne Library
Thursdays, 4 pm - 5.30 pm



Monthly Projects

Lego projects such as Stop motion, iMovie, book trailers and more will be held the first Thursday of each month.

READING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

At the Library

Free, all welcome, no bookings required but note these groups do not run in school holidays.

Information: 9658 9600 or www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

CULT FICTION BOOK CLUB

Discuss books that are a little off the beaten track.
Second Saturday of the month, 10am to 11am.

SECOND SATURDAY READING CIRCLE

Instead of a set book to read, members share what they are currently reading.
Second Saturday of the month, 11am to 12 noon.

STORY LOUNGE

Story time for adults. Hand-picked stories and poems read aloud in a relaxed setting.
Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasure of listening.
Second Monday of the month, 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

SONGBIRDS

Come along for a 30 minutes of songs, rhymes and stories to engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language
For newborns to 18 months
East Melbourne Library, Thursdays 10.30 am.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Come and share the wonder of books with us! Enjoy 45 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities
For 3 to 5 year olds. East Melbourne Library, Wednesdays, 10.30 am.



Glen, Emma & Raphael enjoying dinner in Powlett Reserve

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- This offer is only available for a limited time.



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A WEB SKILLED VOLUNTEER NEEDED

EMG is looking for a new volunteer to help further develop and contribute to maintaining its website. It is not a role that requires a lot of work! Please call Siusan on 0438 405 406 if you want to know more.

THE CHANGING FACES OF VICTORIA

A free exhibition at the State Library of Victoria in Swanston Street that tells the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped Victoria.

A dedicated area of the exhibition highlights the experience of Victorians during WWI, at home and abroad.

**PLAYGROUP**

Come and meet the hippo, and connect with others at Holy Trinity Playgroup (cnr Clarendon & Hotham Streets) on Wednesdays from 9.30 - 11am during school terms. Designed for preschoolers accompanied by an adult the group enjoys music, art and stories. Enquiries to Margaret 0412 486 838

**EMPTY BASKET**

At the back of Holy Trinity there is an empty basket where we hope people might place non perishable food items, new toothbrushes and toothpaste and anything else that may help those living rough on our streets.

This generosity is distributed through Anglicare at St Mark's community centre in Fitzroy. Holy Trinity is open every day between 9 am and 4 pm and when you leave your donation, you may have time for a prayer.

STARRY STARRY NIGHTS

See the roof of Melbourne Observatory (near the Botanic Gardens visitor centre) rotate and open to view the amazing Australian night sky. Bring the night into focus using powerful heritage telescopes with expert guides from the Astronomical Society of Victoria. Tours go ahead in all weather conditions; cancellation policy applies. Every Monday 9 - 10.30pm and Thursdays in school holidays.

Suitable for children aged 8+. Cost \$22 adults \$18 children and concession. Bookings required 9252 24 29



EMG members enjoying a BBQ in Powlett Reserve

ARE YOU A LITTLE BIT CRAFTY?

Come along on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm to the community room in Powlett Reserve. Bring along whatever you are working on, share ideas and skills. No charge, just BYO cup for supper.

YOGA UPSTAIRS**At the Library**

Tuesday 7.30 am to 8.30 am
Contact Thomas 0422 198 530

Wednesday 7pm to 8 pm
Contact Liz 0408 055 752

Monday 6-7 pm
with Leanne 0405 773 779



Glenda with her grandsons at the playground



The EMG social committee knows how to have fun!



CLASSIC FILMS AT THE LIBRARY

Brigadoon

**Starring Gene Kelly, Van Johnson,
and Cyd Charisse.**

Tuesday 24 March
1.30pm Start - \$8

The film will be followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

To make sure we have enough scones with jam and cream, please let us know on 9415 7570 if you will be attending!

If you need assistance in order to join us, please also let us know by 4pm on Wednesday 18 March on 9415 7570.

Good film. Good food. Good company. And a good excuse to get out and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment with your neighbours.

SAVE THE DATE

- TUES 24/3** 'Brigadoon' and afternoon tea at library
- TUES 23/4** Walk on Wellington progressive dinner (EMG member event)
- MAY TBC** Community Forum to discuss what matters to people living in EM
- TUES 23/6** Classic film and afternoon tea at library
- FRI 26/6** Community Trivia Challenge
- TUES 29/9** Film and afternoon tea at library
- SUN 4/10** Drinks at dusk (EMG member event)
- THUR 5/11** Ladies Day luncheon at Tippler
- SUN 6/12** Twilight Community Christmas Party at Bishopscourt
- TUE 15/12** Film and afternoon tea at library

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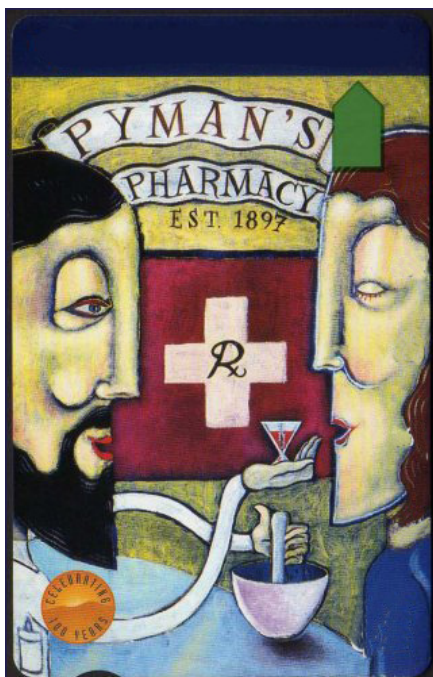
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