



THE TWO OF US



Skye (left) Zara (right) and their dog Lulu.

Santa's tricky challenge: Skye and Zara

Like many children in the neighbourhood, Skye (11) and sister Zara (9) can't wait for the summer holidays and for Christmas!

Both are looking forward to the warmer weather so they can have fun in the pool with their Mum (Liz), Dad (Paul) and dog Lulu (pictured).

It won't be long now until their Advent elf-on-the-shelf, named Mia, makes her appearance in their household. Mia arrives on 1 December and, after flying in to check on the girls each evening in the lead up to Christmas, reports back to Santa at the North Pole. She then hides in a new place ready for Skye and Zara to excitedly search for her in her new place each morning.

For Christmas, Skye who's going into grade 6 at Surrey Hills Primary next year, is hoping to wake up to find an axolotl (aka a Mexican Walking Fish) in her stocking! Zara, who has just finished grade three at Chatham Primary school is hoping for a fluffy pink blanket for her bed and a new Frank Green water bottle.

We hope Santa can source an axolotl on his way to Surrey Hills and we trust he'll find all of the other tricky gifts the children in 3127 are hoping for this Christmas!

May Christmas morning be full of excitement for the little people in our neighbourhood this year.

Find Boats and Community at Surrey Park



Surrey Park Model Boat Club is one of our suburb's hidden gems; it offers the ideal relaxed Sunday morning watching model boats sailing around a tranquil ornamental lake. Perfect for little kids and not so little observers too!

Surrounded by trees, the lake and club house are tucked away between Aqualink Box Hill, Surrey Park playground and the site of the old Box Hill Brickworks.

The club was set up in 1988 but the history of the lake dates back more than 130 years to when the area was a quarry that was dug out for its clay; this was used by the nearby brickworks. At the end of the nineteenth century clay production was suspended for more than a decade and this deep hole filled with water, fed by an underground spring.

Surrey Dive, as it was known, became a popular but precarious local swimming spot. It hosted diving and lifesaving displays to crowds of people and was considered one of Australia's premier swimming venues until the 1930s when a purpose-built modern swimming complex was built next to it. During a drought in the 1960s the hole was drained to provide much-needed irrigation to trees in local parks. In the 1980s, the decision was made to fill in the hole and create a shallow ornamental lake.

The City of Box Hill asked the local community for expressions of interest for how to use the area and a small group formed to suggest a boat club. Just 15 people attended the first meeting but 35 years on there are 120 members. The club rents its club rooms from the council, using the venue for meetings and small repairs as well as displaying vessels. Head of the club, or Commodore, Gerard O'Donoghue said: "If you don't own a boat, you can try out one of the club's boats. Everything out on the lake is either powered by steam, electric motors or the wind." Petrol-driven motors are not allowed.

Once a year there's a competition split into yachts measuring under 750mm and models that are more than 750mm long.

With its serene surroundings and dedicated community, the club is a haven for enthusiasts of all ages and skills. Most models are between half a metre to three metres in length and cover a wide variety of types including fishing boats, yachts, tugs and fast electric craft.

My son and I were made so welcome when we popped down unannounced to visit the club. It feels like more than a gathering place bringing together a community of people who share a love of model boats. Seasoned sailor or newcomer, the club welcomes all with open arms, creating an inclusive and friendly atmosphere. I highly recommend a visit!



Left to right - Tony Goldsworthy (Secretary) Peter McKenzie (Safety Officer), Gerard O'Donoghue (Commodore)

100 years of Mont Albert Medical Clinic

Dr Tom Hogarth, an elder at Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church and medical missionary, established a medical practice at 195 Union Road in 1923. When Dr Hogarth died in 1945, Dr Kemp - also a medical missionary - approached his widow suggesting that his nephew, Dr Linley Hare, might be interested in buying the practice. He had not mentioned this to his nephew, who was still serving as a medical officer in the air force. Mrs. Hogarth had agreed to sell the practice to someone else but gave Dr Kemp a 24 hour stay of sale.

Within the 24 hours, Linley Hare and his wife, Alice, decided to buy the practice, which included buying the house, and signed the documents. They then caught a tram along Whitehorse Road to Union Road to see what they had bought. In 1955 they moved the practice to its present site on the corner of Union & Mont Albert Roads.

Linley Hare died of a heart attack aged 52. Alice Hare continued working in the practice until 1995. Their son, Dr James Hare, joined the practice in 1978 and their granddaughter, Dr Katie Weatherhead, joined the practice in 2010; both are still working there. Their great-grandson Jonty Neil did his work experience there last year and is hoping to study medicine.

Past and present staff will be celebrating at a centenary dinner.

Right: Doctors from the Mont Albert Medical Centre from both the past and present



SURREY HILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS VIBES

Saturday 9 December

11am - 2pm

- + MUSICAL PERFORMANCES
- + FACE PAINTING
- + JUMPING CASTLE
- + SANTA PHOTO BOOTH
- + CHILDREN'S CRAFTS
- + SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINKS
- + MARKET STALLS





Course Highlights



It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the year already!

I hope, as we all ramp up for the busy last weeks before Christmas, that you find the time to connect with friends and family.

On behalf of our team, I'd like to invite you to join us for our annual family-focused Christmas Vibes Festival on the Saturday 9th December between 11am and 2pm. We'll have Christmas-themed musical performances, a sausage sizzle, a Santa Photo-Booth, free Christmas crafts for children, a jumping castle and face painting, as well as some stalls selling handmade artisan products. Please come on down to the Centre at 157 Union Road and join us for our end of year celebrations.

I should also take this opportunity to remind our community that our office will be closed from Tuesday, 12th December until Monday 22nd January. If you need some FOGO bin liners or want to drop in some food for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, we'd love to see you prior to Tuesday, 12 December.

Our classes conclude on Friday 8th December and recommence on Monday 29th January 2024. You're welcome to enrol in our 2024 programs at any time while the office is closed via our website at www.surreyhillsnc.org.au or by using the QR code on the bottom right of this page.

May I wish all 3127 residents a very happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing break over the summer. We look forward to being here to welcome in 2024 and beyond.

Rochelle Anderson, Centre Manager

As we bid farewell to 2023, it's time to usher in the warmth of the new year with exciting and enriching opportunities for growth, creativity, and connection at Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre! We can't wait to welcome you to our vibrant community and hope that you'll join us at one of our upcoming classes, activities or workshops.

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

Community

Christmas Vibes Community Festival

Come join us for some fabulous festive fun! Christmas crafts and activities for kids, photos with the 'man of the moment' (Santa!), carols and music entertainment, community BBQ and stalls.

Saturday, 9 December 11am to 2pm

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 1pm-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, 10am-12pm

5, 12, 19 and 26 March

Free to attend. 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 from 29 January

Free with Centre Membership

FREE Carer's Walk and Morning Tea

Walks for Carers invites carers of people with disability, mental illness or aged persons a chance to attend free walking events in your local neighbourhood to connect with other carers and learn about the supports available.

Second Monday of the month, 10.30am-12pm

Starting 12 February

Workshops

Family History and Genealogy Course

Embark on a journey of discovery about your family's past, as we help you uncover fascinating stories and connections about your heritage. This 12-week course is designed to be a condensed and practical introduction to the fascinating world of genealogy.

Tuesdays 1pm - 2pm, starting 1 February

\$180 (SHNC Members)

\$200 (non-members)

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 1-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

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

Mondays, 6.30am-7.15am (followed by optional tea and coffee break afterwards)

From Monday, 29 January

Free with Centre Membership (\$20 per year)

Please contact our office to join

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 Hickman. Then, share a meal and great conversation together.

This is a friendly group for men who enjoy good food and good company. All are welcome!

Monthly, on the 2nd Friday 9am-12pm

• **Friday, 9 February**

• **Friday, 8 March**

\$45 per session (includes a 2-course lunch)

Culture and Languages

Italian: Beginner's Level

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.

Thursdays, 6.30pm-8pm, starting 1 February

\$198 (9 sessions)

Italian: Level 1

Our 'Level 1' 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, starting 31 January

\$198 (9 sessions)

Fitness & Wellbeing

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, starting 29 January

\$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 from Tuesday, 30 January.

Attend one or more sessions each week. Term or yearly tickets available.

Please see website for price details.

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



Diary dates

Term 1, 2024

Term 4, 2023

Term 4 concludes
Friday, 8 Dec 2023

SHNC 'Christmas Vibes'
Saturday, 9 Dec 2023

Term 1 commences
Monday, 29 Jan 2024

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

Term 1 Concludes
Thursday, 28 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.surreyhillsnc.org.au) and refer to the 'venue hire' menu tab.

TRADERS CORNER

Helloworld Surrey Hills

Helloworld Travel Surrey Hills recently celebrated 30 years of business in the Surrey Hills strip! Its highly experienced team offers customers a complete travel service and has, between them, travelled around most of the world. Staff regularly attend training and tradeshows overseas to stay current, particularly on the latest hotel and hot spot destinations.

Owner Debra Carr, who opened the business, has won many awards. Debra guides and works with her team to ensure the best value and most innovative holiday options for customers. Debra has visited an incredible 62 countries! She's happy to share her experiences and give her personal recommendations. If you are after inspiration for a special holiday with the wow factor, Deb is the person to talk to.

Travel Specialist Susan Curtis joined the industry two decades ago and has travelled extensively, especially through Ireland, France, Bali and Australia. She has experienced river and ocean cruising, coach tours, rail journeys and road trips. Susan loves supporting customers to design their holiday dreams.

Travel Specialist Jordan McGregor joined the travel industry more than seven years ago and she's travelled to Fiji, New Zealand, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Europe.

Kate is customer experience and administration consultant – she works closely on the intricate details behind the scenes.

Email Surreyhills@helloworld.com.au to join their database and receive special invitations to client events plus be updated on all things travel.

Make an appointment between 9.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday, and watch the team design you the trip of a lifetime.



Reducing food waste by sharing produce and groceries with the community

We are passionate about reducing food waste here at the Neighbourhood Centre. So it has been truly heartwarming to see members of our community responding to our Facebook call outs to pick up food donated to us by FareShare. Each year FareShare transforms rescued and donated food into millions of delicious, healthy meals that are enjoyed by Australians experiencing hardship. The charity's huge kitchens are currently being renovated so it has been wonderful to ensure that we are both helping them and our community by reducing food waste. Donated food and groceries are available for anyone to collect from 10am each Thursday morning until December 7, or during school term time from January 2024.



Congratulations to Joan and Harry Byran from Mont Albert who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on the 13th November.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church would like to advise the community of the following upcoming events:

Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, 10 Dec 2023 7pm

Christmas Market - Saturday, 16 December (9am-1pm)

Christmas Eve 2023
Family Christmas service
Sunday, 24 Dec 5.30pm

Midnight Mass with Carols
(Carol singing from 11.00pm)
Sunday, 24 Dec 11.30pm

Christmas Day 2023
Christmas Eucharist and Carols
Monday, 25 Dec 9.30am

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 177 Union Road, Surrey Hills

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ARTS AND CULTURE



Firestorm

Greg Mullins

Greg Mullins fought his first fire alongside his Dad when he was twelve years old. He joined the NSW Fire Brigade in 1978, and stayed for 39 years, finishing as Commissioner, Fire and Rescue NSW. He still volunteers. This 2021 book, more than a memoir, includes his deepening understanding of how fires start, how they burn, and how and why our fire seasons have been changing.

Mullins gives impassioned accounts of the major fires he helped to fight throughout his life. As he recounts these battles, from his varying perspectives as he rises through the ranks, he also describes how the fires started to evolve. He saw that, from around 1990, fire seasons became less predictable: longer, with more intense droughts, and ever-fiercer fires. He recounts his meetings with environmental scientists, and his frustration with government inertia in tackling our climate emergency. The book climaxes with the giga-fires of 2019/20, when so much of the east coast was ablaze.

These again-timely recollections highlight how dangerous bushfires are becoming, why urgent action is needed to stop global warming, and how much we owe to our firefighters for the courageous, selfless work that they do on behalf of us all.

Chris Young

Strange Sally Diamond

Liz Nugent

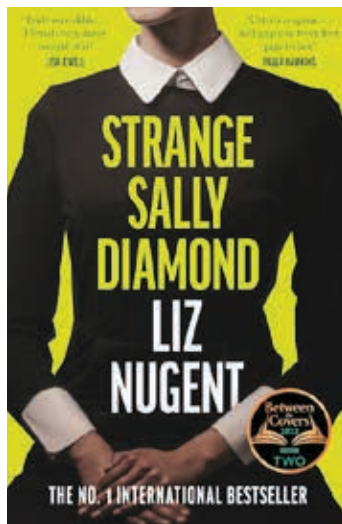
Gallery/Scout Press

With summer holidays fast approaching, and my fellow readers in search of a good read during their well-earned time off, it is a delight to suggest this exceptional novel by Irish author Liz Nugent. I picked up Strange Sally Diamond after a recommendation from a friend and, without knowing anything about the plot, just could not put it down.

Living in a small Irish village and raised by a local doctor and psychiatrist, forty-three year-old recluse Sally Diamond causes outrage and international attention trying to incinerate the body of her dead father. This dramatic act sets in motion the unravelling of Sally's seemingly solitary and protected life. Sally is logical and literal, with those around her perceiving her as autistic and "strange". Then a mysterious package arrives in the post and uncovers a shocking past that explains so many attributes of Sally's personality and habits. With all that the universe has thrown at her, Sally's courage, positivity and simplistic understanding of life are uplifting moments in Nugent's dark yet humorous novel, which takes an extreme look at nature versus nurture. Though there are no winners in this story, nor an uplifting ending, this village thriller is a perfect holiday read.

Chris Kabay

Red Brick Cafe



You are invited to join us in celebrating ceramic art and objects made with heart, head and hand.

Studio Ceramics Sale 2023

Kevin Boyd Emma Jimson Shima Ibuki



Where: Kevin Boyd's home and studio
9 Redvers Street, Surrey Hills, VIC

When:

Friday	8th December	5 - 8pm
Saturday	9th December	9 - 5pm
Sunday	10th December	10 - 4pm

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