



Union Road – the heart of Surrey Hills

For eons, Indigenous people enjoyed our local area, with original names indicating it was a 'shady place', and a 'ceremonial ground'. As the mid-19th century European colonial settlement of Melbourne grew, timber cutters stripped the woodlands and farms were set up. For the past 150 years, Surrey Hills has progressively changed and developed to become the attractive and vibrant suburb focussed on Union Road that we enjoy today.

Two recent significant changes, each in their own way, will redefine the ways in which we enjoy living in Surrey Hills: the opening of Coles Local; the proposed undergrounding of the railway. Both of these changes have a history. The 1983 publication 'Surrey Hills – in celebration of the Centennial 1883-1983' and the Heritage Collection at the Neighbourhood Centre provide an excellent pictorial record some of the changes we have become accustomed to.

The coming of the railway

After decades of struggling with rough and muddy roads, the arrival of the railway in 1883 transformed Surrey Hills, with manually operated wooden swing gates across Union Road to let the trains pass safely. These were replaced by electric boom gates in the 1960s. In 1977, local people rose up in protest against an overpass proposal which would have decimated the Union Road shopping centre. There concern was not about separating road and rail traffic, but rather the crude and destructive design. Having managed to protect our centre, a small band of enthusiasts took a positive approach that resulted in the establishment of Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre, the initiation of this 'local rag', Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News, and a range of creative community activities and improvements.

After years of frustration about road traffic delays and safety issues, the Andrews' government recently announced that both Union Road and Mont Albert Road crossings will be removed as part of its metropolitan-wide program. (For more information contact the Level Crossings Removal Authority on 1800 105 105 or email to contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au). The Authority has replaced the crude 1970s engineering approach to crossing removals with a comprehensive and skilled urban design approach, where the local environment and community pedestrian and vehicle connectivity is at least as important as the basic engineering requirements.

The early investigations by the Authority suggest the most likely design would be to lower the rail line under the road



Surrey Hills Railway Station c.1915 (SHNC Heritage Collection)

at both locations, and the options will be subject to further engineering assessments and community consultation. There are currently no detailed plans available. Retention of the Robinson Road underpass will be important for local access, and both stations will be completely rebuilt. Some short-term disruption will be inevitable.

The coming of Coles Local

Retail shopping is forever changing. Jim and Irene Williams have lived in Surrey Hills most of their lives and recall the changes they have seen in Union Road, were at Cole Local on opening day. They remember the Surrey Hills Day parades, and stories of the earlier Empire Day Parades. They remember grocers Crofts, and Moran and Cato. And there were also Whittingham's, the Griffith family who opened an early 'supermarket' in the 1950s, and Vozzo's. As late as the 1980s there were multiple butchers, greengrocers, milk bars, a newsagent - and Mr Pringle the bootmaker. Over the past decade, Union Road has sprouted many cafes and restaurants as well as the retail shops. And now for a new generation, Coles Local will complement the current traders in Union Road as part of an important local shopping centre.

Friendly Coles Local Manager Rob grew up in the eastern suburbs, and has had 15 years in the retail trade, the last five with Coles. He explains that this is different from the large supermarkets we have to drive to. It is about half the size but gives the Surrey Hills community the convenience of a supermarket with the character of a specialty store. It includes exclusive Coles Local-branded products, ready meals, an extensive vegetarian and vegan selection, and a 'Foodie Hub'. It will feature 100 per cent Australian-grown fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and fresh seafood, and a zero food waste policy. All edible food waste will be donated to SecondBite, and the store already has made community partnerships with Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Community Centre, the Surrey Hills Music Festival, and the Mont Albert Surrey Hills Rotary Club.

Community concerns about the need to design a building that was sympathetic to the historic aspects of Union Road have largely been addressed by Coles, keeping some of the old facades, and even including a new clock to replace one which was originally on the corner of Sunbury Crescent.

People frequently complain that shopping centres do not have enough parking. Coles Local has ample parking, entered from Sunbury Crescent, but Surrey Hills residents can get with the new way of shopping by walking to their local centre a couple of times a week, or when getting off the train. Who knows, you may even meet new friends walking with you.



A vintage tee shirt c.1980, proudly worn for the Surrey Hills Day parades



Jim and Irene Williams



John, and Coles Local Manager, Rob



Union Road decorated for Empire Day celebrations c 1907-11 (SHNC Heritage Collection)

Shock State election



In the recent State election, a very unexpected result in the electorate of Box Hill (which includes the Neighbourhood News distribution area) saw Labor's Paul Hamer defeat sitting member Liberal Robert Clark. Robert, who lives in Surrey Hills, recently celebrated 30 years in Parliament, where he has held senior government and shadow portfolios. Thanks are due to him for being a steady representative of local interests over that time: commiserations for the loss, but good wishes for whatever he now chooses to pursue.

Paul Hamer grew up in the local area and has lived most of his life in the eastern suburbs. He is married with two young children and is actively involved in several community organisations. He has engineering qualifications and extensive experience in the transport field. Paul is new to working with a political party but says he has the commitment, energy and real-life experience to make a difference for our community. Congratulations Paul.

Forty years practicing in Union Road

In early December, Dr Jim Hare will have a dinner with family and friends at local French Restaurant Chez Nous to celebrate 40 years as a GP at the Mont Albert Medical Centre on the corner of Union and Mont Albert Roads. Jim's mother and father, Dr Lin Hare and Dr Sally Hare, were doctors in the practice from 1945, and his father's uncle, Dr Alf Kemp, was a GP in Mont Albert Road, from the early 1900s. Jim's daughter, Dr Katie Weatherhead, a fourth generation GP, has been working in the practice for the last eight years.

Born in Union Road in 1949, Jim went to kindergarten in Norfolk Road, went to Chatham Primary School, and went to the Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church (boy's club, Sunday School, youth group, dancing class, tennis club, etc). He had piano lessons in Union Road and Mont Albert Road, went to Saturday movies at the Surrey Theatre, played squash and billiards at the Surrey Squash Centre, and watched his first TV through the Knowles Radio (later Jamieson's) shop window in Union Road.

Jim joined the Mont Albert Medical Centre on 3 December 1978 after return from working and studying Anaesthetics in England. He combined general practice with obstetrics mainly at St. George's and Box Hill Hospitals, and Anaesthetics at Box Hill Hospital. Jim estimates he has delivered about 5,000 local babies over the years, sometimes 260 a year. What a record. There is no doubt: Dr Jim Hare is a local!



Jim Hare, Katie Weatherhead, with photos of Jim's parents in the background



surrey hills
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Course Highlights

Congratulations Surrey Hills Music Festival!



Congratulations to all the volunteers, performers, organisers and participants involved in this year's Music Festival!

The Music Festival is a community-owned event, auspiced by the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre. Many, many months of planning go into organising each festival and then lining up performers and setting up performance spaces, workshops and refreshment areas. I would like to thank this year's Festival Coordinator Rebecca Anthony, and the Steering Committee: Alison Dews, Wally Scharley, Ray Thornhill, Phil and Yvonne Giltinan, Malcolm Barnett, Gerald Kelly, Tony Brydon, Tim O'Leary, Olga Panagiotopoulou and Patrick Steele, for shaping and delivering this fantastic weekend of music and activities. A very big thanks to over 110 volunteers who also helped us make sure everything ran smoothly.

Viv's Kitchen

We are overwhelmed with the number of people who have volunteered their help with the food relief program that commenced on 22 November. Over 80 people have contacted us asking to be part of this initiative by Viv Bortot.

We have also received some very generous donations from local traders and businesses who are keen to help us help others. We are very fortunate to be surrounded by people with big hearts. Thank you all.

Christmas tree appeal

The SHNC are collecting presents again in partnership with Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Rotary. If you would like to donate a Christmas present to give to someone in need, you can leave unwrapped new presents with us before 12 December.

Centre closure dates

The centre will close on Friday 14 December 2018 and open on Monday 21 January 2019. Bookings and program information will be available online during this time at surreyhillsnc.org.au.

Diary dates

End of year break up

Friday 7 December, 2-4pm

Last day of term

Friday 14 December

Office reopens

Monday 21 January 2019

Start of Term 1, 2019

Monday 29 January 2019

It's a busy time at the Centre with all of our end of year activities and planning for 2019.

To book for our courses and workshops please go to surreyhillsnc.org.au, call 9890 2467 or pop in and see us.

LITTLE KIDS CHRISTMAS CRAFT

Wednesday 5 December, 10am-11am, \$20

A chance for the little ones to make their own Christmas decorations. Suitable for pre-school aged children. Parents or carers will need to stay (we'll have some festive treats to share!)



BIG KIDS CHRISTMAS CRAFT

Thursday 6 December, 4pm-5.30pm, \$25

Design and decorate your own Christmas sack. Suitable for primary-school aged children.



END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Friday 7 December, 2pm-4pm FREE

Tutors, members and friends of the Centre are all invited to our End of Year Celebration! Please bring a plate to share. Drinks will be provided with entertainment by our very own SHNUKers! Please RSVP by 5 Dec by phone or website.

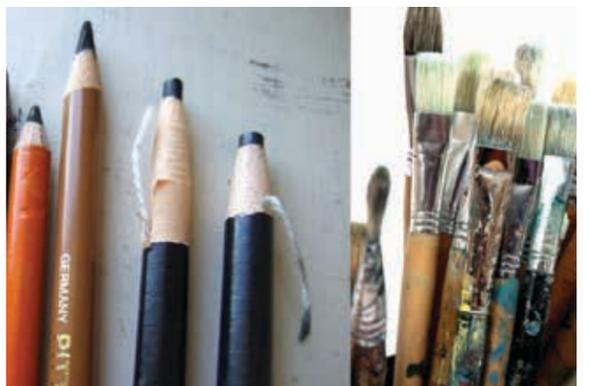


Keep an eye out for our 2019 Term 1 course guide which will be available soon! In the meantime, here's a preview of what's coming up:

MIXED MEDIA FOR BEGINNERS

Fridays 2pm-4pm, \$180 for term (10 weeks)

Nurture your inner creativity and discover the different mediums including watercolour, drawing, collage and abstract.



SURREY HILLS COMMUNITY CHOIR

Sundays 7pm-8.30pm, \$90 (9 weeks)

Sing your heart out each Sunday night! A wonderful way to start the week. Suits all ages and abilities.

TWINED BASKETRY

Sunday 17 March, 10am-4pm, \$90/\$80 SHNC members plus \$20 materials

Learn how to use natural materials to make a small to medium sized basket using traditional twining techniques. Twining is the twisting of two strands of flexible material around a verticle support.

UKULELE WORKSHOP - SINGALONG SONGS

Wednesday 17 April, 2pm-3.30pm

Bring your uke to this fun workshop where we will play and sing your favourite songs. Requires knowledge of basic C, F and G7 chords. Includes sheet music to take home.

Our friends at Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre also have great courses and activities. Visit canterburynh.org.au or call 9890 4214



Nurture for young singers



The Australian Youth Choir, based in Canterbury, has provided choral lessons for boys and girls for the past 40 years. They are committed to providing young singers aged seven years old to senior high school years, with vocal tuition, performance and learning experiences that encourage the enjoyment of singing while they learn music, teamwork, good communication and self-esteem. The Choir has a rich tradition in choral music, educating thousands of choristers throughout Australia.

They say that singing in a choir stimulates the mind, imagination and spirit, with research showing it has a profound effect on a child's general learning of literacy and numeracy. The Australian Youth Choir has a well-structured curriculum which provides many different activities to develop the enjoyment and confidence of young singers. For many years the Choir has featured at cultural events that have shaped our nation. If you would like more information, contact Peter McKenna or Yvette Cotterell on 1300 761 039, or email at office2@niypaa.com.au



Music Festival success



The Surrey Hills Music Festival would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed towards making this year's festival the fantastic event it was. Festival Coordinator, Rebecca Anthony, and the Music Festival Steering Committee, did a great job in delivering a festival full of diverse music and activities that entertained everyone from Friday night through to Sunday morning. Fletchers kicked off the weekend of music on Friday night with some great folk, R&B, and jazz music as well as the Battle of the Bands winner Disgruntled Architect. Bendigo Bank once again generously sponsored the main stage on Saturday day and night, and we had a new stage this year, in store at the recently opened Coles Local. Ross Hunt Real Estate provided opportunities for Our Holy Redeemer Primary School and St Benedicts Primary School to perform, along with the Australian Youth Choir, the Mellanie Shaylor School of Music, Kristdios Music School, and the Junior Scottish Fiddlers under its 'Surrey Hills has Talent' program on Sunday morning. Thank you again to our generous sponsors, listed below, who helped to provide this FREE weekend of music for the whole community!



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Christmas Market Saturday 15 December



Looking for that last minute Christmas gift or another cake? Then come to Treasures & Tastes Christmas Market on 15 December where you will find extra stalls brimming with Christmas fare and gifts. Lovely hand-crafted gifts and jewellery for all ages, candles, soaps, health and beauty products, cards, children's clothing and toys, quilts, scarves, bags, and much more. For market updates check: www.facebook.com/TreasuresAndTastesAtTrinity/TrinityHall, 175 Union Road, Surrey Hills. 9.00am-1.00pm. Inquiries: 0400 443 643

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A 2018 Christmas Reflection

Rob Gotch

We live in world of many 'gods'. I'm not talking about the deities of the world's various religions, but about the diverse things that people in our society worship. Perhaps my use of the word 'worship' sounds strange to those who have no religious affiliations, and yet we all devote our lives to something. The development of satisfying relationships, the pursuit of career ambitions, the purchase of a home, the raising of a family, the growth of a sustaining lifestyle: these are all things that people devote their lives to, and therefore involve a sense of devotion (worship). There are many other activities that create meaning and purpose in our lives, for instance, belonging to a social club or sporting team (go Tigers!), or exploring our family history, or investing in our national identity. These can also involve a sense of devotion (worship) For some weeks I've been sharing in conversation with a couple of 15-year-old members of our congregation who are exploring the faith of the church in relation to their own emerging priorities. Our discussions may lead these young people to a service of confirmation, a process by which their parent's decision to have them baptised many year ago as infants would be confirmed in their own choice to belong to Jesus Christ. This choice would begin their formal membership to the church and their commitment to Jesus as the primary object of their devotion.

Though Christmas is best known as a story about the baby Jesus, the church's earliest convictions are expressed in an ancient hymn (Philippians 2:6-11) about the devotion of Jesus, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Christmas offers a useful opportunity to reflect on what (or who) we worship. May your devotion sustain you in peace and hope.

Rev. Rob Gotch, Surrey Hills Uniting Church, can be contacted on 9898 1097, and by email robgotch@optusnet.com.au

Jane Addis elected Mayor

Jane Addis, Councillor for Boroondara's Maling Ward (which includes Surrey Hills), has been elected Mayor of Boroondara for the 2018-19. Cr Addis said over the next year one of her goals is to continue to

deliver the Boroondara Community Plan so Boroondara remains a vibrant, accessible and attractive place to live. "Council has an important role in contributing to the wellbeing of the community and assisting residents to form stronger connections with each other. I look forward to working with my Councillor colleagues, Council staff and the community to shape and deliver projects to enrich our community life. Congratulations Jane.



Christmas services and events

Each year, the local churches are invited to provide information about their activities in the Christmas period. The following information has been provided.

Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parish Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church – 331 Elgar Road (Family Mass) 8.00pm Our Holy Redeemer Church - 4 Barton Street
 Christmas Day: 9.00am Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church – 331 Elgar Road 10.30am Our Holy Redeemer Church - 4 Barton Street

For more information: 9890 2510 or email shwp@cam.org.au

Christmas at St Stephen's Presbyterian

Corner Warrigal and Canterbury Roads, Surrey Hills

"The Christmas we have to have"

Sunday 9 December: 10:15am and 6.00pm – "to reveal God"
 Sunday 16 December: 10:15am and 6.00pm – "to save us" (Children's Service)
 Sunday 23 December: 10:15am – "to defeat death"
 Sunday 23 December 6.00pm – "to bring us home" (Carols Service)
 Tuesday 25 December (Christmas Day): 9:30am – "to grant us peace"

For more for information see www.shp.org.au or email contact@shp.org.au

Holy Trinity's Christmas Services

Corner Montrose Street and Union Road, Surrey Hills

Sunday 16 December: 7.00pm Carol service
 Monday 24 December: 6.00pm Kids' Christmas service
 Monday 24 December: 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.00pm)
 Tuesday 25 December (Christmas Day): 9.00am Christmas Family Eucharist

Christmas Events at Surrey Hills Uniting Church:

Corner of Valonia Avenue and Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills

Sunday 2 December: 5.00-7.00pm 'Christmas Chaos' - activities, carols and food
 Sunday 23 December: 10.00am Advent service of readings, lessons and hymns
 Monday 24 December: 7.00pm: Christmas Eve family service
 Tuesday 25 December: 9.30am Christmas Day service

For more information: www.surreyhillsuniting.org

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