

**SURREY
HILLS**

NEIGHBOURHOOD

News

ISSUE 250 / JUNE / JULY 2024



250th Edition

Welcome to the 250th edition of the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News

The Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre came about after the campaign against a proposed road flyover in Surrey Hills, in the 1970's. Local identity Bill Chandler, was one of the leaders of the campaign, a Centre founder and the originator of the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News (SHNN).

Bill established the SHNN in 1982, and was editor until his retirement due to ill health early in 2022. Edition 236 was his last. Neighbourhood Centre staff and local volunteers now oversee the publication, aiming to further Bill's legacy of connecting people to their community.

And now, we welcome you to **Edition 250**. Quite a milestone!



Union Road as is today

To celebrate this edition, we'd like you to imagine how you might "spend" 250 minutes in 3127

What would you do? Where would you go?

Here are a few suggestions you might like to consider:

- Meander down Union Rd searching out the plaques erected by the Surrey Hills Historical Society. Visit the Surrey Gardens War Memorial. (And who knew there was once a funeral parlour where Ross Hunt Real Estate is now?)
- Try Burbing. Whatever is that? This craze boomed during COVID. Ride every street in your postcode – 3127! But can you do it in 250 minutes I wonder. Some use tracking devices, some paper maps. Or just have fun, take the kids with you and don't worry if you miss a few streets. You'll be surprised by what you discover.
- Find the lookout in Bluebell Hill Reserve. It's situated on one of the highest points within a 12km radius of Melbourne. Great for watching NYE fireworks.
- Take your passport and sneak across the border of Riversdale Rd into Wattle Park. Check out the

new playground – amazing – and spot the cute cottage housing the Basket Weavers of Victoria.

- Explore South Surrey Park with its various nature trails.
- There's a special front garden in Sunbury Cres. The kids will love it.
- A 3127 coffee crawl?
- Did you know Surrey Hills once had its own golf course? Opening in 1892, fairways were paddocks and "bunkers" were fences and cows. Find out more from the plaque on the corner of Mont Albert Rd and Wolseley Close, opposite the station.
- If you have the full 250 minutes available you could always ask the ever-cheerful Tony, in the drycleaners, about Collingwood!!
- If you haven't already, check out the new Union Station – start at the delightful Mont Albert Plaza with its veggie gardens for community "picking", then walk or cycle the new bike path reading the embedded historical information as you go, and finish by scaling the climbing wall at the Union Rd end.



The first ever edition of the Neighbourhood News in 1982

- View the "Marion Mahoney Griffin and Walter Burley Griffin" designed house in Warwick Ave.
- At Union Station, pat the King Parrot sculptures, created by local artist, Emily Floyd. They've decided 3127 is a great place to live. (But we already knew that).

The Two of Us

So VERY inspirational!

When Kate Gibson (33) of Mont Albert tells locals that she lives with her Hawaiian-shirt-wearing Grandfather, Richard Gertzel (93), people often reply; "Oh yes! I know Richard".

Richard is a familiar sight, walking from his home off Windsor Crescent near Elgar Road to Union Road and Hamilton Street every day. He attends the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre for two exercise classes a week, Voodoo Child for his keyboard lessons, and Reunion and Steam cafes for coffee and brunch with friends and family. He's a regular at Hamilton Street where he frequents Churchills, Maison Lane and The Boulevard. At almost 94, his ability to walk the streets of 3127 is, quite simply, inspiring.

However, that's not the only thing that's inspirational about Richard. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's shortly after his beloved wife Marion died from the same disease five years ago, he's been determined to keep it at bay. He started learning the keyboard in 2023, is a dedicated share trader who checks his portfolio daily, keeps himself fit, cooks and eats a very healthy salmon, broccoli and avocado for dinner most



Richard Gertzel and Granddaughter Kate Gibson

nights. A former electrical engineer, Richard has lived and worked in Canada, Manila, Pakistan, Perth and Melbourne. He's raised three children and has loving close family supporting him.

One could be forgiven for thinking granddaughter Kate, who works for the Victorian Legal Service Board and Commissioner, lives with Richard to look after him, but nothing could be further from the truth. Kate moved in with Richard at the beginning of 2022 so her gorgeous dog Missy could have some company during the day whilst she was at work! The three of them have a lovely friendship one can't help but be in awe of. What an inspiring family they are.



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Kindness Corner

KIND PET OWNER

We heard of a kind pet owner who doesn't get the suitcases down until the dogs have gone to the pet-sitter.

HELP AT THE GYM

A contributor to the Kindness Corner told how they were new to the gym – and just a little nervous as they sat

on the piece of equipment. A kind young man quietly pointed out that they were facing the wrong way.

TREASURE HUNT FOR KIDS: BIG & SMALL

Instead of "Where's Wally" it's "Where's the Weighbridge". Somewhere, in this edition, is a tiny

photo of the red weighing scales that live in the Neighbourhood Centre forecourt. Have fun finding it.

We would love to print your good news stories in the Neighbourhood News. No names, just the story.

Please email your "kindness tales" to reception@surreyhillsnc.org.au

ON WURUNDJERI COUNTRY

NAIDOC Week 7-14 July

NAIDOC Week celebrates First People's histories, cultures and achievements.

Half a century ago Aboriginal organisations, governments and church groups formed a National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) and the second Sunday in July became a day of remembrance for Aboriginal people and their heritage. By 1974 the Committee comprised entirely Aboriginal members and in 1975 the annual day was extended to a week, the first to second Sunday each July. Also, NAIDOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander peoples – NAIDOC.

This year's theme is 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud' which 'honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.'¹

NAIDOC week is very important to First Peoples; and it's an opportunity for everyone to learn about and celebrate First Nations cultures and histories. Boroondara Council hosts NAIDOC events every year.



NAIDOC paint your own boomerang workshop:

For those aged 10-25 years there's a free and accessible workshop at 12-3pm on Tuesday 2 July, at Murnong First Peoples Gathering Place at 100 High Street, Glen Iris.

Dive into the world of Aboriginal Dreamtime, symbols and history as you design your very own dreamtime story boomerang. Artwork will be proudly showcased at the Murnong Gallery and Gallery of Young Art throughout July to honour NAIDOC Week. Artworks will be mailed to participants after the showcase.

Register at: <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/naidoc-paint-your-own-boomerang-workshop>

¹ <https://www.naidoc.org.au/news/2024-naidoc-week-theme-keep-fire-burning-blak-loud-and-proud#:~:text=Held%20across%20the%20country%20from,and%20Torres%20Strait%20Islander%20peoples.>



OUR WELCOMING COMMUNITY

A Chance To Help a Family in Need

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre has, for the past eight years, been acting as a food drop-off point for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, enabling our community to provide vital support to some of those most in need. Your generous support has been much appreciated.



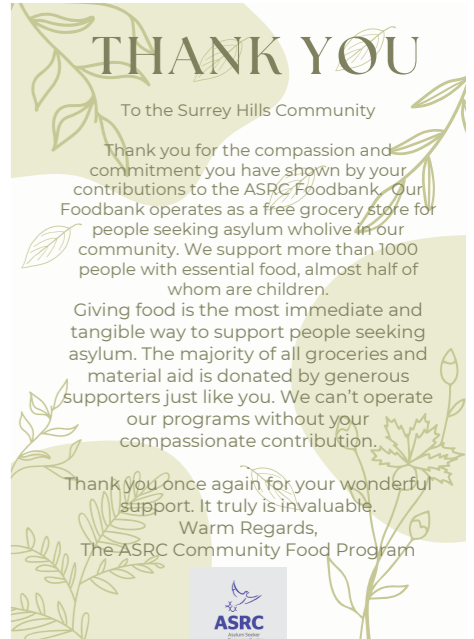
A refugee family being welcomed by their Sponsor Group at Melbourne Airport

Now we are also delighted to announce our participation in Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) through their Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot program. This program, modelled on a successful Canadian program, enables individuals in the community to join together in groups of five or more to provide support for a refugee family whom CRSA will match with the group before they arrive in Australia. The group's role will be to give the family a warm welcome, find some accommodation for at least the first few weeks and help them with settling into Australian society. This includes guiding them through setting up Medicare registration, helping them open a bank account, introducing them to our supermarkets and other shops, finding schools for the children, sourcing the basics for living, and maybe teaching them how to drive here. Group participants will start

communicating with their nominated family, getting to know each other online, before their arrival in Australia. It's a busy time for a group once they arrive.

To qualify for the program, each group of five+ will need to have a Group Co-ordinator and a Deputy Co-ordinator. Once CRSA complete background checks on the group's members, the group will be asked to fundraise at least \$5,000 (in cash or in kind, including donated whitegoods or subsidised accommodation); cash donations will be tax deductible. The group's members will then be given appropriate training by CRSA, who will look for a suitable family for the group to support.

A successful sponsorship would provide the refugee family with a warm welcome at the airport, a soft landing as they settle into their new life, help with immediate needs, knowledge and network



sharing, support with life choices, and a celebration of their growing independence in their new homeland. They will find a sense of settlement and support, of people around them who can help. These memories will be cherished by those families.

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre will be very happy to support sponsoring groups through our own resources and with our peak body ANCHA. We'll be giving more information at our Community Dinner on Thursday 13th June, and you can learn more at www.refugeesponsorship.org.au



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Upcoming Events & Pop-Up Offices

- Understanding Superannuation and Services Australia services - Tuesday June 11, 10:30am, South Camberwell Gospel Hall
- Understanding Aged Care Fees and Charges - Monday 17 Jun 2024, 10:30am, South Camberwell Gospel Hall
- Pop-Up Office - Tuesday 18 June, 7:30am, Hartwell Station
- Pop-Up Office - Friday 21 June, 12:00pm, Maling Road
- Pop-Up Office - Saturday 22 June, 11:00 am, Burwood Village, Toorak Road
- Pop-Up Office - Wednesday 17 July, 12:00pm, Camberwell Coles
- Pop-Up Office - Saturday 20 July, 10:30am, Balwyn Shops, Whitehorse Road
- Pop-Up Office - Tuesday 23 July, 7:30am, Union Station



E: monique.ryan.mp@aph.gov.au P: (03) 9326 2900 / 145 Camberwell Rd, Hawthorn East

Authorised by Dr M. Ryan MP, Independent Federal Member for Kooyong, 145 Camberwell Rd, Hawthorn East, Victoria 3123



**Welcome to our new-look
250th edition of the
Neighbourhood News!**

We are thrilled to unveil our refreshed magazine format, which still includes all your favourite columns along with some exciting new contributions.

In this edition, you can look forward to reading about Sport in 3127, Home and Garden and much more. We're also introducing a new column penned by MacKenzie Bourne who will be writing for the younger adults in our community.

Explore our inspiring winter programs with mid-term enrolments available. Try something new with evening Yoga, morning Tai Chi, daytime Art Classes, or Group Personal Training.

We'd also like to invite you along to our Community Dinner on Thursday 13th of June in preparation for Refugee Week. We'll be introducing an opportunity for community involvement in helping a newly-arrived refugee family settle into our area and their new country (see article on page 5). At \$20 for dinner and the chance to hear how you can contribute something meaningful for a newly-arrived family, this will be a great night out.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Neighbourhood Centre this Winter.

Rochelle Anderson
Centre Manager



Diary dates

Kings Birthday
Monday, 10 Jun 2024

Refugee Week
16 - 24 June 2024

World Refugee Day
Thursday 20 Jun 2024

Term 2 concludes
Friday, 28 Jun 2024

Course Highlights

Join us at Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre for a variety of exciting activities that cater to all ages and interests!

Don't worry if you missed the start of the term - there's still 5 weeks remaining and we warmly welcome mid-term sign-ups for a number of our classes. It's never too late to get involved, meet new people, and have fun.



To book a workshop, class or activity scan the QR code or visit our website at www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

Community

Community Pantry

Our Community Pantry is dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to fresh, nutritious food and groceries. We believe in neighbours helping neighbours, so feel free to visit and take what you need.



Community Dinner

Join us for a catch-up over a shared meal. Celebrating **Refugee Week 2024**, the dinner will be catered for by an organisation that employs people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. We look forward to coming together and sharing ideas on ways to welcome and support refugees in our community.

Thursday, 13 June 7pm - 9pm
\$20.00

Chatty Café

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

Monday 10am - 11am (during term)
FREE with SHNC Membership

Workshops

How to Replace a broken tile

This hands-on workshop will cover tile removal, replacement, cutting and grouting. All necessary tools and materials are provided for a hands-on learning experience.

\$49.50 Friday 28 June 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Electrify Boroondara

Discover easy and affordable ways to reduce your energy bills. Hear from home energy assessors who have years of experience helping households reduce their bills and increase their comfort.

Tuesday 18 June 10.45am - 12.15pm

FREE - Bookings essential

Fitness and Wellbeing

Yoga

Enjoy the benefits of the deeply nourishing Hatha Yoga with our experienced and much-loved tutors. Suitable for beginners to experienced yogis alike.

- **Monday 6pm - 7pm \$99 (mid-term rate)**
- **Tuesday 6pm - 7pm \$99 (mid-term rate)**

Group Personal Training

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned fitness enthusiast, this class is the perfect blend of personalised attention and group synergy. Focusing on overall wellness and designed to help you reach your fitness goals in a fun and engaging environment.

- **Monday 11.30am - 12.30pm \$99 (mid-term rate)**
- **Wednesday 9.15am - 10.15am \$99 (mid-term rate)**

Arts and Creativity

Watercolour Painting

Taught by local artist Velda Palazzi, students explore and apply a variety of techniques to increase their confidence and skills in using this beautiful and versatile medium.

Wednesday 10am - 12pm

Wednesday 1pm - 3pm

\$99 (mid-term rate)

Mixed Media Art

Release your inner creativity and explore new mediums including watercolour, drawing, collage and abstract.

Monday 2pm - 4pm

\$99 (mid-term rate)

Children and Families



Join us for
Friday Structured Playgroup

Fridays: 9.30am - 11am
(during school term)

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Friday 9.30am - 11am

\$15 per casual session

Italian Classes

Beginners

A beginners' 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.

Thursday 6.30pm - 8:00pm

\$110 (mid-term rate)

Intermediate

Our 'Intermediate' 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.

Wednesday 6.30pm - 8:00pm

\$110 (mid-term rate)

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.

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

Canterbury Tennis Club: A Great Place for Tennis Lovers

You might have noticed the four tennis courts next to Canterbury Oval and behind Canterbury District Kindergarten. Canterbury Tennis Club is a busy and active club, with many people making use of its four courts. The club has a range of activities, including competition tennis games during the week (day and nights) and on weekends for both seniors and juniors.

They host regular annual member events, such as the club championships and family tennis days. These events are coordinated by generous volunteers and include players of all levels.

The club is also fortunate to have excellent coaching programs, thanks to Nima Tennis. Nima Roshan, the Director, played competitively on the ITF/ATP Pro Tour before launching a career as a coach at various clubs in the USA. Prospective students can visit www.nimatennis.com for more information.

Right now, the club is raising money to resurface two of its courts that are in poor condition and is progressing discussions with Bendigo Bank, who they hope will contribute to the cost through their community sponsorship programs.



Nima Roshan running a free tennis clinic for members

If you want to join the Canterbury Tennis Club, you can apply for membership on the club's website at www.canterburytc.com.au

New members are always welcome to join this very friendly and active tennis community.

Canterbury Sports Ground redevelopment

The changing rooms and social facilities at Canterbury Sports Ground (CSG) are currently being renewed with new facilities being added. Construction commenced in March and is expected to be completed later this year.

CSG is home to three sporting clubs, Canterbury Cricket Club, Canterbury Football Club and Canterbury Junior Football Club. There are 4000 people in the CSG sporting community - players, members,

spectators, parents and neighbours. These Clubs field more than 30 teams: senior women and men, girls and boys and veterans. The number of women and girls playing sport at CSG is growing fast.

The Clubs have worked with the Council to design functional, welcoming and safe facilities that girls and women will value and want to use. The redevelopment will: raise the floor of the Clubs' social facilities to the level of the playing arena to

address past flooding issues; extend the facilities to accommodate the growing number of women and girls; and maximise the use of the space in the facilities. Boroondara Council allocated \$2.2 million to the project and the State Government another \$1.25 million.

The Clubs would like to thank all those who have supported the redevelopment of CSG.

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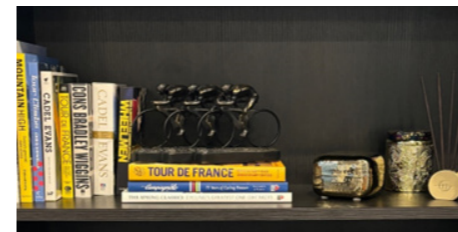
Bookshelf Styling

By Allison Guerrieri

A well-styled bookshelf, filled with books, photos, or mementos, conveys a tale of life, adventure, and family. Styling your own bookshelf should do the same. Follow these 4 simple rules to create a bookshelf that looks great and tells your story.

1. Create Negative Space

Overcrowded bookshelves can look cluttered and disorganised. Create opportunities for empty spaces in your bookshelf by using bookends to hold your books in place. Group books by theme or colour and include objects relating to those themes. The varying book heights and shape of the bookends create more space around your items and draws them into focus.



2. Rule of three

Group 3 decorative items of varying heights or sizes together to create 'vignettes' or little stories throughout your bookshelf. Group 3 different shaped objects in the same colour or 3 decorative boxes stacked in descending size to draw the eye to different points on the bookshelf. Stack 3 large books horizontally and top with a decorative box or sculpture to create a point of interest.



3. Contain Items

Trays and decorative boxes make perfect display cases for smaller items, that could otherwise make a space look cluttered. Boxes with glass lids are a great way to display collections of shells or other tiny treasures.



4. Greenery

Add a real or artificial plant to create an organic contrast and a pop of colour. This will help soften the straight lines of your bookshelf.

For more styling advice come into:

Style Queen Interiors
154 Union Road Surrey Hills



Thrifty Threads: Where to shop for pre-loved clothes

By Mackenzie Bourne

Each Australian throws away, on average, 23 kilograms of clothing a year. Nowadays, however, cost of living pressures and increasing sustainability awareness is causing more Australians to turn to op shops and second-hand clothing stores. There are many op shops close by, such as Vinnies in Hamilton Street, Mont Albert, Salvos in Balwyn and Riversdale Road, Camberwell. All these op shops sell a variety of pre-loved clothing pieces at a low price. Nearby is the Sunday Camberwell Market which opens at 7am and runs until 12:30pm.

This is held every Sunday morning, when the main car park is converted into a lively and energetic market. Each week there are around 370 stalls that sell clothes, shoes and accessories at a very respectable price. If you wanted to find some high-end, pre-loved bargains to upgrade your wardrobe, Rack It Club located in Hawthorn and Malvern East is the place to be. Rack it Club stocks clothing brands such as Bec and Bridge, Henne, Aje and so many more. It also gives you the chance to make your own money by renting a rack where you can sell your own pre-loved clothing!



Inside the Malvern East Rack-it-Club store

OUR GREEN SPACES

Rose Avenue Community Herb Garden

Have you noticed the burst of green along our neighbourhood's nature strip? That's right – it's our very own community herb garden. Tucked away in the heart of Surrey Hills, this simple yet vibrant addition to our landscape is winning hearts.

What started as a small initiative by local residents has blossomed into something truly special. Rows of sage, rosemary, mint, and more now thrive where once there was only grass. But it's not just about the plants; it's about the sense of togetherness they've brought to our community.

Neighbours stop by to chat, exchange gardening tips, and even play basketball using the hoop that's located in the cul-du-sac. It's become a hub of activity, a place

where connections are made and friendships are forged. This garden is a refreshing reminder of the power of community.

In addition to the social impact of this garden, it's also practising sustainability too. By growing our own herbs and vegetables, we're reducing our carbon footprint and embracing a more eco-friendly way of living. Plus, there's something deeply satisfying about picking your own herbs for dinner straight from the garden.

So here's to our community herb garden – may it continue to grow and thrive, bringing us together and reminding us of the simple joys of nature. If you haven't already, why not take a stroll down and see what it's all about? Located on the corner



The Scarecrow at the Rose Avenue Herb Garden

of Union Road and Rose Avenue, you might just find yourself inspired to start your own little garden too.

ARTS AND CULTURE

What's on in Melbourne this winter? Cultural delights for all!

With the wintery season well and truly upon us, what better way to spend a couple of hours than seeing one of the many shows and exhibitions gracing our main stages and galleries in the next few months.

The Regent Theatre is currently hosting the bewitching **Wicked**. This show is perfect for a first timer or a punter wanting bang for their buck. It runs until 28 July.

The Odd Couple, starring everyone's favourites Todd McKenny and Shane Jacobson as well as the endearing Lucy Durack, opens this month too and plays a limited season at the Comedy theatre until 23 June.

The highlight of the musical season would have to be **Opera Australia's** new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's **Sunset Boulevard**, starring Sarah Brightman as silent screen star, Norma Desmond. This is bound to be a lush and entertaining night at the theatre. Though Brightman is taking on the lead, in the majority of performances, I think I'd prefer to



see Melbourne's own Silvie Paladino, who is stepping into the role for certain performances. Details are on their website.

Tickets have also gone on sale for the one-act wonder that is **Six**. With a story set around the six wives of Henry VIII, this is another highlight of the year. The encore season for this girl power musical will definitely be a sellout. And for anyone with an interest in ancient Egypt, this winter's offering at the National Gallery of Victoria includes **Pharoah**. Billed

as a blockbuster of an exhibition, celebrating 3,000 years of ancient Egyptian art and culture, many of the 500 works are on display for the first time in Australia. The artefacts are on loan from the British Museum and include sculpture, tomb and temple architecture, as well as incredible ancient Egyptian jewellery. Pharoah runs from 14 June to 16 October.

Got a show coming up? Email us at reception@surreyhillsnc.org.au and let us know so we can give it a shout out.

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