

THE ROTUNDA

NORTH FITZROY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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FULL STEAM AHEAD SAYS PIEDIMONTE'S

North Fitzroy shopping centre is referred to as a 'village' for good reason. Like any village, ours is a marketplace for the trading of goods and gossip, or as some prefer to call it, research.

The intersection of St Georges Road North and Scotchmer Street is its epicentre and towering above it is the family-run Piedimonte's supermarket, liquor store and lottery ticket dispensary.

People have been known to travel across the Yarra to marvel at its authentically Italian charms, discover its obscure Mediterranean products, and, on 40-degree days, to shiver in the blasts of its legendary Antarctic strength air-conditioning.

Since 2017, Piedimonte's has not just been the place for gossip, but the place North Fitzrovians gossip about. Its owners' plans to temporarily locate the supermarket in nearby locations while building a multi-story apartment complex in its place above – and beyond – its current footprint, has alarmed many locals.

So much so, that some have vowed never to shop there again. This is easier since the opening of a large Coles in Nicholson Street and a small Woolworths in Queens Parade – plus the success of the all-organic Wild Things supermarket, facing off against PIEDI's from across the tram tracks.

The *Rotunda* revealed in its first edition in May 2021 that after some concessions to locals' concerns, Piedimonte's had won approval from VCAT to build a complex comprising a supermarket, liquor store, café, three levels of underground parking, more than 61 apartments and town houses in three separate buildings (rising to seven stories at its highest point) and a roof terrace. The project also requires full access to the laneway running behind the existing supermarket which is public land ultimately



Curiously, despite the development having been approved in May 2021, work is yet to begin.

controlled by the City of Yarra. (More than 600 residents had opposed the original project, as had the City of Yarra).

But keen observers of the North Fitzroy skyline since then may have noticed no cranes hovering over Piedimonte's. And the houses and shops the Piedimonte clan owns on the south side of Scotchmer Street up to Egremont Street and south along Best Street until St Georges Road South remain perfectly intact – with some new tenants even moving in earlier this year, on two year leases.

Gossip about the project being on permanent hold has swept through the village in recent months. The official Piedimonte's website dedicated to explaining the project's progress also seems to be on pause. "The Piedimonte redevelopment is now in the final stages of its planning approval with

construction due to begin in mid to late 2022," it says on its home page. There's even been 'Succession'-style theories circulating of divisions within the Piedimonte family on whether the project should go ahead.

But family spokesman, Joe Piedimonte, emphatically assured *The Rotunda* it most definitely is. "What we are going through is just the process," he said. "We are getting the plans that VCAT approved stamped and getting the process of the laneway approved is in the hands of the Council."

He said the family had secured nearby premises to house a temporary supermarket when construction begins, though wouldn't reveal where this would be.

And as for Logan Roy-style disputes among the Piedimonte dynasty? "Not true," said Joe Piedimonte.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another edition of *The Rotunda*: the world's jolliest newspaper

It's too obvious to say "Christmas has come early", but we *have* beaten Santa to the punch: traversing North Fitzroy and dropping off copies of this new issue to every home in the suburb. And without the help of magical reindeer, or an army of elves. Plus, our distributors never receive a little welcome drink upon our arrival. (That'd be nice, though.)

Then there's the "naughty or nice list": a kind of righteous moralism that has no place at *Rotunda* HQ. Everyone gets a copy, no matter what. So, if you don't clean up after your dog at the park, you may be destined for a hellish afterlife – but you still get a *Rotunda* in this one. Anyway, we're not here to compete with Christmas, we're here to celebrate it – and what better way than with our illustrated take on the Twelve Days of Christmas (page 7)?

"A great big bundle of articles waiting for you to rip into them like they're presents in a stocking."

Meanwhile, we've still got real news: our reports on the Piedimonte's affair, the redeveloped skatepark and a recent local primary school fete (the latter gets a little nostalgic.) Plus the crossword, Ludo's column (about his night out with the reindeer) and much more. It's all there: a great big bundle of articles waiting for you rip into them like they're presents in a stocking. *The Rotunda* thanks, as always, its loyal distributors, who deliver these newspapers with gusto and efficiency. Although some of you described the original plans – to deliver this edition by climbing roofs and dropping each copy down the chimney – as "both insane and illegal", *The Rotunda* couldn't do it without you.

As always, anyone interested in contributing or advertising can get in touch by emailing northfitzroyrotunda@gmail.com. For now, enjoy our new edition, then have a well-earned break over summer. We'll see you back here next year. Happy holidays!

We respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

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STREET STYLE

WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?

PENNI: Penni.

TONIÉ: Tonié. (Pronounced Ton-yay. Please include the acute accent!)

WHAT DO YOU DO?

PENNI: I work here at the best little op shop in North Fitzroy, Sacred Heart Mission. And I co-parent my fabulous daughter, Daisy.

TONIÉ: I am renovating the exterior of our house with my own hands, but I also love vintage clothes and repairing interesting garments. From an early age I trained as a classical guitarist and I did a lot of performing around Australia. For 22 years I taught guitar studies at the Victorian College of the Arts Music School.

I also love repairing just about anything. I love reconstructing framing on a house, repairing an oven or crafting a bicycle rear-visor mirror out of stuff people discard. I am also an avid cargo bike rider. You will see my bike "Mavis" parked outside the shop regularly. "Mavis" is continually evolving, and we regularly go to community and activist bicycle rides around town.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING TODAY?

PENNI: Saturdays are 'theme' days for us! Today's choice was pretty basic - lace. But somehow, we both ended up in matching outfits. My dress and top are from our op shop, no labels, so I can't help there. My boots are Camper, also donated.

TONIÉ: I have a lovely lace wedding dress from the 70s on by 'The House of Henro Josef' - very tight fit! Those damn vintage sizes! Plus, I have my lovely vintage white ankle boots that have lace panel inserts on either side of the laces - they go with so many things.

DO YOU HAVE A FASHION PHILOSOPHY? WHAT GUIDES YOUR CHOICES?

PENNI: A quote I heard recently often runs through my mind when I'm stuck for what to wear: 'Life is short, wear the dress!' And... buy second hand.

TONIÉ: Just wear what makes you happy. I've spent far too long worrying about what other people think and whether I'm non-binary enough for people, but really it is a waste of time doing that, nobody cares that much anyway.

I think if you are willing to explore different options, then it can open up a whole world of freedom of expression. It is very liberating not boxing yourself into a certain way of dressing or being.

TELL ME ABOUT THE BEST AND HARDEST ASPECTS OF THE JOB?

PENNI: The most surprising and wonderful thing is how much I feel like I've finally found where I belong. Since I started volunteering over five years ago, I've met some of the best people ever. I absolutely love my job!

The other best part is being free to give our shop its own personality. All of our shops are creatively brought to life by the people who work and volunteer in them.

The hardest part is trying to constantly educate people on what a quality donation looks like. Unfortunately, we receive a lot of donations that are not suitable for resale.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY POWERFUL OR MOVING THINGS HAPPEN IN-STORE?

PENNI: Sometimes people trust you with little snippets of lives that are so vastly different to your own experience. These are constantly moving and often confronting. They are very levelling human moments.

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US YOUR FAVOURITE VINTAGE CLOTHING ITEM THAT WAS DONATED AND IS NOW IN YOUR CLOSET?

PENNI: It's a vintage 1960s Mark Russell coat. When I wear it, I feel like I've stepped back in time...an era well before the sixties.

TONIÉ: A very old ballerina style dress with lots of mixed lace and soft tulle embellishment and various trims. It has obviously been very loved and worn a lot and has been repaired previously. It's a beautiful piece that I will have to repair and adjust to fit me well. I love it when a piece has a real story in it.

WHAT IS THE STRANGEST THING EVER DONATED?

PENNI: In recent memory, a She-Wee. Ponder that.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT NORTH FITZROY?

PENNI: I want to say the vibe.

TONIÉ: Edinburgh Gardens. The Capital



City Cycle Trail through North Fitzroy and Merri Creek.

IF YOU COULD INTRODUCE ONE THING TO NORTH FITZROY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

PENNI: An excellent fruit and veg shop.

TONIÉ: A segregated cycleway all the way down Nicholson Street.

CAN YOU GIVE ME THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE NORTH FITZROY FOR YOU?

PENNI: Quirky, friendly, damn fine.

TONIÉ: Ambiguous, mixed and "parky".

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR COFFEE?

PENNI: Sleepy's. Yum.

TONIÉ: I buy beans from Wild Timor or from Terra Madre. I grind it and make coffee at home in an old seventies Gaggia coffee

machine...it's like an old Toyota Corolla. Basic engineering, that's my kind of coffee machine.

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

PENNI: Buzzing.

TONIÉ: In awe. That's two words.

WHERE AND WHEN WERE YOU HAPPIEST?

PENNI: I'm happiest sharing conversation and a glass of wine with someone dear to me, whilst Daisy entertains us with some crazy dance routine.

TONIÉ: Probably now. I have spent my life trying to work out who I am - still don't know really. It has been filled with a fair amount of fear and trauma due to my gender identity, although that has largely faded. It's taken a lot of "inner work" to get to where I am now.

REVAMPED FITZY BOWL OPENS



It's often the case that when you see designers' drawings of what their project will look like, their utopian vision falls short once the thing is actually built.

But on a recent Friday night when the skies were clear and the sun was setting on the newly expanded Fitzzy Bowl, the reality looked as perfect as its creators' imaginings.

The skate park is now twice its original size after a redesign by Grind Projects over winter - at a cost of around half a million dollars - which was funded by the City of Yarra and the state government. Now that it has been built, people are coming.

Little kids, serious skaters and those in between (or both) took to the park's bowls dappled by early evening light, while others reclined, Manet-like, with drinks and other relaxants on the grassy knolls softly enveloping it.

Perfectly behaved dogs gambolled on the lush green meadows beyond, and the gentle strums of guitar could be heard wafting from the area where *The Worm* once held forth.

The plan was to design a skate park that would let skaters of all ages and abilities feel welcome - especially kids - and a group of the Fitzzy Bowl's regular users had input into its creation.

In early November, a mural of a skull was painted on the skatepark surface, with the two large bowls serving as sockets for two big, colourful eyes. Best seen from an aerial view, the impressive paintwork is set to be most appreciated by passing magpies.

It's an exciting, new chapter in the Fitzzy Bowl's story. While certain stalwart skaters may be irritated by the changes - or even feel a sense of loss as the bowl's previous iteration is lost to history - the mood emanating from that little enclave in Edinburgh Gardens seems to be one of positivity.

And when the sun sets on early summer nights - with picnickers grazing, dogs rolling and skaters tearing up the bowl - our beloved local park truly becomes Arcadia.

WOODSTOCK FOR KIDS

There are few scenes as life-affirming as a school fete in full swing. After two years without, one school has come back with a bang

By Charlie Gill

It is a strange feeling to walk past your old primary school. Especially on a weekend. I, for example, often find myself gazing into the vacant schoolyard and zeroing in on certain spots: the monkey bars, the drink taps, a specific crack in asphalt. These days, the schoolyard always seems so much smaller and more contained. Back then, it was its own great, big, expansive world – both daunting and exciting.

That sense of magnitude was most keenly felt on an especially anticipated day of the calendar: the school fete. Our Woodstock. The school grounds would magically transform into a grand, wondrous city with delights, marvels and curious happenings waiting around each corner – and as kids, we'd breathlessly traverse this fun-filled Babylon from one end to the other.

Meanwhile, long graduated older siblings would return to the old stomping ground for a taste of yesteryear. Sweet little kindergarteners would sit on their parent's hips and gawk wide-eyed at what the future had in store for them. It was the biggest event of the year for the parents, too. For mothers supplying the cake stall, this was their Grand Final Day. Elsewhere, countless fathers would become unhealthily obsessed with the silent auction.

I get lost whilst staring into that empty schoolyard. But I always have to catch myself before I give myself over fully to this nostalgic, navel-gazing reverie. Because the truth is, school fetes do not end once you finish Grade Six. The story continues on without you. And indeed, Fitzroy North Primary School (formerly North Fitzroy Primary School, but that's a gripe for another day) staged a fabulously successful

fete in early November – a triumphant return after two years without one.

The mastermind behind it all was one Duncan Forster, who as outgoing School Council President (the last of his three kids graduated last year) oversaw his final fete – passing the baton on to the next generation of parents with Type A personalities.

Perhaps that last point is a major generalisation, but it's true the running of school fetes requires a great deal of organisational know-how. Especially these days. As Duncan told *The Rotunda*, the operation has "become more sophisticated".

"There's more insurance involved, and you have to be more professional in terms of food handling and liquor laws. You can't be blasé."

Being the first fete back since 2019, it seems the gods conspired to reward the hordes of excited children – desperately missing the genuinely spiritual experience the fete provides – with a particularly picturesque day.

"It was the perfect window of weather, that little pocket of sunshine," said Duncan.

"In Sideshow Alley there was the Poop Throw that was really fun. You got three fake poos and if you threw it into a fake toilet you won fake money."



Excited kids wait impatiently. Photo: Sophie Bryant.

When I was a boy, among the most iconic attractions were the snow cone stall, hot chip stall and the Jaffa Smasher. It was a relief to hear they've gone nowhere, and that "the hot chips were as popular as ever".

Meanwhile, Fergie Street played its usual part: transforming into a nine-year old's version of the Las Vegas Strip. Stalwarts such as the Tea Cups, the Giant Slide, the Chair-o-plane and The Music Trip – the most thrilling ride the fete has to offer – lined up along the road, glittering underneath perfect skies.

Meanwhile, a band made up mostly of school parents – including Jet's lead guitarist and singer, Cam Muncie – dominated the stage, which was set up in 'The Block' (A.K.A the schoolyard on the Scotchmer Street side).

Fifth grader Gus Reidy, aged 10, agreed to talk to *The Rotunda* about his personal highlights:

"In Sideshow Alley there was the Poop Throw that was really fun. You got three fake poos (two hard and one soft) and if you threw it into a fake toilet you won fake money that you could take to the toy store to get a real toy."

"I got a ping pong set and a water balloon nozzle so I can fill up 100 water balloons at once."

"The colour-throw was fun. You throw coloured powder at each other and get covered. It washes off with water but it stayed in my hair for two days. But that's part of the fun."

Between 3000 and 4000 people attended the fete, the school making \$85,000 (a similar intake to 2019) which will go towards an upgrade of the junior school playground.

Without the hard work of dedicated volunteers, none of it would be possible. Melanie Johnson, member of the 18-person committee that organised the fete, particularly praised the work of Duncan and his "outstanding contribution to the FNPS school community".

This squadron of devoted Mums and Dads must, undoubtedly, be enthusiastically celebrated for their efforts. But we must also acknowledge that the true lifeblood of any school fete are the kids themselves. As Gus says, "You get to roam around with your friends all day and do different things." Picture that – remember that – when you're feeling down: a bunch of kids, in thrall to the most unconditional delight you will ever see, five snow cones in and on a reckless sugar high, sprinting from ride to ride, making their way madly through the sunshine and bustle.

The next fete in the area is at Lee Street (Carlton North Primary School) on March 26, 2023.



Could any other suburb produce a parent band dressed like this? Photo: Sonya Clarkson.

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FALLING FOR FALAFEL

When this local couple visited one of the area's most popular food spots, they instantly falafel in love

By Dawn and Jack Norman

It took us awhile to realize that the name 'Just Falafs' is a pun. Its light-heartedness is particularly refreshing, as sometimes vegetarian restaurants can take themselves a little seriously. But Just Falafs is gloriously fun, and it embodies the aspect of meat-free eating that feels especially natural. Indeed, it feels so natural that it seems slightly uncouth to talk about Just Falafs as a vego restaurant at all. Because anyone can eat and enjoy their masterfully made falafel without thinking of it as an alternative to anything.

When we planned our outing, we imagined enjoying our falafels during a resplendent spring evening in Eddie Gardens, perhaps next to the very Rotunda from which this paper takes its name – the quintessential Just Falafs experience. But we wanted to pre-empt the weather that has dominated North Fitzroy's spring, so we decided to hide in the friendly restaurant space itself – avoiding rain that never came, and enjoying food that always delivers.

We ordered one classic plate, one halloumi plate and a cauliflower and lentil salad. And four extra falafels, just to be safe. The 'plates' come in sturdy brown recyclable boxes.

The 'classic box' includes an Israeli salad (seasoned tomatoes and cucumber, perhaps with a dash of onion), various colours of cabbage, pickles, and of course the star of

the show: falafel. And what utterly delicious falafel they are, sitting proudly on a mound of hummus (another version of up-graded chickpea) and topped with something delicious and unnameable.

This is more a sign of our ignorance than a culinary *via negativa*. The 'halloumi plate' has the same falafel, enthroned on cabbage and pickles, but replaces the salad with fried cauliflower and halloumi. Both sets of accompaniments compliment the falafel perfectly. The classic box pairs the falafel with flavours that add contrasting acidity and freshness, while the halloumi plate is particularly rich and savoury.

Again and again, we find our memories returning to those falafels – then our mouths returning to them, too. A crunchy crust gives way to a delicate interior that is lovely and strikingly herby-green. The creamy hummus complements this perfectly, and the unnameable sauce cuts through it in a flash. Delicious and filling, we devour our falafel plates with little attention to the devastation our children wrought on Just Falafs itself (apologies, again, to the staff who have to clean up after us).

Afterwards, we enjoy various vegan and dairy ice creams at Billy Van Creamery, another unconsciously vegetarian option – though I wouldn't jump at the



opportunity to eat non-vegetarian ice cream (frozen pate, anyone?). We were lucky to bump into some friends and their similarly aged children, and all able to confirm that: 1.) Billy Van C makes delicious ice creams with and without dairy, 2.) That bumping into friends on a Friday evening is a treat in itself, and 3.) That children are messy when eating both falafel and ice cream alike.

Each year around June 12 – International Falafel Day – Just Falafs gives away 1,000 free falafel pitas. North Fitzrovians come

together from all corners to enjoy free falafel. The line stretches well beyond Pillar of Pepper and down Tranmere Street. Falafel and music are pumped out in equal measure in a celebration both international and North Fitzrovia. It seems a long way away at the moment. People are, understandably, more focused on another, more famous holiday. But when you're feeling melancholy on Boxing Day evening, sensing the Christmas spirit making its way out, why not win back your cheer by marking down June 12 in your calendar? Even if just for laughs.

A BEER WITH THE REINDEER

Seeking relationships more nuanced than what dogs can offer, Ludo spends a night with some other animals as abnormally talented as him

By Ludo

In November's *Rotunda* I lamented the extent to which my life is dominated by humankind. While I trot past humans in the dog field, or listen to the television while my owners watch after dinner, I hear so many things I'll never understand. "Tax fraud". "BDSM". "Vaccine mandate". Like, what? I was sick of it all. I needed some other species to talk to.



Edinburgh University professors asserted they can't be male because only female reindeer still have their antlers come Christmastime. Uh, I'm not sure if these two genius professors realised this or not, but *they're not exactly normal reindeer*. So – before I attract the ire of Sky News hosts, unemployed journalists on Twitter, or both – let me clarify: the team is mixed. Dasher, Prancer, Rudolph, Dunder and Blixem are blokes. Dancer, Comet, Cupid and Vixen are gals.

After a night out with the loveable crew, I came away with a view of Christmas a little less rosy than before – not everything's all hunky-dory up at the North Pole. "Santa's at kind of a crossroads," Vixen told me. (She's the most astute of the bunch.) "He's been doing this for a while. Plus, he has a drinking problem." I was unsurprised by the latter. On Christmas Eve, most houses leave out a beer or whiskey for him upon arrival – in doing so, laying down the stone steps of an inevitable path to addiction.

"Lugging an overweight old man across the world and back isn't easy, but there are worse jobs."

They hate the elves. Prancer, very vain and sassy, described them as "a lazy mob of jumped-up Oompa-Loompas who sit in front of computers all day browsing Amazon". They don't have to handcraft toys anymore,



Ludo after he'd had a few too many. Photo courtesy of Dasher.

you see, just order them. Whether children are wishing for iPads, toys, or new pairs of trainers, you can be sure they're actually getting built far, far away from the North Pole (in circumstances unpleasant to dwell on).

When I suggested us dogs take over for a year, to give the reindeer a break – Dasher exclaimed: "Yeah, right! Can you imagine waking up on Christmas morning to see the stockings ripped to shreds, the pudding devoured, and nine shits on your carpet?" I was briefly quite offended, but he was right. Dogs don't possess the elegance reindeer do. Anyway, it appeared the they did, at the end of the day, love their job.

Because soon my long, crazy night with the squad came to a close. Even Rudolph had calmed down (he is an absolute party animal; it's no coincidence his nose is always so red). Things became – as they always do come sunrise – quite sentimental. Cupid (so cute, so lovable)

was clearly feeling a little sad about the barrage of cynicism she'd heard over the course of the night. "I'm actually kind of looking forward to getting back," she said.

The other reindeers looked over at her affectionately. It was clear they agreed. "It's true," Vixen said. "We're privileged to be what we are: harbingers of glee, who drop off perfect little glowing packages and disappear without a trace – bar a few carrot crumbs – leaving a sense of mystic joy in our wake. Lugging an overweight old man across the world and back each Christmas Eve certainly isn't easy, but there are worse jobs."

As a dog – another animal people expect a lot from – I sympathised with the difficult, pressured plight of the reindeer. But I agree with Vixen's last point. Because just like reindeer, dogs can spark an intense level of happiness in people – and I'll be damned if that isn't a great way to spend your days. Merry Christmas.

Quick disclaimer: Santa's reindeer have traditionally been portrayed as an all-male ensemble, but recently some media outlets have insisted they're actually all female. Two

GOOD WEATHER FOR DUCKS

Edinburgh Cricket Club's season has started with a wet, rainy whimper – but blue skies lie ahead

By Richard Hinds

For those of us for whom cricket is the source of both great pleasure and exquisite torture, the term “good weather for ducks” usually applies equally in all meteorological conditions.

But for the Edinburgh Cricket Club, it is safe to say the soggy start to the 2022-23 season has created more than the usual share of frustrations at our Brunswick Street Oval headquarters.

Typically, you can expect the odd washout in the first month of the season, with the crowds in the betting rings at Caulfield or Moonee Valley racecourses swelled by the ranks of cricketers making the most of an early season abandonment.

But such is La Nina's apparent intent on wreaking havoc for the greatest game, you could be forgiven for thinking she had been at the sharp end of some Mitchell Starc chin music.

Only a handful of Edinburgh CC's nine senior men, women and veteran's teams took the field during the first four rounds of scheduled play, with our mammoth assembly of 22 junior boys and four junior girls teams similarly afflicted.

Restoring the centre square at Brunswick Street Oval five years ago has been a source of great pride for the Mighty Burra, bringing as it did the wonderful variety of turf cricket to the best community sports ground in

Melbourne – for the first time since Fitzroy Cricket Club moved to Doncaster in 1986.

Alas, turf pitches and constant rain are the Kim and Kanye of sports ground relationships. In this regard we owe a huge debt to the yeoman efforts of our groundsman Luke and the legendary Swan Richards, who not only runs the best cricket equipment shop in Brunswick Street, but also spends more time behind the wheel of the club roller than an interstate truckie.

So – if the ECC pre-season dinner and the club trivia night produced more memorable performances in the early weeks of the season than anything that took place on the field – when the sun finally made a cameo appearance, the track was ready for play.

Former Sri Lankan Test and One Day International star Suraj Randiv has returned to lead a Men's First XI replete with ECC juniors who have made their way up the ranks, the presence of homegrown players in the top senior teams always being the best measure of a community club's success.

After COVID-19 border restrictions curtailed our overseas coach/player program for two seasons, we've also welcomed English imports Jake Pearson and Dom Hooper, who were lively presences during the First XI's initial victory of the season – a hard fought 16 run win over fellow Yarra-ites Richmond City.



Dismal weather has prevented many but a few games from taking place.

As pleasingly, the number of junior teams continues to grow. Fears the isolation of the pandemic or the lure of the PlayStation might lead to a dip in participation have been proven unfounded here in the lentil belt.

Even allowing for the demographic shift in North Fitzroy, and the fiscal Viagra that was the Costello Baby Bonus, that Edinburgh CC has in a decade grown to become one of the largest community clubs in Victoria remains a source of great pride.

We are also pleased that our participation projects at the Atherton Gardens as well as our Special Olympics program will continue

this season, affirming our commitment to be a valuable part of the North Fitzroy community – not just an outsized community cricket juggernaut.

Hopefully the sun will soon shine and we can welcome you to Brunswick Street, Alfred Crescent or Yarra Bend to watch our vast array of highly talented cricketers, promising juniors and weekend warriors doing their best for the Mighty Burra.

Please support local businesses Jellis Craig Real Estate, Community Bank Clifton Hill, the Royal Derby Hotel and CricketKit – proud sponsors of the Edinburgh Cricket Club.

Q&A with a local: HEIDI MODRA



Heidi Modra (pictured) is the owner of Pinotta, the bistro nestled in the heart of the North Fitzroy village – in its 12th year sitting in its sweet spot on St Georges Road.

When did Pinotta begin and what was the motivating factor in creating it?

I opened Pinotta in July 2011. It was a huge career change for me. I was energetic, creative and ready to sink my teeth into something I really enjoyed – wine and people – and wanted a business that contributed to my everyday life.

How did you pivot during Covid and how does it feel to be going back to what you started doing originally?

Covid was undoubtedly the most challenging time for Pinotta. It was surreal. I tried lots of things, but all my energy was directed towards maintaining our community engagement and keeping our team together. We all looked out for one another.

What three adjectives best describe the experience you want to create?

I strive to create an environment of warmth, welcome

and heart. Of course, it's about the food and the wine, but for me it's also about how we make people feel. A place of respite, conversation and celebration.

Who is the current chef and what is your personal favourite dish?

My head chef is Dan Wayne and he has been at Pinotta for the last two years. My favourite dish at the moment is the linguine with crab, prawn and chive. The dish I eat the most of is tiramisu – it's a Pinotta staple and always the ultimate 'pick me up'.

Where do you eat when you eat out?

La Pinta in Reservoir. Etta in Brunswick East. Osteria Tedesca in Red Hill.

What's your comfort dish to make at home?

In summer you will find me making fresh Napoli sauce – garlic melted in olive oil, fresh tomato and basil. That's heaven for me. And all winter I constantly make Bolognese – sometimes with hand cut steak, sometimes pork and veal mince, and always with lots of carrot, celery, and onion. I find the rhythm of chopping mirepoix incredibly relaxing after a long week, and the gentle attention a big pot needs makes me feel like I have achieved more than I really have. It's the perfect freezer sauce for late night hungers.

What is your favourite travel and eating destination?

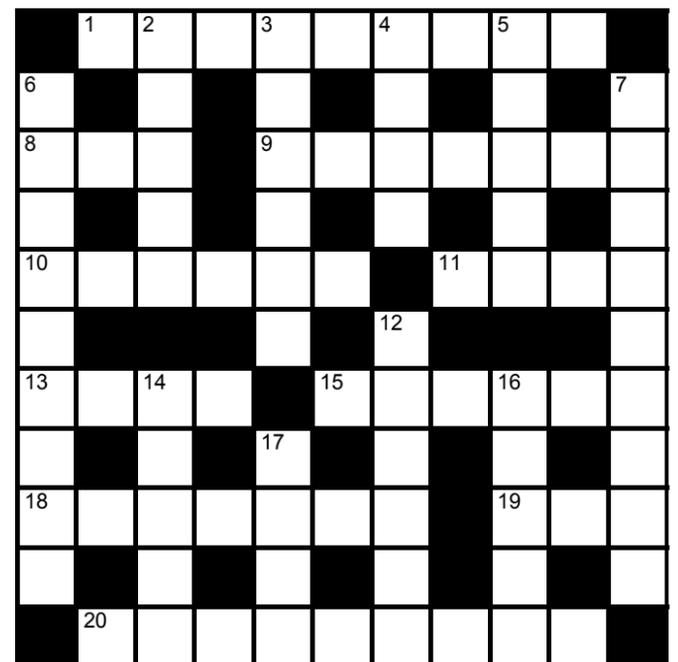
I love Paris as it feels so familiar to me, but I recently visited Piedmont for the first time and think I left a large piece of my heart there. If I could go somewhere tomorrow, it would be there for tajarin pasta and glass of Barolo.

What reality cooking shows do you secretly watch?

I (not so) secretly love *Masterchef*. It's the ultimate hour of goodness after a double shift at work, with my feet up and some cheese on toast. And a VERY large glass of wine.

CROSSWORD by LR

#8



ACROSS

- 1 * Nicholson Street (6-3)
- 8 Have no seconds of wine? (3)
- 9 Most massive (7)
- 10 * Rushall (6)
- 11 Too (4)
- 13 Domesticated (4)
- 15 * Brunswick Street (6)
- 18 Capital of Wales (7)
- 19 Local footy player, for short (3)
- 20 * Gertrude Street (6-3)

6 Perfect (5)

- 7 Difficult to rent, say lawyers? (9)
- 12 Woolly (6)
- 14 Neighbouring council, City of-bek (5)
- 16 Italian opera composer, Giuseppe (5)
- 17 Plate (4)

Solution: northfitzroyrotunda.com/cheat

DOWN

- 2 sanctum (5)
- 3 Personify (6)
- 4 Mat-based exercise (4)
- 5 Having no flavour (9)

Note: Asterisked clues are connected by a theme. Clues with question marks are cryptic.

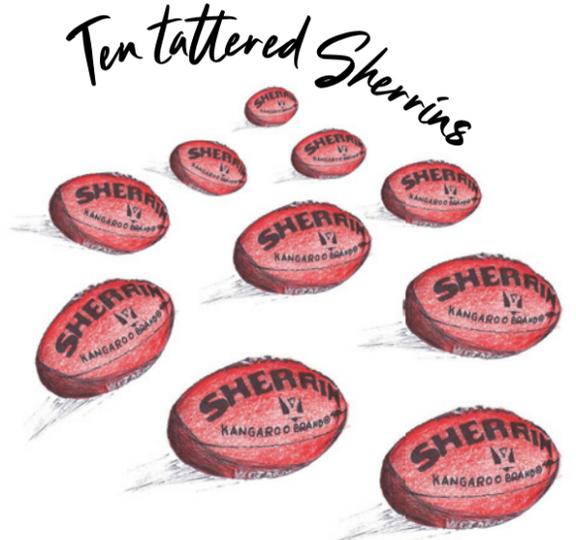
On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me



Twelve joggers jogging



Eleven Groomles growling



Ten tattered Sherrins

Nine hungry musos



Eight tasty roosters

Seven angry vegans

Six loafer baguettes

Five stuck frisbees



Four cycling hipsters

Three charming cafes

Two oat milk lattes



And a Rotunda in a Gum Tree!



ROY'S ANTIQUES

After 32 years in Queens Parade, Roy's Antiques Pty Ltd will be selling aluminium ladders, metal filing cabinets, old kitchenware and garden ornaments etc. Collectibles will jostle with the usual Old Master paintings, sterling silver, Georgian and 18th century French signed furniture. M'n'M dispensers, Monster High dolls in original boxes, framed Victorian photographs, film and television collectibles, and many other strange and wonderful things must be sold.

Regular customers will find many rare antiques drastically reduced in price.

Roy moved from Brisbane and made his first sale in Melbourne December 1979. Roy's Antiques moved to 410 Queens Parade in 1990. In those days there was no internet and no sales tax on antiques. Now 95% of Roy's Antiques sales are

online, sadly rendering the Bricks and Mortar shop obsolete. Next year Roy's Antiques will still be accessible online, and by cabinets in the Camberwell Antique Centre.

The last 32 years have been fun! Many museum objects have passed through 410 Queens Parade. A large portrait by Frederick McCubbin is a memorable sale. Many pieces of Faberge and treasures from the Imperial Russian Court have been sold, often to collectors abroad. For his promotion of Imperial Russian culture, Roy is a Member of the Order of St Michael the Archangel, instituted by the Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna of Russia, with whom Roy has had an audience, and dinner! Roy also curated an Exhibition of Russian treasures at the NGV.

Just this year an 1830s marble bust by a notable Scottish sculptor has gone

to Boston, and a 1695 painting of an influential nobleman has gone back to Hanley Castle in the UK, after having been AWOL for 320 years. Many fine pieces of signed Paris furniture from the time of Madame de Pompadour, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette have also passed through the columned showrooms.

You never knew who you may see at Roy's Antiques. This includes an Imperial Prince, various members of European royal and noble families, famous singers and musicians, artists, and politicians, clergy in their dramatic robes, and once, two notable London antique dealers who surprised each other at Roy's Antiques. Many thanks to the local Australian customers without whose valued support Roy's Antiques would not have been a success in Melbourne since 1979.



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OPENING HOURS

Wednesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Closed Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays
& Public Holidays