



THE TWO OF US

Canterbury Girls Secondary College - Two School Captains

As a new school year begins, there will be lots of nervous students all over Surrey Hills, but Emmerson Baker and Lucy Patel, Canterbury Girls' Secondary College's new school captains couldn't be more excited. The two are headed into Year 12 and say, that despite knowing how stressful the last year of high school can be, they are planning to make the year a fun and memorable time. Their aim for the year, is to create an environment that is inviting for all, safe and supportive and they hope to set an example for the younger students. When asked why they applied for the roles Lucy said she "has always enjoyed leadership positions" and this role would allow her to "make a change to benefit and help the people around her". As a word of advice, Emmerson tells the new Year 7 students, "try everything and give everything a go. It may be a bit scary, but I promise it is worth trying, but most importantly have fun!" Good luck to all those starting back at school!

Music Festival 2024

Get your glad rags ready: the 2024 Surrey Hills Music Festival is happening! On Saturday 24th February we'll have some terrific new performers for you this year, together with some regulars who you know well. We'll have performers on the Main Stage at the Neighbourhood Centre and at neighbouring Holy Trinity, and this year we'll also (weather permitting!) be featuring some big bands at the new Amphitheatre in the station precinct.

This year, thanks to generous support from the City of Boroondara, from our local Bendigo Bank, and from Ross Hunt we've been fortunate to engage Andrew McSweeney as our Festival Director. Andrew - who knows the Festival, having worked with John Fleming when John was Director - has built on the excellent preparations done by Centre volunteer Mary to curate a rich and varied mix of performers for your delight.

We're opening the Festival at 12.30pm with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to pay respect to the traditional Wurundjeri owners of this land and their culture. And then:

On the Main Stage you can enjoy:

- **Indyana**, whose ethereal vocals and intricate story-telling draw her audience into a cosmic woodland.
- Festival veterans the **Scottish Fiddlers**, who will sweep you up with the drive and passion of their Celtic music.
- Festival favourite **John Fleming**, making a welcome return to perform his original and uplifting songs.
- Upcoming local female pop/folk artist **Lunic**, who invites you to explore a dreamland of soaring melodies and melancholy lyrics.
- **The Mob**, who need no introduction; this band, rooted in our community, have performed at almost every Music Festival we've had.
- **The Treblettes**, a sassy vocal trio from Melbourne, performing iconic songs from the 40's, 50's and 60's
- **Andrew McSweeney** will perform with his band **The Wishing Horse** to deliver soulful songs from their heart.
- Melbourne Singer/ Songwriter **Clint Wilson's** nostalgic Folk, Alt-Country music is an enjoyable amble through the tradition of storytelling in song.
- And, finally, experience the electrifying rhythms of **The Lost Girls**, for the iconic hits of the 80s and 90s.

- Alongside these performers we also have, at Holy Trinity, a feast of local choirs featuring **With One Voice Ashburton**, **The Box Hill Chorale**, **Rechoired**, **Cloud9**, **Yarra Gospel**, and the **Melbourne Harmony Chorus**, all capped off by **The Surrey Hills Orchestra**; and at the Amphitheatre we are delighted to be hosting the **Boroondara Symphonic Band**, **The Salvation Army's Red Shield Band**, and **Boroondara Brass**.

And while you're enjoying these musical delights you can also browse through the stalls of the traders we're inviting, and refresh yourself at our café, at our sausage sizzle, and at our much-loved Festival bar. Our aim is to give you a great time on a relaxing summer's day. Come along and enjoy!



12.30pm - 10pm Free Community Event
Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre & Union Road surrounds

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ON WURUNDJERI COUNTRY

The Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony

Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony are Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural practices. We are grateful to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation's website for the following information.

Welcome to Country ¹

A Welcome is only ever conducted by an Elder.

'Protocols for formally welcoming guests to Country (Tanderrum) have been part of Wurundjeri culture for thousands of years. Tanderrum allowed neighbouring tribes temporary access to Wurundjeri resources and safe passage on Wurundjeri homelands.' This practice is continued today by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation offering Welcome to Country ceremonies.

'Engaging an Elder to conduct a Welcome at your event is a way of recognising and paying respect to Wurundjeri people as well as acknowledging their ongoing connection to Country. Each Elder's Welcome is unique as it reflects the experiences and beliefs of the attending Elder.

A Welcome occurs at the opening of an event, preferably the first item.'

Non-Indigenous people often confuse a Welcome to Country with an Acknowledgement of Country - an Acknowledgement can be delivered by anybody respectfully.

Smoking Ceremony ²

A Smoking Ceremony is conducted by an Elder or younger Wurundjeri.

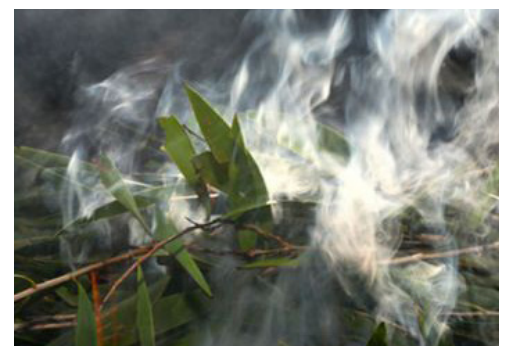
'Since the time of their ancestors, Wurundjeri people have held Smoking Ceremonies to cleanse places and people of bad spirits, to promote the wellbeing of their people and guests on Country. Smoking ceremonies today involve a Wurundjeri Elder and/or a younger Wurundjeri community member carrying a portable tarnuk (wooden dish) containing coals and wet leaves around assembled guests. Alternatively, guests may gather around a dedicated smoking site.

For full participation, those present will typically be invited to walk through the smoke for an individual cleansing.

We look forward to sharing this celebration with you at 12.30pm on Saturday the 24th February for the opening of the Surrey Hills Music Festival.

¹ <https://www.wurundjeri.com.au/services/cultural-practices-for-events/welcome-to-country/>

² <https://www.wurundjeri.com.au/services/cultural-practices-for-events/smoking/>



The Surrey Hills Music Festival Committee invite you to join us for a smoking ceremony to open the festival at 12.30pm on Saturday 24th February.



Course Highlights



I hope you've had a relaxing and refreshing summer break and that, as 2024 gets underway, there is much for you to look forward to in the coming year.

Here at the Centre, we're offering a terrific range of new and ever-popular programs with something for everyone! Pick up a copy of our new What's On Guide from the Centre's brochure box, or have a look online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this column.

We'd love to have you join us for a course or an event, or as a volunteer. New for this term are a re-vamped Playgroup now with structured activities, a Trace your Family History Genealogy Course, a FREE Wiser Driver Course and an already popular 'Sip and Paint' Friday evening program.

To make the most of the longer days and (hopefully) great summer weather, we're holding this year's Music Festival on February 24th. (see article on Page 1). Do come down, perhaps have lunch, dinner or a drink and enjoy this much-loved local institution, or sign-up to volunteer for a short shift and relish the sense of community that comes with being involved.

Ladies: please put breakfast on Friday the 8th of March in your diary! It's International Women's Day, and once again we're getting together over a barista coffee and breakfast pastry while we listen to a guest speak on a topic of interest to women. Details are being finalised as we go to print, but book your partner in to do school drop off, set your alarm to be at the Centre by 8am and keep an eye on our Facebook and Insta pages or our website for further information. Come along and join us for the best value, most inspiring meet, greet and learn that \$15 can buy!

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Neighbourhood Centre!

Rochelle Anderson, Centre Manager

Diary dates

Term 1, 2024

Surrey Hills Music Festival
1pm-10pm
Saturday, 24 Feb 2024

Term 1 Concludes
Thursday, 28 Mar 2024

International Women's Day
Friday, 8 Mar 2024

Good Friday
Friday, 29 Mar 2024



Host your event at SHNC!

Did you know that you can book a space at Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre for your next event? Whether you're looking for a space that can accommodate 2 people or 60 people, the Centre has a range of rooms that can accommodate your room hire needs.

We regularly host parties, meetings, workshops and classes for our community.

For further information and to book, please visit our website (www.surreyhillsc.org.au) and refer to the 'venue hire' menu tab.

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre
157 Union Road, Surrey Hills 3127
Phone: 98902467

enquiries@surreyhillsc.org.au www.surreyhillsc.org.au

Dive into a world of creativity, learning and connection at Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre! Explore art classes, fitness sessions, and engaging workshops suitable for all ages. Whether you're interested in Tai Chi or Table Tennis, or even Spanish or Scrabble, we have something for everyone! Join our vibrant community, make new friends and enrich your life with exciting experiences.

Visit us at surreyhillsc.org.au for a full list of our classes and activities on offer. Here's a sample of some programs we're excited about:

Community

Surrey Hills Music Festival

Be amazed and entertained by the sensational sounds of Surrey Hills! Musicians, choirs and performers will come together across multiple Union Road sites to provide a fun-filled day of wonderful music entertainment.

Saturday, 24 February 12.30pm-10pm

FREE Wiser Driver Course for responsible, older drivers

Join us for an informative, informal and friendly 4-week refresher course, to upgrade your knowledge and build on your experience to keep you driving safely

Tuesdays, 10.30am-12.30pm

5, 12, 19 and 26 March

Free to attend. Bookings essential

International Women's Day

Join the women of Surrey Hills and surrounds as we celebrate International Women's Day for 2024. Enjoy an inspiring guest speaker, a breakfast pastry and coffee before you dash off to work.

Friday 8 March, 8am-9.30am \$15

Bookings essential

Chatty Café

Chatty Café is about building friendly social connections over a tea or coffee and brightening your day. Everyone is welcome at Chatty Café!

Mondays, 10am-11am during term

Free with Centre Membership

Workshops

New Year Retreat

Begin 2024 with a day of nurturing, self-discovery and sanctuary. Join like-minded others as we explore the seven main energy centres of the human body, and mandalas through the art medicine process in a relaxed, supportive and nourishing one-day retreat. All welcome and no experience necessary.

Saturday, 17 February 10am-3.30pm

\$65 (includes light lunch)

Sip and Paint

Unleash your inner artist at our Sip and Paint workshop! Whether you're a seasoned artist or a first-time painter, come discover the joy of creating your masterpiece in a laid-back and social atmosphere. Grab a brush, take a sip, and let your imagination flow!

Friday, 16 February 7pm-9pm

\$75 (includes wine/bubbles)

Mosaics

Discover the art of mosaics as you piece together a stunning masterpiece using an array of colourful tiles and materials. Join us for a hands-on, inspiring workshop over 3 evening sessions as you transform otherwise broken pieces into beautiful works of art.

Thursday, 7, 14, 21 March 7pm-9pm

\$230/\$215 (members) incl. materials

Families

Playgroup



From imaginative play and arts and crafts, to interactive storytelling, music and movement sessions, our Friday playgroup is full of fun, creativity and imagination!

Per term: \$96

or Casual attendance: \$15 per session

Men's Health and Wellbeing

Monday Men's Walk

This weekly walk is intended to get men out and about, get some fresh air and do something good for your mental and physical health, in a relaxed, informal setting.

You can come along just for the walk part, before heading off to work, or stay on to enjoy a cup of coffee and chat afterwards. Men of all ages and 'walks' of life are welcome.

Mondays, 6.30am-7.15am

(followed by optional coffee break afterwards)

Free with Centre Membership (\$20 per year)

Please contact our office to join

Culture and Languages

Spanish: Level 2

Our 'Level 2' Spanish class caters to learners with some prior knowledge of Spanish, helping them build upon their existing skills. It is suitable for our continuing students, or new students with some basic Spanish language skills.

Mondays, 7pm-8.30pm

\$176 (8 sessions)

Italian: Beginner's Level

A beginner's Italian class introducing language skills, basic vocabulary, essential grammar rules, and simple conversational phrases. Students learn pronunciation, greetings, and everyday expressions, building a foundation for communication in Italian.

Thursdays, 6.30pm-8pm

\$198 (9 sessions)

Italian: Level 2

Our 'Level 2' Italian class caters to learners with some prior knowledge of Italian, helping them build upon their existing skills. It is suitable for our continuing students, or new students with some basic Italian language skills.

Wednesdays, 6.30pm-8pm

\$198 (9 sessions)

Fitness & Wellbeing

Group Personal Training

Kick-start your 2024 health and fitness goals by joining our invigorating group personal training classes! Accommodating all fitness levels, each session will leave you feeling motivated and supported in your fitness journey.

NEW! Mondays, 11.30am-12.30pm (8 sessions)

\$158.40

Wednesdays, 9.15am-10.15am (9 sessions)

\$178.20

Ageless Grace

This wonderful class embraces research into how to slow down the ageing process of your brain and body.

'Ageless Grace' is an uplifting, holistic program for wellbeing. Benefits include stress and anxiety relief, memory retention, co-ordination, improved balance and creativity.

Suitable for all ages and abilities and for those interested in keeping their brains stronger for longer.

Mondays, 9.15am-10am

\$158.40 (8 sessions)

Tai Chi - Self-Directed Sessions

Often referred to as 'moving meditation', our friendly Tai-Chi group will guide you through gentle movements and stretches to relax the muscles and promote a sense of wellbeing. All experience levels welcome! Experienced group members are happy to show beginners the basics of this nourishing mind-body practice. Yearly or per-term passes available.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8:00am-9:00am

Attend one or more sessions each week. Please see website for price details.

To book a course at Surrey Hills scan the QR code below or visit our website at www.surreyhillsc.org.au



TRADERS CORNER

Acorn Nursery

Acorn Nursery is a family-owned business, started in 1985 by John and Melissa van der Horst. From a simple beginning it is now an award-winning nursery, an extensive gift shop and a very popular café.

The nursery has always supported the community – school fetes, kinders, concerts, music festivals, etc. More recently, however, John and Melissa decided to channel their support to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre after hearing about its work when their daughter volunteered there. So, now, a small donation for your gift wrapping goes to the ASRC, topped up by the nursery. (A reminder also: the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre is a food collection point for the ASRC.)

The face that many locals know is that of Tony, the nursery manager/senior horticulturist. He jokes that he was taken on, ‘on trial’, 39 years ago and that John just keeps extending the trial. On Tony’s days off John emerges from administration duties and takes over.

Tony trained at Burnley Horticultural College and is a wealth of information and advice. He is always available to answer questions and “Tony’s Tips” appear on the website as well as via a regular subscriber email. In addition, Tony will be writing an occasional column in this paper – watch out for it. I asked him how he maintains all this knowledge. He said he has a fantastic database – his suppliers.

He says he doesn’t tire of his work, because it’s always changing - the seasons, plant ‘fashions’, the climate, the customers. He also enjoys



Tony, horticulturalist at Acorn Nursery, pictured alongside the ASRC donation tally board.

promoting environmental ideas such as the cooling effect of lawns, hedges and deciduous creepers on trellises, or ‘busting’ urban myths like ‘you must tease the roots’ - no!

But Tony does get time to smell the roses and when the day is over, he happily goes home to his own garden.

A final word from Tony – when asked which areas he works in – “everything except barista – they tell me I’m too slow!”

Acorn Nursery
669-673 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills
9890 3162
W: acornnursery.com.au
E: info@acornnursery.com.au

PETS CORNER

The Gentle Giants in our midst

Have you noticed the increasing popularity of the Bernese Mountain Dog in our Neighbourhood? These gentle giants originate from Bern in Switzerland (not Burma as sometimes thought) where they were bred as farm dogs to pull carts.

Joyous, loyal, quirky and very affectionate, these dogs are enormous bundles of love. There are a number of Bernese who walk our streets. You may have chanced upon Ziggy, Lola, Rocky or Yuki (pictured with owners Tania, Zara, Danielle and Martin at the John August lead free Reserve), or Jindi, Alfie Jodie or Lily, to name just a few of the magnificent animals who live in these parts.



Their owners just rave about these dogs. They’re born the size of a rat that fits in your hand but grow quickly, fuelled by high calorie diets that can have them weigh up to 60kg by the time they’re fully grown. That’s plenty of dog to love!

Our pets inspire such tremendous affection. Do you have an adored pet that you think that 3127 residents should know about? Send us some details and a photo to: enquiries@surreyhillsnc.org.au.

Holy Trinity

the Anglican parish for Surrey Hills & Mont Albert

Upcoming events

Treasures and Tastes at Trinity market Saturday, 17 February

Easter and Holy Week Services – Holy Trinity Surrey Hills

Palm Sunday March 24 8.00 and 9.30am - Holy Eucharist

Maunder Thursday March 28 7.30pm - Holy Eucharist

Good Friday March 29 9.30am - Reflective meditation

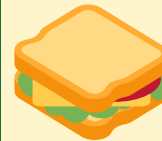
Easter Day March 31 8.00am - Holy Eucharist, 9.30am - Family Eucharist

For more information see: www.holytrinity.sh



Chatham primary school is seeking regular volunteers on Wednesday and Fridays in 2024 to help serve healthy food to students.

Seeking Canteen Volunteers!



If interested please call the school office on 98301933 for details. Free icy pole for every volunteer!



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ARTS AND CULTURE

Introducing Andrew McSweeney - The 2024 Surrey Hills Music Festival Director

We're thrilled to introduce Andrew McSweeney as the director of the 2024 Surrey Hills Music Festival. Andrew is a prolific and powerful songwriter, singer and guitarist who has a loyal following of his band *The Wishing Horse*. He has collaborated and shared songs with greats including Daryl Braithwaite, Kutcha Edwards and Mundaway Yunapingu. Working with illustrator/author Trace Balla, he is also shortly to launch a songbook called *A Basket of Songs*.

Andrew has leveraged his deep connections in the Melbourne music scene to put together a stellar line up for this festival. His band *The Wishing Horse* will be performing on the main stage at 7pm.

He hopes to see the community out in force on Saturday 24th of February to enjoy this wonderful free annual community event.

The program can be viewed at surreyhillsmusicfestival.com



Andrew McSweeney



International Women's Day

Join us at SHNC for an International Women's Day breakfast on Friday 8th March.

For more than a century International Women's Day (IWD) has celebrated women's achievements, raising awareness around gender discrimination and spearheading action to drive gender equality all over the world. The theme for this year's IWD is 'Inspire Inclusion' – to collectively forge a more inclusive world for women in all areas of life.

The origins of IWD date back to March 8, 1908 when more than 150,000 women marched through the streets of New York to demand better working conditions, fairer pay and voting rights in America; this movement sparked a ripple effect that saw the first official IWD being held in March 1911. Fast forward to 1928 when the first Australian International Women's Day celebration was held in Sydney and the following year the day was observed in Brisbane. By 1931 the celebration had carried to Melbourne with thousands of women's coming together to demonstrate in support of the movement.

This year there are many events taking place around the world that are promoted by the IWD organisation – and here in Australian many businesses and schools will also host breakfasts, lunches and speaking opportunities for women in their communities.

Correction: In edition 247 of the Neighbourhood News, the article referencing the Centenary of the Mont Albert Medial Practice, misspelt the name of Dr Thomas W Hoggarth. The editorial committee, who received the information for the article from a member of the public, published it in good faith, none-the-less apologise for the error.

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