

ASHY NEWS

CONNECTING THE 3147 COMMUNITY



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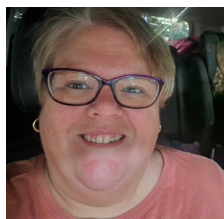
Cover Artwork: **High Street - IV** by Charmaine Macdonald
High Street is from Charmaine's "Vacancy" series which shows empty commercial buildings. These vacant premises seem to have taken on new, unexpected lives of their own, being occupied with shadows, reflections, new growth, new occupants or obsolete objects. This piece was created at a time when large flocks of Corellas were flying around the local neighbourhood. Charmaine Macdonald is a local artist whose work features buildings within Ashburton and neighbouring suburbs.

Web: charmainemacdonald.com **Instagram:** @charmainemacdonaldart

ABOUT ASHY NEWS

Ashy News is an independent community magazine produced by a small team of volunteers and funded by the City of Boroondara for the residents of Ashburton 3147. Our publication aims to celebrate the essence of the local Ashburton community and its residents.

Our Team:



Sarah Hirst
Volunteer



Kyra Hatzis
Volunteer



Hugh Offor
Volunteer



Yuriko Franks
Volunteer

OUR ASHBURTON COMMUNITY CENTRES

This publication is supported by our three vibrant and unique Ashburton Neighbourhood Houses: Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning, Ashburton Community Centre and the Craig Family Centre. Each centre offers a warm and inclusive atmosphere where everyone is embraced and encouraged to get involved. Whether you're seeking adult or child learning opportunities, social engagement or support services, our centres are your go-to destination. With a focus on building connections and fostering a sense of belonging, our centres are places where your name is known, and where you are always welcome.



Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning
49 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton 3147
T: 9885 9401 E: admin@alameinnlc.com.au
W: www.alameinnlc.com.au



Ashburton Community Centre
160 High Street, Ashburton 3147
T: 9885 7952 E: office@ashburtoncc.org.au
W: www.ashburtoncc.org.au



Craig Family Centre
7 Samarinda Avenue, Ashburton, 3147
T: 9885 7789 E: enquiries@craigfc.org.au
W: www.craigfc.org.au



FIVE FACTS

ABOUT ASHBURTON'S EARLY YEARS

By Sarah Craze, local historian, author

FACT 1

Edward Stocks

Edward Stocks, one of the earliest settlers, arrived in the area in 1850. Stocks bought most of the land that now comprises Ashburton. He ran a successful farm and market garden from his house near present-day Holmesglen Station. Around 1928, his grandsons opened and operated the Ashburton Dairy from Stocks Avenue. They delivered milk to residents by horse and cart for the next 35 years.

FACT 2

The suburb name

The suburb Ashburton took its name from the train station. But there are two sources for its origin.

Edward Stocks used the name 'Ashburton' on his correspondence after the ship he arrived on, Lord Ashburton. Around 1890, the Railway Board tasked City of Camberwell Councillor Dillon with finding a new name for Norwood Railway Station. They considered the station too far from its namesake, Norwood (Toorak) Road. Dillon thought the countryside reminded him of Ashburton Terrace in Cork so he gave the station the name Ashburton. Since Dillon and Stocks knew each other, it's quite possible both stories are true.

FACT 3

The area around

Liston Street to Toorak Road used to be a racecourse.

Known as the Sherwood Park Racecourse, this was a large paddock owned by racing enthusiast, J B Scott. It was used for horse racing from around 1888. Spectators attended the races by catching the train to Camberwell and then taking a pleasant afternoon buggy drive. Mr Scott even rejected an offer of £40,000 for the site. By the 1890s, the Victorian Racing Club decided racing should be centralised around Flemington and the racecourse disappeared.

FACT 4

The steam train

The famous 'Ashy Dasher' steam train was actually really slow.

Until well into the 20th century, Melbourne's trains were much slower than its trams. The 'Ashy Dasher' was so named because it took an hour to get to Camberwell Station. The train from the City to Glen Iris Station also had a sarcastic nickname based on its lack of speediness: 'Darktown Express'.



FACT 5

Continuously played sport

Cricket is the longest continuously played sport in Ashburton. Cricket has been played in the Ashburton area almost since the day it arrived in Melbourne in the 1850s. It was played around Burwood Reserve, at Sherwood Park and in the Ashburton Forest. Anywhere remotely flat and treeless was always a good place to play cricket!



About Sarah Craze

Sarah Craze holds a PhD in history from the University of Melbourne. She has lived with her family in Ashburton since 2009. She runs a local history blog at www.sarahcraze.com



LOCAL HISTORIAN SARAH CRAZE BRINGS ASHBURTON'S COLOURFUL HISTORY TO LIFE IN HER BOOK 'ASHBURTON STORIES'

Ashburton is home to tenacious and determined residents, fiercely independent retailers and sports enthusiasts determined to find a drink in a notoriously dry area. A Melbourne suburb of great contrasts, Ashburton's colourful, eclectic and occasionally dark history is now brought to life through the stories of its residents and institutions.

How to get a copy of Sarah's 'Ashburton Stories':

- Purchase a copy from reception at the Ashburton Community Centre, 160 High Street Ashburton from 9am – 2pm weekdays or from The Leaf Bookstore, 3/283 High Street, Ashburton
- Order online at Sarah's store: www.sarahcraze.com/online-store
- Scan the QR code to visit sarahcraze.com
- Borrow a copy from the Ashburton Library



ALAMEIN SPOTLIGHT

WONDERFUL WARREN!

By Kyra Hatzis

Ashburton is a vibrant, exciting, and growing suburb, and the Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre witnesses characters just as vibrant and exciting everyday. From residents accessing the centre's resources, to its dedicated volunteers, the Alamein community is privileged to be filled with an exciting group of helpful and generous people from many walks of life.

Creating a community unique to Ashburton is no easy task, and yet, with wonderful, approachable, and equally unique people backing the social initiatives, the communities being built everyday are a testament to the Ashburton residents themselves.

For Alamein, there is no one quite as unique and wonderful as Markham Estate tenant Warren.

Having moved into the Ashburton community last June as one of Markham Estate's first tenants, Warren, a live-in carer with a lifelong background in hospitality and experience in the entertainment industry, describes his new community as possessing a "great balance" of diverse people.

Likening Ashburton to a "pocket of country town", outside of the noise of the freeway and its proximity to the CBD, Warren has marked his year at Alamein as dedicated to "giving back to the community, and sharing [his] love and joy."

His experience with Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning began with a community BBQ held at the Markham Estate pavilion designed to encourage greater engagement and participation from a budding community in the Ashburton area.





Chatty café at Alamein

Having connected with the work of the Centre and its staff, Warren quickly began regularly attending the centre and witnessing the centre staff in action. He realised how the centre perfectly aligned with his hope to encourage a community himself.

Soon afterwards, Warren quickly became a regular face at the centre's social programs and initiatives, particularly the Chatty Café which inspires social connection, community engagement, friendship building, and even the opportunity to practice language and social skills. One of Warren's distinct strengths is his ability to engage younger and older members of the Ashburton and Alamein communities in a blended social environment. Warren strongly believes all communities need more diversity and inclusivity.

Following the pandemic when we were separated more than ever, Warren notes how important social connections are to the psyche of an entire community.

"I think people get complacent in their communities, but I also think now is the time to encourage community and create connections."

Warren is not afraid to show up and participate in ways that get people's attention. This includes riding a bike with a fruit juicer on the back, and wearing an all-pineapple style get up. While the idea of doing anything like this may sound intimidating to others, Warren constantly maintains true showmanship, and always gives it a go with a smile. Any chance to create a new social interaction, with the chance of inspiring joy, Warren is there to facilitate in his unique and wonderfully-Warren way.

Hosting the Chatty Café every Wednesday at the centre, you can find the wonderful Warren ready to welcome you from 10:30 am onwards.

Access to a Tenancy and Property Officer

from Box Hill Housing

This provides the opportunity for any public housing renters, especially 10 Markham Avenue renters, to come in and have a chat with staff about any concerns or issues they have around their public housing. Appointments are ideal but not essential.

**First
Wednesday**
of the month
9am-12pm

Career Support Consultation

Looking for work or unsure about employment? Visit the Centre for free advice from a Career Counsellor.

To book contact **Carol** on **9564 1734**

**First
Thursday**
of the month
11am-3pm

Job Club Drop-In

Drop in and meet a Skills & Job Centre career adviser for support with: finding a job, resume and letter writing, interview skills and more.

First Thursday
of the month
1pm-3pm

All enquires to

Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning 49 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton 3147
T: 9885 9401 **E:** admin@alameinnlc.com.au **W:** www.alameinnlc.com.au



Discussion Group

All Welcome.

Cost: Gold coin donation

3rd Thursday
of the Month
1pm-2pm

Friday Craft Drop-ins

Participate in craft sessions with a small, relaxed group. Bring your own craft project.

Cost: Gold coin donation appreciated.

Weekly
on **Fridays**
1pm - 3pm

Men's Shed

A long established and well organised group set up in 2007. If you have an interest in woodcraft and other tactile crafts, head on down!

Cost: \$40 per term

Weekly on
Tuesdays
9.30am - 11.30am
12.30pm - 2.30pm

Friday Rummikub

Join a fun-filled Rummikub game club! Make new friends, test your skills and enjoy great company. All levels welcome.

Cost: Gold coin donation appreciated.

Weekly
on **Fridays**
1pm - 3pm

HEART OF ASHBURTON

URSULA JONES

By Hugh Offer

Ashburton locals may recognise Ursula Jones (Ulla), an active local community member who has become the heart of the Ashburton Community Centre.

Ulla moved from Germany to Melbourne in 1985 with her new Australian husband leaving behind her friends, family, and a long established career in the airline industry.

As anyone who has ever moved cities or countries knows, establishing roots in a new place can be an exhausting and isolating experience. Ulla took to jogging through Caulfield Park to keep herself active, while feeling terribly alone in a foreign country.

With time, life settled into a new rhythm as Ulla found a job with a German company and set about establishing her new home. But she still felt that something very important was missing.

Back in Germany, Ulla had thrived as a P.E. teacher, running exercise classes.

While it was a relief to have a job and the foundations laid for the future, Ulla dearly missed her teaching role. She did the rounds of the nearby gymnasiums and recreation centres, but none were quite what she was looking for.



Her search eventually led her to the Ashburton Community Centre. To Ulla's disappointment, the centre only had one yoga class available in their exercise program. The manager explained regretfully that they had not been able to find an instructor to run exercise classes. Seeing an opportunity, Ulla mentioned that she was a P.E. teacher. The manager replied immediately: "When can you start?"

And so, Ulla found her second home. Thirty years later, Ulla still runs regular classes at the Ashburton Community Centre including a Your Healthy Spine class and Nordic Walking.

Taking the time to understand each person's individual needs, Ulla works with participants to increase mobility after surgery or recover from injuries as well as improving general health and wellbeing.

Ulla provides not only inclusive movement classes but builds vital community connections amongst all her participants.

Ulla's dedication to her profession and her community has not only enriched her life but also the lives of countless participants who benefit from her expertise and enthusiasm.



NORDIC WALKING FOR BEGINNERS

Join Ulla at the Ashburton Community Centre on Tuesdays 10.30am – 12pm

Nordic Walking is a form of fitness walking using specially designed poles and a learned technique, resulting in a low impact, high results, and total body fitness that increases cardio fitness, burns more calories and activates 90% of muscles.

Nordic Walking can be performed by anyone, anywhere, at any time, is affordable and most importantly lots of fun! You can enjoy Nordic walking by yourself, with a friend or in a group.

YOUR HEALTHY SPINE

Join Ulla at the Ashburton Community Centre on Wednesdays 12pm - 1.30pm

Are your back, neck or shoulders tired and aching? Enhance your life and feel well again through mindful movements. The class focuses on awareness through movement and you will learn how to move more freely and flexibly. You will do gentle exercises and movements accompanied by music using specialised equipment on the floor, using chairs and standing. You will leave each class feeling relieved and relaxed with your tension melted away.

For all class enquiries, contact the Ashburton Community Centre on 9885 7952 or visit our website at www.ashburtoncc.org.au



Justice of the Peace (JP) Service

Walk in appointments only,
no bookings required.

Mondays 1:30pm - 3pm
Mondays 6.30pm - 8pm*
Tuesdays 10.30am - 12pm
Thursdays 6.30pm - 8pm*

**Enter via Highgate Grove*

The Ashy Eco Hub

Located in the foyer, our Eco Hub is run by volunteers and brings together our sustainability initiatives including our community bookshelf, our Green Deck project, our container deposit donation point and it serves as a recycling collection point for a range of items. We currently collect the following items for recycling:

- Glasses
- Hearing aids
- Plastic Bread Tags
- Empty make-up containers
- Tooth brushes
- Empty toothpaste tubes
- Batteries
- Printer cartridges
- Wire coat hangers
- Corks
- E-Waste (small items only)
- Take-away coffee cups and lids

All enquires to

Ashburton Community Centre 160 High Street, Ashburton 3147

T: 9885 7952 **E:** office@ashburtoncc.org.au **W:** www.ashburtoncc.org.au



Global Film Night - Film and Discussion

Join us at on the first Wednesday of the month to enjoy a world movie in a welcoming environment and a casual conversation about the film and its themes. Films chosen are not mainstream and are designed to be thought provoking and expand our minds on people and the world around us. Enter via rear entrance off Highgate Grove, please use the intercom for access.

**1st Wednesday
of the Month
7pm-9.30pm**

A free event with
tea, coffee and
biscuits.

Join a Connect Group!

Bookclubs & More

- Mind Readers Bookclub
- Novels at Night Book Group
- Wednesday Readers Group
- Thursday Afternoon Bookclub
- The Ashy Bookworms
- Chapter Chasers Bookclub
- Ashy Writers Club

Games

- Cryptic Crosswords
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Scrabble Club
- Rummikub/Rummy Tiles
- Mah Jong Group (Western)

Discussion Groups

- Older Blokes, New Ideas

Art & Craft

- Drawing Flowers Group
- Craft, Coffee and Chat
- Patchwork and Handcraft Group
- Floral Art Group
- Spinners and Knitters Group

Movement & Exercise

- Nordic Walking Group
- Table Tennis Group
- Walking Group
- Laughter Yoga

Music

- Acoustic Group
- Karaoke
- Sing-a-long Singers
- Blues Jamming Session

Our social Connect Groups are volunteer-run groups. \$5 per session for members.

FINDING A NEW COMMUNITY

SINEAD MOONEY

By Sarah Hirst

*What do you do when your support network is on the other side of the world?
You find a community to live in with services that can support you.*

This is exactly what Sinead Mooney did when her family chose to move from a small inner-city area to a more family-focused suburb. Sinead is a working mum of three young children. Three years ago Ashburton came up as a suggestion from a friend during a discussion about the best suburbs in Melbourne for raising children.

This discussion resulted in the family moving to Ashburton, and Sinead hasn't regretted the move for a moment. The accessibility to services and the family-friendly vibe made it a perfect match for Sinead and her young family.

When talking about childcare services in the area with other mums two years ago, Sinead was recommended to look into the Craig Family Centre. From the moment Sinead entered the centre she knew it was for her family. Kid friendly, inviting and, importantly, with several long-standing staff members the centre offers the children the stability of familiar carers when their parents are not there.

Sinead started her eldest child in the Joey's Sessional Education Program and was impressed with the variety of age-appropriate activities on offer to her child.



Sinead enjoyed looking at the log-book detailing what the children have done for the day. Sinead's second child started in the program when they turned two years old and her third child is awaiting to join their siblings once they also have their second birthday in October.

Sinead's second child had some settling in issues however the staff were fantastic, supportive and accommodative with assistance.

"The Craig Family Centre went above and beyond, even adjusting rosters to assist my child."

Since starting at the centre two years ago, the family's children have attended both three year old and four year old kindergarten. They have also used the Craig Family Centre's wrap-around care extending the care hours to accommodate Sinead's working hours.

Sinead has been impressed with both the three and four year old kindergarten programs. The same teacher has run both age levels limiting the amount of adjustment her child has had to face.

The centre uses the Storypark online sharing platform, which Sinead finds useful in sharing photos, activities, and experiences her children have at kindergarten with her family overseas. Sinead's favourite aspects of the kindy program are the frequent excursions and parent participation days. The family have also utilised various courses and playgroups within the centre.

One year ago the centre put a call out for a parent to join the committee as a parent representative and Sinead successfully applied to join. Her role as a committee member included providing a parent perspective on any issues, understanding the financial position of the centre, assisting with guidance and support to staff, liaising between the centre and council, and generally ensuring requirements are met. Sinead believes that her committee role is of mutual benefit to both the Craig Family Centre and her family.



The Craig Family Centre incorporates the perspective of parents when considering changes or improvements and Sinead is able to help provide this. As a committee member, Sinead and her family attend all family days and special events run by the centre. They are extremely happy with the services and support they receive from the kind, warm people at the centre.

Sinead hopes to see the Craig Family Centre continue to expand and evolve to support the community needs in the future.

For all enquiries, contact the Craig Family Centre on 9885 7789 or visit our website at www.craigfc.org.au



Homework club

Within a fun and safe learning environment, children in years 1 – 8 are provided with homework and study assistance with a tailored tuition based on individual needs. Children are engaged in play-based education, fine and gross motor skills development and focused homework assistance.

Every **Wednesday**
during the school
term 4pm – 5.30pm
\$30 / \$15 Conc
-or-
Free with a Craig
Family Centre
annual membership

Chatty Café & Craig Crafters

Join us for our creative Chatty Café, where members bring along a craft and share conversations over cups of coffee or tea. Each week a new craft will be explored. This group has the capacity for volunteers to take a leadership role and invites the community to join casually or regularly.

Every **Tuesday**
during the
school term.
2pm – 3pm
FREE

G.O.L.D. Group (Getting Old, Living Dangerously)

A social group for women aged 55+ to enjoy fun, new experiences in a supportive environment. Share knowledge, companionship and time together. Members meet on alternate Thursdays during school terms (one meeting at Craig Family Centre, the other is an organised outing).

Thursdays
fortnightly
during the
school term.
11am – 1.30pm
\$30 Annual
membership

All enquires to

Craig Family Centre 7 Samarinda Avenue, Ashburton, 3147

T: 9885 7789 E: enquiries@craigfc.org.au W: www.craigfc.org.au

AT YOUR LOCAL ASHBURTON COMMUNITY HOUSES

Chatty Cafés

Brighten your day by dropping in for a cup of tea or coffee and a sweet treat at our Chatty Cafés. Our Community Centres are open to welcome anyone who would like to come in for a chat at the following times:

Craig Family Centre

Tuesdays 2pm – 3pm

Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning

Wednesdays 10.30am – 11.30am

Ashburton Community Centre

Thursdays, 1.30pm – 2.30pm



Community Libraries

If you are looking for a place to donate or exchange a book our community libraries are at:

Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning's

Tiny Library is at 49 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton (outside location)

Ashburton Community Centre's

Community Bookshelf is at 160 High Street Ashburton (located in the foyer, available 9am - 2.30pm weekdays)



MORE THAN A BREWERY

TWO DOORS BREWING

By Kyra Hatzis

Situated on Ashburton's High Street is an intimate and cosy after-hours retreat for young and old alike, with more to offer than beer alone.

Two Doors Brewing, a two-year old brewery creating beers on-site, is run by Andy, an Ashburton local for over twelve years.

Andy has taken his home-brewing passion to new heights with the establishment of his High Street located brewery.

Andy created Two Doors Brewing to fill the void in Ashburton, a suburb absent of nightlife and a pub. Anyone can come and bear witness to the talent and the thoughtfulness Andy and his team have implored in every decision of their work.

Having originally been a chicken shop for over thirty years, the refurbished pub warmly welcomes customers in an environment that oozes the comforts of your local bar. Familiar faces, an array of high-quality drinks to sample, a menu to match, and the space to enjoy company with friends, Two Doors Brewing is the an underrated place to explore after dark.



Andy with Business partner and wife Rachael

Andy, originally from the country, loves the idea of “working in the community you live in”. He created this unique microbrewery concept to facilitate a need he noticed in his community. Being an Ashburton local, Andy says that Ashburton has the similar feel of a small town, where you can often walk down High Street and recognise at least one other person to stop and say hello to. For him, this community attribute made it the perfect place to establish Two Doors Brewing as he felt that the only thing missing was a high-quality on-site microbrewery to facilitate togetherness, something that the business has achieved in a way that has exceeded even Andy's initial expectations.

Alongside the ever-successful microbrewery and restaurant, Two Doors Brewing also runs its Community Taps™ Program, where the brewery partners with local enterprises like local schools, kindergartens, sport programs and more, and donates a portion of select beverage sales back into local community activities. This allows Andy to give back to the community he serves and loves. The Community Taps™ Program has proven a beneficial investment back into the local community, in a way that is a testament to the work of Two Doors Brewing.

Tackling the challenge of creating and establishing a business following the pandemic was no easy task, and yet Andy and his team have managed to do just that with such positivity and passion. Reflecting on this challenge, Andy believes he was paid back in spades upon the opening of Two Doors Brewing. The local community has fully embraced the brewery and it is now a well known late-night spot for a good drink and great quality meal.

If you're perusing the beer list, Andy's personal favourite are the darker beers, but whatever your choice, the drinks menu at Two Doors Brewing has been carefully crafted to cater for anyone's taste. In addition to the beer list, including gluten-free beer, there is also a delicious wine list, cocktails and food options.



Not just a brewery, Two Doors Brewing is also a place where locals can witness snippets of each other's lives and share stories worth telling. Two Doors Brewing has transcended a bar, and has now become a wonderful nightly retreat for many Ashburton locals, and the surrounding community. They truly have something for everybody, along with exceptional customer service.

We wish Two Doors Brewing a Happy 2nd Anniversary and look forward to many more.

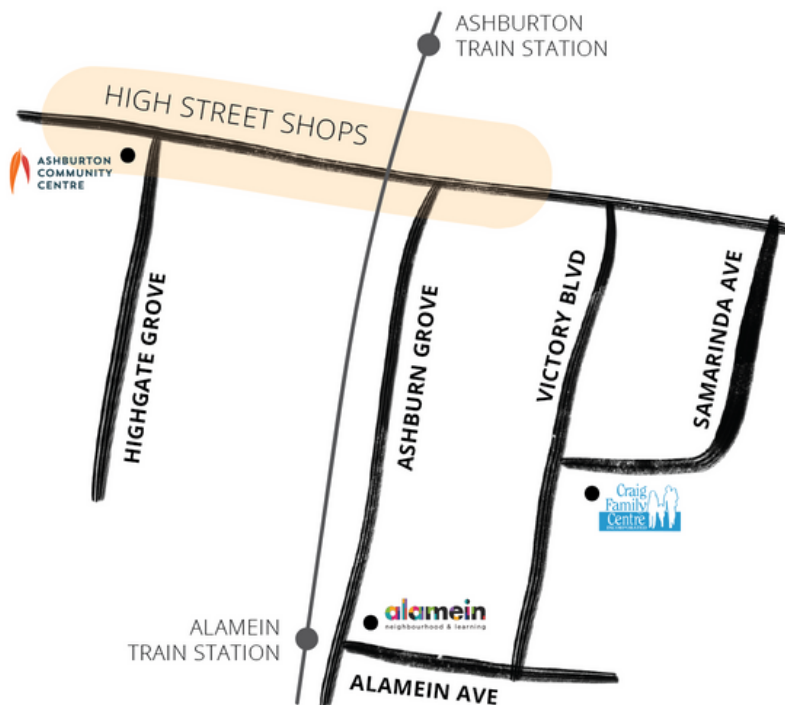
For more details on Two Doors Brewing, including their menu, contact information, function space and upcoming events please visit www.twodoorsbrewing.com.au follow @twodoorsbrewing on Instagram, or drop in for a drink at 257 High St, Ashburton VIC 3147.

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

We would like to understand if you found this edition useful and interesting and whether you would like further editions to be produced. Your feedback, if you choose, will place you in the draw to win one of three \$100 vouchers. Winners will be notified individually and announced on social media by each of the community centres on Friday 27th of June 2025.



WHERE TO FIND US



**Alamein Neighbourhood
and Learning**
49 Ashburn Grove
Ashburton 3147
T: 9885 9401
E: admin@alameinnlc.com.au
W: www.alameinnlc.com.au



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