

MYVOICE

Northcote resident Nicole Mallalieu discusses her love of craft and her involvement in the Melbourne Craft and Quilt Fair, on from July 28-31 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre

If I were to die tomorrow, I'd know that it was doing what I love and that I've left some sort of mark in the creative meme pool of the global craft community. My work will continue in the creative work and play of other people. I design sewing patterns for hobby and cottage-industry crafters, I teach people to sew and to improve their sewing, have an online shop selling patterns, kits, sewing supplies and handbag hardware and I blog about it all.

It amazes me how far my little business has reached through the internet — I have regular customers in the USA, Scandinavia and Europe, as well as a loyal local following. I started this business in 2004, with patterns for bags and purses. I take people slightly outside their sewing comfort-zone and gently guide them through to a professional finish they never expected to achieve. The results I've seen and the lovely emails I receive from customers and students tell me that the system works! I love to see what people do with my designs and the feedback truly feeds my soul.

I wrote a book, *You Sew, Girl*, which was released earlier this year. I'll be selling it at the Melbourne Craft and Quilt Fair, along with my patterns, supplies and a huge display of sample hats, bags and clothing.



CHRIS HOPKINS



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LETTERS OF THE WEEK

Not enough parks for pub

Julia Gillard wants to make a refugee swap with Malaysia — we give them 800, they give us 4000!

The [Thunder Road Brewing Company's] microbrewery also wants to make a swap with the Brunswick residents: they want to swap their three car spaces for up to 150 of our off-street car spaces from Barkly Street and surrounding streets.

We, the residents, do not wish to swap; the spaces are not there to give. We trust that the planning committee of Moreland Council declines this application and takes the matter up with VCAT if need be.

Sebastian J Liistro / via email

No use, no pay

With the state government decision to now charge members of the public (for whatever purpose) to use public parks ("Training fee hike no walk in the park", *MTW*, July 13), maybe it is time for the state government to remove those horrendous yearly parks and gardens



charges from our water bills.

A great many people do not use these parks at all and if a "user-pays" system is going to be introduced, those who do not "use" should not be obliged to pay. Maybe a meter at the entrance gates could collect the money! This virtually becomes another tax — and we have already paid our taxes for these purposes.

Another government policy to ensure it not only has its cake but is greedily gobbling it down as well — with no intention of sharing!

Nola Martin / Preston

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Cover photograph of Harry Kewell by Teagan Glenane