

LEOPOLD BUZZ

YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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Leopold Community & Learning Centre

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LEOPOLD BOOMERANG BAGS

Boomerang Bags is about making bags, diverting waste, starting conversations, connecting with each other, fostering sustainable behaviour and having fun!

Leopold Boomerang Bags are turning everything from discarded curtains to donated fabrics into bags in a bid to reduce plastic. The bags are very strong and durable, with the team making up to date over 5,000 bags which have been distributed into the Leopold Community.

The 'Bagettes' as they are fondly called is co-ordinated by Sue Bickerton and meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Leopold Community & Learning Centre, for a bit of sewing, cuppa, chat and a good laugh.

However, due to COVID19 restrictions the group and the distribution of bags is in recess at the moment.

The bags are available for a gold coin donation at the Leopold Community & Learning Centre when open. Any donation of fabric from 12cm wide to any length and width is very much appreciated.



KEEPING CONNECTED

Welcome to the eighth edition of our Newsletter!

If you would like to subscribe to 'Leopold Buzz' or if you would like previous issues, please phone us on **0476 658 120** or email us at info@leopoldcommunitycentre.com.au

You can view or download all issues of the newsletter on our website: www.leopoldcommunitycentre.com.au

OFFICE HOURS: Temporarily closed

WHERE TO GET HELP

Bellarine Community Health

has established a community transport service during COVID-19. Transport can be provided to health appointments, pick-up and delivery of pre-ordered food and/or pharmacy script pick-up or drop-off. This FREE service is available to anyone who lives on the Bellarine. The service is subject to vehicle availability. To access this service, call the dedicated support number **03 5258 0835**

BETHANY COVID-19 Support Line

has been established to support people living in the Geelong area. You can call for free support with issues such as:

- Anxiety and stress impacting your relationships
- Financial stress, including provision of emergency relief
- Parenting and family support
- Gambling related harm

The Support Line Counsellors will listen to you, provide support, advice and helpful strategies as well as guide you to other services that might be useful for your particular situation. **Call 1300 655 598**
Monday-Friday 10.00am-3.00pm

The garden of the stubborn cats

By Italo Calvino

The city of the cats and the city of the people lie one within the other, but they are not the same city. Only few cats remember the times when there was no difference: the streets and the squares of the people were also streets and squares of the cats, and the lawns, the courtyards, the balconies and the fountains: one could live in a wide and various space. But, already for many generations now, the domestic felines are prisoners of an unliveable city: the streets are uninterruptedly raced by the deadly traffic of the cat-crushing automobiles; in every square meter of ground where a garden or a clear area or the remnants of an old demolition were opened, now tower apartment buildings and shiny new skyscrapers; each footpath is crowded by parked cars. Gone are the intermediate levels between the street ground line and the high above wavy line of attics; a cat from a new brood searches, to no avail, the route of their fathers, the support for an easy jump from the balustrade at the corner of the gutter, towards a free climb on the roofs – Melbourne is a town of tall spires and windy alleyways.

On certain days, to pass his time, Marc was following a cat. It was during his lunch hour, a cat who had been peeping out a window was always good company, and a guide for new exploration. He had made friends with a tabby cat, blue bow at his collar, certainly housed by a well-off family. This tabby cat had in common with Marc the habit of taking a walk right after lunch; naturally, a friendship was born.

Following his tabby friend, Marc began to see the places as through the round eyes of a kitten, and even if they were the usual corners of his workplace, he saw them in a new light, scenarios for cat stories, with paths only walkable by furry, light paws. Marc was being introduced to some new muzzle, and it was only taking a meow, a pant, the inclination of the hairs on an arched back for him to guess links, intrigues and rivalries among them. In those moments he was surveyed by the antennae of the nervous whiskers, and all the cats around him sat impenetrable as sphinxes, and the only thing moving was the tip of their ears, with the active move of a radar. Marc saw that all the cats that have been guiding him here.

Behind a half-rusted gate and two blocks of walls tucked with climbing plants, there was a little, uncultivated garden, with an abandoned-looking building at the back. A carpet of dry leaves covered the alley, and dry leaves lay all over the place under the branches of two plane trees,

even forming little mountains on the flower beds. A layer of leaves was floating in the green water of a bathtub. All around enormous buildings were rising, skyscrapers with millions of windows, like just as many eyes disapprovingly pointed at that little square with the two trees, a few roof tiles and many yellow leaves, surviving right in the middle of the overcrowded neighbourhood.

And in this garden, resting on the capitals, sprawled over the dry leaves of the flower beds, climbed on the trunks of the trees and on the gutters, halted on the four paws and with the tail in a question mark, sat for washing their muzzles, there were striped cats, black cats, white cats, spotted cats, tabbies, angoras, family cats and stray cats, perfumed cats and stinky cats. Marc understood that he finally reached the heart of the kingdom of cats, their secret island.

Are you a friend of the cats, too? A voice from behind makes him turn. He was surrounded by little women, some surely very old, wearing hats long out of fashion, others younger, with a spinster look, and all carried in their hands or bags wrapped packets with offers of meat or fish, and some even a dish with milk."

"But whom does this house belong to?" He asked. "She's a rich old lady, living there, but one never sees her, offered millions and millions, by the developers, for this little piece of land, but she won't sell. The price rises every year. She had many offers, not only offers, but also threats," One old lady replied, "but we don't know who she is and we never see her."

Marc made his way among the leaves and the cats, went up the stairs of the portico, and knocked hard at the door. A voice: "Who's that? Who's knocking?" "I would be Marc, I wouldn't disturb you, but I only know about the cats." – "The cats, always the cats! - said the voice from behind the door, with a sharp, slightly nasal voice. - All my misfortunes come from the cats! None knows how bad that is! A prisoner night and day to those little beasts! And all the waste that people throw among these walls, in disrespect!"

My life at the mercy of these beasts! They keep me prisoner, the cats! Oh, if I left! How much I'd give for a little apartment all mine, in a modern, clean house! But I cannot come out... They follow me, the lay themselves across my path, they make me trip! - The voice becomes a whisper, as if confiding a secret. -

They are afraid I'd sell the place... Won't let me... don't allow it... When the developers come to offer me a contract, you should see them, the cats! One day I had the contract here, I was about to sign it, and they swooped through the window, toppled the inkwell, tore all the papers.” Although intrigued, Marc suddenly realised he had to get back to work and went away on the tips of his toes on the dry leaves, while the voice continued. “They've even given me a scratch... I still have the sign... Abandoned here at the mercy of these demons...” By the time he left the old ladies had disappeared. **What is going on here? What power do the cats have over the elderly lady and why? Find out next issue.**

Hot Chocolate Book Club

Dutch Hot Chocolate



Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons cocoa powder (preferably Dutch-processed), plus more for serving
- 3 cups whole milk
- 6 ounces milk chocolate finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons demerara or granulated sugar
- Lightly sweetened whipped cream (for serving)

Method

1. Bring $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water to a simmer in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Whisk in 3 Tbsp. cocoa powder until no lumps remain, then add milk and return to a simmer. Whisk in chocolate and sugar and cook, whisking frequently, until mixture is smooth and creamy and chocolate is melted, about 5 minutes.
2. Divide hot chocolate among mugs. Top with whipped cream and dust with cocoa powder.

BOOK OF CHOICE

To go with the theme why not borrow **The Chocolate Makers Wife** by Karen Books from Borrow Box. Rosamund presides over a luxurious Chocolate House in London in the shadow of a web of conspiracy.

LEOPOLD LINES

Short Stories



Short stories are known for being impactful even though they're not novel length. We are looking for short stories to publish in Leopold Buzz.

Stretch your writing muscles, unleash your imagination and take up the opportunity to write a short story – about 1,000 words and be published!

Email us with your story:
info@leopoldcommunitycentre.com.au

EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN



1. What has to be broken before it can be used?
2. What begins with T, ends with T, and has T in it?
3. What has a head and a tail but no body?
4. What tastes better than it smells?
5. What do these words have in common: polish, job, herb?

Last Edition's answers

1. *Are you asleep yet?*
2. *Seven*
3. *Investigator*
4. *Add the letter 'g' and it's gone*
5. *My watch*

TRISTAN'S TECH TIPS

Free apps you may find useful

These apps can be found on your phones app store and provide a great service free of charge. Especially useful in these trying times to help educate or entertain while staying at home.

Borrow box:

The official app recommended by Geelong libraries'. Allows you to borrow electronic versions of books and audiobooks for free! Library Card required.

Duolingo:

A free way to learn a language. Creates engaging bite-sized lessons so you can go at your own pace. Throws in fun puzzles, races against the clock, rewards or none of those things, because it personalises lessons to you.

Health direct:

Government funded service that provides quality information and advice. Includes a symptom checker and can show you who your local doctors are too.

Google translate:

Translates English into most languages and back again, all for free. Not perfect though, expect some hilarious translations here and there.

Google docs:

A free online document app. Think Microsoft Word, but without the need for a subscription (which you currently need for the app version of Word)

VLC player:

Plays almost any video file, regardless of the source. Video won't play on phone normally? This will do the trick.

Project Corner

Diorama in a Shoe box

Here is something that is a bit of fun and can keep yourself or the children occupied for hours.



Make a list of the items you'll need and gather your supplies. Though the items you'll need depend on the concept or theme, you may want modelling clay, paper, glue, scissors, paint and a paintbrush, markers, felt, and fabric scraps. You may also want miniatures, like figures or furniture, found objects, like rocks and twigs, and printed pictures or magazine pages

What's in the Night Sky?

Located about 2.65 million light years away in the **constellation Andromeda**, this elliptical galaxy was the first such galaxy to be discovered. From our perspective, M32 appears to be spread out over much of the central regions of the larger **Andromeda Galaxy**, and is therefore believed to be located between us and the Andromeda Galaxy. Due to its location, M32 is widely believed to have been much bigger than it is now, since it appears to be losing stars, gas, and dust to the more massive Andromeda Galaxy. Nonetheless, M32 is an easy target for **large binoculars** and small telescopes because of its high surface brightness



<https://www.astronomytrek.com/night-sky-september>

IT'S *Our* BACKYARD
SUPPORT
Local
BUSINESS