



Issue No. 223 December 2019/January 2020

A creative and rich life

When Surrey Hills resident Peter Hardham was given the Order of Australia Medal in June, the citation simply said, "for service to the law, and to the community". It was something of an understatement. Peter was a Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Board member for some years, alongside his wife Denise, but that was just one of his diverse and interesting activities.

Peter's early years included attending Methodist Sunday School where his interest in communities began. In HSC, he planned to be a journalist, but the 'Argus' newspaper had just closed, and it looked as if jobs would be hard to find. He managed to get a job as a Clerk of Courts, and then spent eight years part time at University to become a Barrister and Solicitor. He worked firstly in the Government sector, and then for many years in private practice in litigation, family law and compensation.

Peter was a Judge in the Victorian Accident Compensation Tribunal for five years, and in 1992 was one of nine judges

who sued the State Government for damages after their positions were abolished. The government settled at the last minute as the case was about to be heard.

For 17 years Peter was Ombudsman for the insurance industry and medical boards, where he was active in lifting standards using the inquisitorial rather than adversarial approach. He is also a playwright. Peter retired, sort of, in 2011, but remains very active in a number of spheres, that have included U3A, Dying with Dignity Victoria, the Habitat Uniting Church, the Augustine Centre, and the Cairnmillar Institute.

A keen observer of life, Peter has always had an interest in philosophy and politics. He was a member of the Liberal Party for 11 years, but after reading Felix Greene's book 'Curtain of ignorance' felt that social democracy was a more honest and useful approach to seeing the world and making a contribution. He has had involvement with the Labor Party for the past 35 years. After living in a number of eastern suburbs, in the semi-rural Healesville Peter and Denise explored their interest in Buddhism. The threat of

bushfires there became serious cause for concern, and they moved to Surrey Hills.

Your OAM is very well-deserved Peter, and we look forward to many more years of your involvement with our local community and beyond.



Peter Hardham OAM

Christmas is coming!

Fr Jim Pilmer

Having been Vicar of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Surrey Hills from 1977 until 1986, it has been a unique privilege to return for about six months as Locum while awaiting the arrival of The Reverend Mark Pearce in January.

A lot has changed in both community and Church in 40 years or so. Back then we were objecting to a proposed overpass at the Union Road level crossing. Now the crossing is going to be placed underground using vastly different techniques. The demographic of the locality has changed in that time too. Changes in the average age of the community, occupational status, income levels, educational and cultural background; all these and many others, have been quietly churning away, reshaping to a greater or lesser degree the character of the neighbourhood.

Many of us will recall peering into Henry Jamieson's electrical repair shop in Union Road and marvelling at the fact that he could find anything in the midst of apparent

chaos. But then again, it's probably not generally realised that, well before Henry's era, there used to be a funeral director's premises in what are now shops south of the railway gates. Tracing the evolution of communities and local precincts is a fascinating pursuit. Sometimes they decline, sometimes they grow, but inevitably they change.

The Church has had to face change as well. Whether it should or could adapt (to what and in what ways) should be, and is, the stuff of vigorous debate. Christian congregations now find themselves in a multi-Faith environment. People around them have other backgrounds and various teachings from which to choose.

Ultimately, it all boils down to meaning. Living in our community imparts meaning, enjoying our homes and families gives meaning. Our studies and recreational pursuits and jobs hopefully give meaning; but none of that comes without doubts, frustrations, pressure on relationships or, at times, grief and sorrow. There is change involved at many levels, but it is not to be feared.

The Christian view is that in the beginning was meaning. That meaning is exemplified in the birth and life of Christ who lived as one of us and is one with God. To celebrate Christmas each year is to celebrate just that. It is a celebration of the rebirth of meaning in the midst of change. It is a reason to live together in peace and goodwill. I wish you a holy Christmas and fulfilment in the year ahead.



Fr Jim Pilmer

Fr Jim Pilmer can be contacted at pilmers@optusnet.com.au

Volunteering opportunities for young people in 2020

Whitehorse Council's Youth Services is looking for young volunteers aged 12-25 to get involved in their local community in 2020! Places are currently available for the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) and Flying Pig Events FReeZA Committee.

Both Committees offer the perfect chance to gain and use a range of skills, get valuable experience and meet like-minded people to work with on shared initiatives that benefit the community.

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) is a committee focusing on youth issues and being a voice for young people by advocating to Council and the wider community. Initiatives include organising Youth Forums, community events and consultation opportunities on youth issues and with both local organisations and council departments.

The FReeZA Committee's Flying Pig Events focuses on organising music, art and cultural events. Events include

Film Festivals, Music Events, Art exhibitions, Community events and many others!

Recruitment for both committees will close 5pm Monday 27 January 2020.

For more information phone Melissa Ramsay at Youth Services on 9898 9340 or email Melissa.Ramsay@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Coles Local Surrey Hills first birthday!

The December 2018 edition of Neighbourhood News celebrated Union Road as the long-standing heart of Surrey Hills, dating back to the coming of the railway in 1883. The opening of Coles Local, near the railway, in 2018 has been a very positive addition to our local shopping centre. Coles Local Manager Rob and his team say they have awesome feedback from local people about the unique range of vegan and vegetarian foods, but this is also attracting people from across Melbourne.

Rob says the original aim of providing "100% Australian grown fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and fresh seafood" could not be achieved. Kiwi Fruit from New Zealand is an obvious example, but the Foodie Hub has a lot of local products. Some questions have been raised about environmentally sustainable practices and the overall Coles promotion of plastic trinkets called Little Shop. Although lightweight single use plastic bags are now banned, there is still

concern about the excessive quantity of packaging in food stores. Rob says that their inedible food waste is put through a digester before being sent to the waste system.

From the beginning, Rob has been keen for the smaller format store to play a positive role in our local community, complementing other traders, and through Viv's Kitchen and other Neighbourhood Centre activities. Customers can donate food for Viv's Kitchen in the store as part of their shopping trip. Over the year, Coles Local has also provided 35,000 meals through the Second Bite program where good quality but out-of-date products are collected and distributed to those who need them.

Happy Birthday Coles Local Surrey Hills - and keep listening to the community and being part of it.





Course Highlights



We've just delivered another fantastic Surrey Hills Music Festival and the crowds on Saturday were the biggest we've seen yet. There are a lot of people to thank - a hardworking steering committee which put in a

lot of hours from March earlier this year and supported the Festival Director Jenny Gay, many volunteers who helped run the event, the fantastic performers and artists who provided the many hours of music and entertainment, the sponsors who helped cover many of the costs associated with the event and the people who came along.

In the last Neighbourhood News I mentioned new programs associated with the Neighbourhood Centre. One of them, You Matter, is holding a launch event on Sunday 8 December from 3.00-5.30pm. You Matter is our volunteer led initiative that supports women and their children escaping domestic and family violence through the provision of furniture and other household items necessary for a fully functioning home. You're invited to the launch 'An Afternoon Tea & Talk', for an afternoon of fundraising, listening and conversation. The event will feature inspirational guest speaker, Susan Berg, domestic violence survivor and author of 'The Girl Who Lived'. You can purchase a \$35 ticket via our website at www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

As we approach the end of the year with all our end of year activities and planning for 2020, we would like to thank all our members, volunteers, tutors and community for another amazing year. We couldn't do it without you! The team at the SHNC would like to wish you a festive and safe holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in January 2020, but before we go here is a sneak peek at what is left for 2019 and some of what's planned for early 2020.

Shima Ibuki, Centre Manager

Diary dates

Term 4

7 October - 13 December

End of year celebration

Friday 6 December 4:00pm-6:00pm

You Matter launch

Sunday 8 December 3:00pm-5:30pm

Creating Connections exhibition

Friday 13 December 1:00pm-3:00pm

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Friday 6 December 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Tutors, members and friends of the Centre are all invited to our End of Year Celebration! Please bring a plate to share. Drinks and entertainment will be provided. Please RSVP by 4th December either at the office or by purchasing a free ticket from the website.

REBOOT 2.0 - GET INTO SHAPE BOOTCAMP **NEW**

8 weeks/16 sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:15am - 7:10am starting Tuesday 4 February

Bootcamp is back! Join Felipe Macia, accredited fitness instructor, in a group fitness class that aims to get you back into shape and rejuvenate your health and fitness. Perfect if you don't want to commit to a gym membership! Includes pre and post assessments (and photos) and weekly challenges on off days. Don't miss out, book early as last term was booked out!

Cost: \$240

INTRODUCTION TO GOUACHE - 'MONOCHROME' **NEW**

Starts Tuesday 11 February 4:15pm - 6:15pm

Join artist and facilitator Chris Maroney as she introduces you to Gouache in this 4 week art course titled 'Monochrome'. Explore painting techniques using monochrome light and dark effects and use a monochrome pallet to explore tone, texture, creative expression and painterly effects.

Cost: \$125

PILATES WITH A TWIST! **NEW**

Starts Monday 17 February 5:00pm - 6:00pm (6 weeks)

Enjoy Pilates but want to try something a little new? This class combines core strength work for control and posture improvement, Tai Chi and Qigong for mobility and smoothness as well as breathing and meditative techniques to promote overall well-being. Why not try Pilates with a Twist for a complete body and mind work-out.

Cost: \$110

MUVIT OR LOSE IT! **NEW**

Starts Thursday 20 February 5:00pm - 6:00pm (6 weeks)

A concept like no other! Join accredited fitness instructor, Felipe, in his new concept 6-week fitness program MuVit! MuVit has been designed to achieve connection, control and movement of your muscles, ligaments, joints and bones. Be the first to try this new technique and connect with your body at a deeper level.

Cost: \$110

FERMENTED FOODS - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

It seems we can't get enough of the benefits of fermented foods! Fermentation allows good bacteria to thrive resulting in improved digestion, better immunity and maintaining a healthy weight. It's no surprise that it's such a hot topic

at the moment! Back by popular demand join Monique Miller from CERES Fair Food in two workshops:

WORKSHOP 1 - KOMBUCHA, JUN AND WILD FERMENTED SODA

Saturday 29 February 10:30pm - 12:00pm

Every heard of Jun or SCOBY? Do you know the difference between Kombucha and Jun?

You will once Monique takes you through the process of each and highlights the benefits of fermented beverages. Learn how to make your own fermented beverages with Monique in this facilitated workshop that demonstrates how to make Kombucha, Jun and Fermented Lemon Soda! It's fun, easy to make and much cheaper than buying from the shops.

Cost: \$50/\$40 (member)

WORKSHOP 2 - FERMENTED VEGGIES

Saturday 29 February 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Sauerkraut is probably the most well-known lactose-fermented vegetable, but did you know that most veggies can be fermented? Monique will show you how to make Sauerkraut, pickles, fermented salsa and more so that you can replicate the process and get the health benefits of fermented foods in your own home!

Cost: \$50/\$40 (member)

KOKEDAMA MOSS BALLS (JAPANESE FLORISTRY)

Sunday 23 February 10:00am - 12:00pm

We welcome back Azumi from Azumi Floristry. Last term Azumi took us through the ancient Japanese floral art form of Ikebana. In this workshop Azumi will take you through the art of Kokedama or Japanese Moss Balls. Azumi will demonstrate how to make Kokedama using a style of bonsai. This is a hands-on workshop where you get to make your own composition and take home your own beautiful moss ball.

Cost: \$120/\$110 (member)

SOUTHERN INDIAN COOKING AND MARKET TOUR

Friday 21 February - Tour of Springvale Market 10:30am - 12:00pm

Saturday 22 February - Cooking Workshop 10:30am - 2pm

With her South Indian heritage, Mary, our facilitator, will take you on a tour of the Springvale Market pointing out authentic and traditional South Indian ingredients, before demonstrating authentic South Indian dishes. This course is intended for people who wish to learn more about the region and its fantastic flavours and foods.

Cost: \$100/\$95 SHNC member

ROOM HIRE

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The Chandler Room is a large, light-filled octagonal room with kitchen and fully fenced, grassed outdoor area.

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So, what is really happening with climate change?

Carolyn Ingvarson

Well it's not good! It's happening more rapidly than we thought. The science for predicting global temperature increase is now considered very robust, and even the scientists are shaking their heads at the impact of the effects as they are starting to be felt, quite severely in some places.

At our recent Lighter Footprints 'Living in a Clean Economy' Forum in Hawthorn, our speakers shocked us with the reality of the costs of climate change. It starts with just recognising that the number of hot days in Melbourne are predicted to double over the next three decades and include temperatures close to 50 degrees. The cumulative damages of climate change are estimated to be in the trillions of dollars. This will affect the environment, health, and the general economy. These figures are not alarmist, they are reality. Check our website www.lighterfootprints.org under 'News' for video of this forum and slide presentation of the figures.

This very concerning situation is why our group is still here, larger than ever, and calling for more action on climate change in the face of lack of effective political action. It was 14 years ago that I asked Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News readers if there was anyone out there who cared enough to do something together to address our rising greenhouse gas problem. Lighter Footprints was formed by those dozen people who responded all those years ago and it is somewhat depressing to find we have made such slow progress.



Lighter Footprints group in action

The carbon emissions we produce are continuing to rise rather than fall and, despite some strong moves at the State level on renewable energy, community calls for action are largely falling on deaf ears. Our politicians are now locked into a divided response that reflect where they sit on the 'left/right' spectrum. This is crazy and something that Lighter Footprints has consistently fought against.

Action on climate change requires some fundamental agreement across party lines - just like we did when faced with a war - and this is now becoming that serious.

So here we are, planning our next year, knowing that every year gets harder to reign in the damage. Our small group needs more hands and if you agree with us that it is community pressure that is our greatest power in changing political will, then join us! Go to our website www.lighterfootprints.org and join our mailing list or volunteer groups.

Carolyn Ingvarson is Convenor of Lighter Footprints Inc and can be contacted on phone 0411 115 186

Step back in time down Union Road

Sue Barnett

A new self-guided audio walking tour was recently launched at Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre by then Boroondara Mayor, Cr Jane Addis. Developed by members of the Surrey Hills Historical Society, it was supported with funding from the City of Boroondara's Annual Community Strengthening Grant. The tour is accessed using an iPad with an audio commentary and a transcript. It is richly illustrated with over 60 images from the Neighbourhood Centre's Heritage Collection.

The tour dips in and out over a hundred years, providing a general history of the area, from when it was dotted with small farms, the coming of the railway, and the urbanization that followed. It traces the history of the shopping precinct and in so doing it reflects some of the changes that have occurred in retail and shopping habits. There are detailed histories of 28 individual sites and also stories of some of the personalities who have served the community and whose stories have been recorded.

It should not be a surprise that Surrey Hills Medical Centre, Anne's Pantry and J&V Warren-Smith Auto Services feature as they all have long histories, albeit that Anne's

Pantry has traded from three different sites. Nor should it surprise that there is a cameo portrait of the Zeplin family, owners of a large section of land on the east side of Union Road. Some of the other identities who feature are fruiterer Wally Ives, milliner Florence Kerr, pharmacist Charles Mitton, boot repairer Eric Pringle, Shirley Sinclair of 'Bustles and Bows' and, of course, the inimitable Henry Jamieson.

There are seven iPads available for loan through the Neighbourhood Centre, so the

tour can be taken by individuals, families or small groups. It is also seen as a great resource for local schools wishing to explore local history as part of their curriculum.

'Step back in time down Union Road' complements the very successful history 'Surrey Hills - In Celebration of the Centennial, 1883-1983' (still available for \$16.50 from the Neighbourhood Centre), and the heritage interpretation panels and murals commissioned by the Surrey Hills Progress Association. All are tangible demonstrations that this community places value on its history and heritage.



At the launch - Chris Cotching, Principal Chatham Primary School; MLA Box Hill Paul Hamer; Sue Barnett, President of the Surrey Hills Historical Society; Mayor Cr Jane Addis; Shima Ibuki, Manager, Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre.

Christmas Market Saturday 21 December

Looking for that last minute Christmas gift or another cake? Then come to Treasures & Tastes @ Trinity Christmas Market, 9.00am-1.00pm on 21 December. There you will find stalls brimming with Christmas fare and gifts. Lovely hand-crafted gifts and jewellery for all ages, candles, soaps, children's clothing and toys, quilts, bags, and much more. Amongst the 45 stalls you'll also find Christmas cakes, puddings, biscuits, slices, chocolates and wine. For market updates check: www.facebook.com/TreasuresAndTastesAtTrinity/ Venue: Trinity Hall, 175 Union Road, Surrey Hills. Inquiries: 0400 443 643

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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

Sunday 8 December: 10:15am and 6.00pm – 'Lost Yet Found'
Sunday 15 December: 10:15am and 6.00pm – "to save us" (Children's Service)
Sunday 22 December: 10:15am – 'Chaos Yet Peace'
Sunday 22 December 6.00pm – Carols 6pm Free Community BBQ 5pm
Wednesday 25 December (Christmas Day): 9:30am – 'Servant Yet Lord'

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

Holy Trinity Surrey Hills

Corner Union Road and Montrose Street

Sunday 15 December: 7.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols – Light refreshments follow
Tuesday 24 December: 6.00pm Children's Christmas service
Tuesday 24 December: 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.00pm)
Wednesday 25 December: 9.00am Christmas Family Eucharist

For more information see: www.holytrinity.sh

Christmas Events at Surrey Hills Uniting Church

Corner of Valonia Avenue and Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills

Sunday 15 December, 5-7pm: 'Christmas Chaos' - activities, carols & food
Sunday 22 December, 10am: Advent service of readings, lessons & hymns
Tuesday 24 December, 7pm: Christmas Eve family service
Wednesday 25 December, 9.30am: Christmas Day service

For more information see www.surreyhillsuniting.org

1st Canterbury Scout Group: Official Re-Opening of Scout Hall



The 1st Canterbury Scout community have been busy and, under the supervision of builder and Leader Reis Hamilton, they have renovated the Hall with structural improvements, and restumped and renewed the floor, a task that has been needed to be done for many years. When the old floor was lifted, the stumps were in places found to be completely rotted through. It was no wonder the youth members knew which part of the floor to go to get a good bounce!

On Sunday 1 December 2019 the Group will celebrate this achievement with an official re-opening of the Hall and a social gathering. All former Scouts, Leaders and members of the community are invited to go along and join in the festivities. The Hall will be open from 2.30pm, with the official re-opening at 3.00pm, followed by afternoon tea until 5.00pm.

As part of the day's activities, a display of the Group's history and scouting memorabilia will be launched, and a Time Capsule will be embedded under the Hall. The Time Capsule will contain current items including the Group's scarf and Cub cap, most recent group photographs, and Scout and Leader name lists.

The Group is now over 100 years old and some of the collection dates back to its foundation, including photographs, books and journals of former Leaders and Scouts. Many of the historic items in the collection belonged to the Group's legendary Leader and founder of the 3rd Canterbury Scout Group, Rainbow Simpson. Two of his movies will be shown on the day,

and some of his photographs will be on display. Also on display will be samples of the old Leader and Scout uniforms and a timeline of the history of the Group, which incorporates the former 2nd Canterbury, 3rd Canterbury and 6th Camberwell Central Groups.

Former members are invited to bring along memorabilia that they would like to lend or donate to the Group on the day, or contact Simon or Jane, details below, to make separate arrangements. If you can't attend on that day, separate viewings during the day or evenings for interested groups can be arranged.

Should readers wish to attend, please let Simon Rumbold, Group Leader know via gl.1stcanterbury@scoutsvictoria.com.au or Jane Ninnis on 0438 357 792



P.L. Doery, A.S.M. Simpson, S.M. Morris, P.L. Hurst (kneeling) E. Joyce

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