# Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News

Issue No. 243 April/May 2023

# THE TWO OF US

# Andrew & Esther: Father and daughter magnificent medicos

Dr Andrew White from Surrey Hills Medical Centre is well known to many locally, though what's not so well known is that his medical student daughter Esther is one of the smiling reception team there too. Andrew has been a much-loved member of our community since his arrival at the medical centre as a young GP in the mid-1990s. Esther, herself headed for General Practice in coming years, is in her eighth year at the Medical Centre. Working there whilst still at school was instrumental in Esther's decision to study medicine.

Andrew says, "As a fifth-year medical student Esther gains valuable insights that enhance her learning, and her studies contribute to her role at the practice." Esther says, "At first it was strange to see Dad in a professional light, now it's completely normal. It wouldn't ever even occur to me to refer to him as 'Dad' whilst at work. He's just 'Dr White' or 'Andrew', a doctor who I both admire and respect immensely. At work, we're colleagues".

Both Andrew and Esther value and enjoy our community. Andrew feels the long-term relationships he's developed with his patients are one of the highlights of his professional life: seeing people grow and change as well as getting to know whole generations of the same family is just wonderful. Esther also has connections within our community that run deep: she's now engaged to a lovely local lad.



Dr Andrew White (right) and his medical student daughter, Esther.

# ON WURUNDJERI COUNTRY

# Constitutional Recognition and Voice

We recently had a unique opportunity to hear about the coming referendum for Australians to amend the Constitution of Australia.

The February Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News pictured the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart. It calls for a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Australian Constitution, and for everyone to walk together in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

The Uluru Statement impels the Federal Government's commitment to pursue amending the Constitution to recognise our continent's First Peoples and effect a democratic right to have voice - through a national Voice to Parliament so that their needs and perspectives are heard and considered when government decisions that affect them are being made.

The Constitution came into effect on 1 January 1901, and it does not acknowledge that our nation Australia is built upon a continent that was already the home, for more than 65,000 years, of some 250 language groups of Aboriginal peoples.

On 3 March the Hawthorn Arts Centre hosted a strongly attended 'Voice to Parliament Information Session'. The session opened with a wonderful performance from Uncle Bart Willoughby, renowned yidaki player and singer-songwriter of Pitjantjatjara and Mirning descent. Federal member for Kooyong Monique Ryan spoke then in support of the Voice, and introduced two guest speakers: Marcus Stewart, Nira illim bulluk man of the Taungurung Nation and Co-Chair of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria; and Thomas Mayo, Kaurareg Aboriginal and Kalkalgal, Erubamle Torres Strait Islander man who is National Indigenous Officer, Maritime Union of Australia, Each articulated. with care and thoughtfulness, what they see as the compelling importance of constitutional recognition and the Voice to Parliament, to unify modern Australia with its First Peoples, and answered questions from the audience.

Monique Ryan is leading a community campaign to inform Kooyong voters for the referendum, which the Prime Minister has stated will be held between October and

You can watch a recording of the 'Voice to Parliament Information Session' on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l08b9kPc9U4



Image depicts the 2017 National Constitutional Conventions' Uluru Statement from the Heart. Sourced from https://www.sydneybarani.com.au/uluru-statement-from-the-heart/



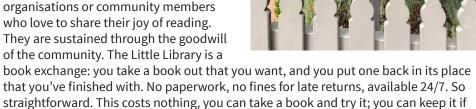
Above: Little Library Guildford Road. Right: Little Library Benson Sreet.

# Local Little Libraries

As the autumn nights draw in, the temptation to curl up at home with a good book grows ever stronger. One book source which has really taken flight in recent years has been the Little Library, or Street Library.

These libraries have been established, often during covid, by community organisations or community members who love to share their joy of reading. They are sustained through the goodwill of the community. The Little Library is a

you like it or return it of you don't.



Each library has its own charm. Some hang on fences, others stand on their own feet. Some have glass doors, others you need to open to see the treasures inside.

We have a few Little Libraries in our area. These include two libraries at the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre in Union Road – one for adults, one for kids – and two more, also providing for adults and kids, in Hamilton Street by the car park entrance. In addition to these is the Surrey Hills Pre-School library in Verdun Street, at the corner of South Surrey Park just adjacent to the pre-school centre. And there are more libraries hosted by community members – including one in Guildford Road opposite the end of David Street, and another half-way down Benson Street. Little hives of happiness! You can find out more at: http://www.streetlibrary.org.au/

When you look inside a Little Library you'll find books in every condition from 'as new' to 'much loved'. Just riffling along the shelves you'll find works of fact and works of fiction – at the time of writing I've found Agatha Christie and Jo Jo Moyes, Richard E Grant and Ranulph Fiennes, and many, many others. Nothing is sorted, and each library's collection is in constant, kaleidoscopic change. If you don't find something you'd like this week, come back next week and look again.

These Little Libraries encapsulate a spirit within our community – in sharing books we've enjoyed we give to others and we celebrate our common interests and enthusiasms. Take a look for yourself: join the communal fun!



# surrey hills Course Highlights

It's been another very busy start to the year here at the Centre. We kicked off Term 1 with a post-COVID resurgence of enrollments! It was great to see signs that the worst of COVID was definitely behind us

and people came out in droves to re-join their classes.

However, it wasn't long before the inconvenience of the Big Dig complicated everyone's movements around the Neighbourhood and we've all had to get our heads around another (albeit temporary), 'new normal'. There is a strong sense that, after the initial shock, things have now settled down and most people have worked out how the road closures impact them.

It's hard to believe, as I write this column three weeks out from the end of term, that for us here at the Centre the worst is nearly over. It will hopefully only be a few weeks into Term 2 and the roads will be open again, making access to the Centre and the local shops much easier. Thankfully, access to our rear car park (opposite the north side of the old Surrey Hills station) is still accessible and if you're coming to the Centre, you're very welcome to park there.

For the local traders, things are quiet, and whilst some businesses are managing, others are really suffering. Just like we all did in COVID times, please continue to support your local shops where you can. They need you more than ever.

Despite the inconvenience of the Big Dig, the Neighbourhood Centre recently held another successful Surrey Hills Music Festival on a hot and rainy February Saturday. Crowd numbers were down a bit this year, but every cloud has a silver lining, and this year it would have to be the time that freed up for conversations. Staff and volunteers took the opportunity to connect with many more people than they might ordinarily have time for and this made for one of the most enjoyable festivals in recent years.

Looking forward to Term 2 when the Big Dig concludes and access to Union Road becomes easier, we've developed an exciting program aimed at helping the community re-connect. There's something for everyone in our Term 2 What's On Guide, including a number of FREE events. We have a selection highlighted here on this page. Can I draw your attention to our **Community Conversations during Refugee** Week. On the evening of Thursday 22nd June, we invite you to join us to celebrate the contribution that refugees have made to Australian Society. I hope to see you there.

In the meantime, I wish you and your family a safe and joyous Easter. May the Easter Bunny not be impacted by the road closures!! ;-)

Rochelle Anderson, Centre Manager

# **Diary dates**

Term 2, 2023

Term commences Monday 24 April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday 25 April

King's Birthday Public

Holiday 12 June

Term 3, 2023

Term commences Monday 10 July

Term concludes Friday 15 September

As the autumn leaves begin to fall and the weather cools down, we often start to seek more indoor pursuits; this is an ideal time to think about learning a new skill, improving on an existing hobby or simply finding something soul-nurturing to do. From learning a language or making a garden mosaic, there is something for all ages and ranges to fulfill you this season. And being indoors doesn't mean we can't keep fit either - we run many indoor fitness classes ranging from after-school drop-off personal training and yoga, to strength training and chair fitness sessions. View our full Term 2 Course Brochure online at https://surreyhillsnc.org.au/whats-on-guide/ or pick up a hard copy from the

#### Community

#### Neighbourhood House Week: 8-14 May 2023

brochure holder outside the Centre on Union Road.

Come along to the Centre and try any course or courses for free during Neighbourhood House week. Just call, or email ahead, to confirm your place. A full list of our programs can be found at: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au/ courses

Ph: 9890 2467 e: reception@surreyhillsnc.org.au

#### **Refugee Week Community Conversation** 'What does it mean to be free?

Join the community of Surrey Hills and surrounds as we come together to celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian Society.

Thursday, 22 June, 7pm-8.30pm \$20 (includes a light supper)

#### Bike maintenance and skills workshop

Hosted by Boroondara Council, an opportunity to learn from experts through demonstrations and discussions on bicycle maintenance essentials, then practice on your

Thursday 8 June, 6pm-8.30pm \$30 (includes free puncture repair kit)

#### Art & Creativity

#### **Photoshop with SnapFish**

Create photobooks and a range of different products using your own photos, artwork or drawings.

Monday 15, 22, 29, May, 6 June, 11am-1pm

#### Make a Mosaic Wall Plaque

A hands-on workshop making a beautiful garden wall plaque over three sessions in May. Enjoy a creative, fun and relaxed environment with a glass of sparkling wine or mineral water upon arrival.

Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 May, 7pm-9pm \$200/\$185 (members) including materials

#### **Knitting for Charity**

This volunteer community knitting group is looking for new members. Led by an experienced knitter, come along knit and knit to support those in need. All experience levels welcome. This group is part of the KOGO (Knit One Give One) project.

Fortnightly on a Monday evening,7pm-9pm from 24 April. Free with SHNC Membership

# Languages

#### **Spanish for beginners**

Monday, 7pm-8.30pm from 24 April (9 wks) \$180

#### **NEW - Italian for Beginners**

Wednesdays, 6.30m-8pm

(9 wks) \$180

# **Children and Families**

#### Children's Art Class (5-12 yrs)

Develop your child's individual creativity and selfexpression in our weekly mixed media class that covers watercolour and acrylic painting, drawing skills, pastels, graphite and markers.

Wednesdays, 4pm-5pm from 1 February

(10 wks) \$150

Plus \$40 for a Materials Starter Kit for new students

#### Playgroup (1-5 yrs)

Fun playgroup activities for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Connect with families in your community. Includes a 30 minute music and movement class and a craft activity.

Fridays, 9.30am-11am from 28 April (9 wks) \$58.50

#### Cooking

#### **Italian Cooking - New Recipies**

Over two Thursday evenings you'll learn how to cook favourites that will be on high rotation in your home in no time. You'll have never cooked this well before!

15 June: Pasta con Zucchine e Tonno and biscotti de la Nonna al Limone.

22 June: Chicken Scallopine and Cantucci (almond biscotti)

#### 6pm-9pm

\$195 (\$185 members) includes two meals with wine

#### Fitness & Wellbeing

#### After-drop-off Group Personal Training

Conveniently timed for straight after kinder or school

Get in, get a fun work out done and get on with your day. Small children welcome under the supervision of their

Wednesdays, 9.15am-10.15am from 1 February

#### **Ageless Grace**

A fun seated exercise program designed to focus on the health and longevity of the body and the mind. This class helps with memory retention, coordination and balance.

Mondays, 9.15am-10am from 24 April (9 wks) \$162

#### **NEW - Fit for Life - Chair Exercise Class**

A challenging but safe stretch, strength and balance class for women and men at a later stage in life who, for whatever reason, want to exercise seated. Taught by Lisa

Fridays, from 28 April 12.15pm-1.15pm (9 wks) \$162

#### **Thursday Yoga**

Enjoy the benefits of the deeply nourishing Hatha Yoga with our very popular tutor Yulia. Suitable for new and experienced Yogi's alike.

Thursdays, 9.30am-10.30am from 27 April (9 wks) \$117



#### **Table Tennis**

Enjoy a friendly, social game of table tennis with locals.

Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm from 24 April Thursdays 11.30am-1pm from 27 April \$5 per

# Men's groups

#### **Men's Discussion Group**

This engaging group gets together fortnightly to share views about current events or other topics over morning tea. It's a discussion group in a safe place where men meet and listen to other men, and share their knowledge and experiences.

Fortnightly on Friday 9.30am-11.30am from 5th May \$5 per session (includes morning tea)

#### **Blokes in the Kitchen**

Blokes in the Kitchen is a great way for men to learn some simple easy-to-cook-at-home recipes in the company of other men. Come along and learn to cook under the guidance of chef Shawn and then share a meal and some great conversation together. This is a friendly and welcoming group who enjoy good food and company!

Monthly on the second Friday 9am-12pm 10th May and 6th April \$90 per term (includes two full lunches)







To book a course, scan the QR code above or visit our website at www.surreyhillsnc.org.au. Please also follow us on Facebook or Instagram, @surreyhillsnc.org.au.

# TRADERS CORNER

# Union Rd Garage

Mention Union Rd garage and people might be a little confused. But, say Phil's and they know exactly where you mean.

However, the real name is J&V Warren Smith Auto Service, started by Phil's parents, John and Val. The garage has had several homes but finally landed in Union Rd in 1984. At this time, Phil was an apprentice, while another well-known local figure, Wally, was working for Phil's father.

Wally gave the young apprentice an important piece of advice. "Lead a balanced life. Don't wait till you've retired to do the things you love". Phil has lived by this. Whilst he works hard, he fits in coaching and playing basketball (knees permitting), and sailing his Mosquito catamaran competitively - so competitively that he has won an Australian Championship in his class!

Prior to his apprenticeship, Phil studied engineering and electronics. Consequently, he finds the new plug-in diagnostic tools easy to work with. He is the one who instructs his team in using the software. When asked about working with electric cars, his view is that hydrogen/hybrid cars are the way of the future. Whilst they currently exist, he says the infrastructure isn't quite there yet.

I asked Phil what his favourite car to drive is. "A Toyota, because I know how to change a tyre and the oil, and nothing else goes wrong with them!" That answer put paid to my next question asking what his preferred car to repair is.

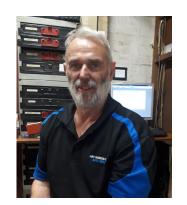
J&V Warren Smith Auto Service, under the care of Phil, is still a family business with two of his sons in the workforce.

PS: In answer to a Facebook recommendation for a good mechanic, Deb responded with "Head straight down to see Phil at Warren-Smith in Union Rd. He is fantastic and always helpful".

#### **J&V Warren Smith Auto Service**

145 Union Rd, Surrey Hills - 9890 9436 Hours M-F, 8am-5:30pm, and Sat 8am-12

Right: Phil Warren-Smith from the Union Road Garage



# Mason Lane Café, Mont Albert

The attractive café on the corner of Hamilton Street and Mont Albert Road draws you in as you wander by. Mason Lane is a family-owned café offering indoor and outdoor seating. Karen and her friendly team welcome everyone heartily. Daily, between 8 am and 2 pm, they serve an all-day menu with great coffee in a friendly, relaxed environment.

Go there to enjoy porridge or soup all year round. Two soups, one with meat and the other vegetarian, are available through winter. In summer there's vegetable soup. Karen says the locals love porridge and soups! Alternatively, choose eggs cooked to your liking, perhaps with smoked salmon or bacon on the side. There's a great vegetarian Spanish Eggs dish. If you have a sweet tooth, try the panna cotta. There are also gluten free options, a kids' menu, and a daily specials menu for current treats.

Karen says, "we hold a monthly book club and have a free library nook, so feel free to sit down with a book and bring it back or exchange it when you're done".

Mason Lane café promotes reusable practices. Bring your cup and receive 50c discount for coffee or alternative hot drink - enjoy it in the café or take away. They're also pleased to put takeaway foods straight onto your brought-in plate.

Karen thanks her staff and especially the many loyal locals who continue to frequent the café through these disrupted times - everyone's support is so much appreciated.

Ph: 98994284 Website: https://masonlanecafe.com Instagram: @masonlanecafe\_montalbert

Facebook: masonlanecafe Right: The cosy Maison Lane Café



# Autumn colour in the garden

As summer ends and the days shorten, our tree-lined local streets start to turn yellow signalling the beginning of autumn. Our love of seasonal colour has boosted regional tourism to areas like Bright and the Macedon Ranges, so why not bring some of that to your own garden?

With our temperate climate, Victoria is a gardener's paradise. We are spoilt for choice and when we think of gardens bursting with colour we generally think of flowers. But some of the most stunning autumn statements are deciduous trees, with year-round interest in leaf colour, blossom, and bark. There are many species to choose from, here are a few suggestions for the home garden.

**Ginkgo biloba 'Piedmont Pillar'** – With evidence of its survival for over 200 million years, the Ginkgo is considered nature's living fossil. A tall, narrow tree with distinctive two-lobed foliage that changes from a deep green to golden yellow in autumn. The leaves tend to fall rapidly as the temperature drops creating a golden bed around the base. It's upright nature is perfect for smaller spaces. Also look out for 'Lemonlime Spire pbr' for something extra compact.

Crepe myrtles offer something all year round with flower in summer, autumn colour and gorgeous bare mottled trunks in winter. They perform well in hot, dry conditions, making them perfectly matched for Melbourne's hot summers. Crepe myrtle makes a great small feature tree, the hot cerise 'Tuscarora' and cooler white 'Natchez' the most popular varieties.

Malus gorgeous - This crab apple features orange / red leaves in autumn with stunning blossom in spring followed by bright red fruit in summer. It is a small tree with a spreading growth habit, and its branching structure also makes it attractive during winter.

Take a trip to your local Garden Centre and choose an autumn coloured tree.

MW



The glorious autumn colours of the ginko tree

















# ARTS AND CULTURE

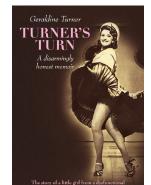
#### **Book Review**

#### Turner's Turn -**Geraldine Turner**

Published by New Holland

It is no secret that I am obsessed with musical theatre and its performers so when Desirée Music released its Geraldine Turner's four

disc anthology, Geraldine Turner - Great Australian Voices, I was ecstatic. Not only did it include most of her legendary Stephen Sondheim standards but also never before heard live bootlegs of Turner's benchmark



performances in Anything Goes, Sweeney Todd and Chicago. The most tantalising thing about this anthology was the cover notes written by Turner herself. But these were a mere soupçon of what would become her long awaited autobiography.

Turner's story begins like a page out of the musical Gypsy with a stage mother suffering from mental health issues driving her to become the strong performer we know and love today. It covers her poor but honest upbringing in Queensland and her transition to the great stages of Australia. As the subtitle states, this is indeed "a disarmingly honest memoir."

Turners writing is frank, honest and brave detailing some very personal and harrowing experiences in her colourful life. Her writing also acts as an historical

understanding of the Australian theatre landscape as Turner starred in many original Australian casts of the major musicals.

Turner also describes the roles that got away, ironically that of Mamma Rose in Gypsy that alluded her so many times. Her retelling of her relationship with legendary theatre composer Stephen Sondheim was particular poignant as he passed away in 2021. Melbourne is very lucky to be able to see Turner perform In Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap now playing at The Comedy Theatre.

The four disc anthology is a perfect companion piece to this autobiography of a legend in Australian theatre and I would recommend them both.

Review by Chris Kabay from Red Brick Café

### Vale Val White

October 2022 was a sad month at the Neighbourhood Centre with the passing of one of our most stalwart members, Val White. She undertook volunteer roles over many years, including with the Surrey Hills History Collection and the Music Festival, and started delivering Neighbourhood News in 1992. She went on to organize the distribution of that newsletter, establishing an orderly system which she guarded

fiercely, while continuing to deliver her own round until last year. Her award of life membership in 2014 was well-deserved. We miss her humour, her can-do attitude, and especially her presence at morning teas featuring cake!

Right: Val White pictured in 2021 with her SHNC Life Membership plaque



You are invited to attend the annual

# SURREY HILLS **ANZAC Day Dawn Service**

LEST WE FORGET

Tuesday 25th April, 2023 Assemble at 5:45am for 6:00am start The Shrine. Surrey Gardens. 88-90 Union Road. Surrey Hil

Pre-arranged priority seating is available upon request. Apply by email to shpa3127@gmail.com











Surrey Hills

# Easter and Holy Week Services @ **Holy Trinity Surrey Hills**

#### Palm Sunday April 2

8.00am and 9.30am: Holy Eucharist 5.00pm: Choral Evensong The Passion

#### Holy Wednesday April 5

10.00am: Holy Eucharist

#### Maundy Thursday April 6

7.30pm: Holy Eucharist

#### Good Friday April 7

9.30am: Reflective meditation on 'Why Good Friday?'

#### Easter Day April 9

8.00am: Holy Eucharist 9.30am: Family Eucharist

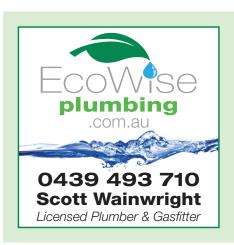
# Neighbourhood **News Volunteer Deliverers needed!**

If you're a walker and could deliver this paper on your walk six times a year, please contact us at reception @surreyhillsnc.org.au or on 9890 2467









490 Whitehorse Rd, Surrey Hills, VIC

Find us on Facebook









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#### **NEXT DEADLINE:**

15 May 2023 at SHNC 157 Union Rd Surrey Hills or email manager@surreyhillsnc.org.au



