

# The Chatter About Chatterbox Café

by JAMIE SHEPHERD, July 23rd 2024.

*Melbournians have a taste for coffee. The city has become a breeding ground for cafes, with plenty of people lining up at these establishments eager for their first, second, or third cup of liquid gold. Only a short half an hour trip west of Melbourne's CBD will land you in Werribee – a suburb not particularly known for its coffee culture, but home to a locally renown café.*



***The enticing grab-and-go display at Chatterbox (Photo: Ong C)***

Opening in 2007, Chatterbox Café has flourished into a west-side favourite. For the locals, it has gained the reputation of being the local hangout and acts as an escape from the busy nature of Watton Street on which the establishment sits.

First impressions are always important, and Chatterbox delivers with ease. Its rustic interior exuberates warmth and comfort, completely juxtaposing the hustle and bustle of the main street. It is the perfect environment to relax with a friend and catch up over a cup of hot coffee, which is much needed to endure Melbourne's frigid winter.

Melbournians have standards when it comes to their coffee, and Chatterbox's owner and resident barista Sal El-Hassan understands exactly how to satisfy them. The café provides several ways to personalise your brew, from various kinds of milk to flavoured syrups, giving you the ability to curate your cup of joe exactly to your liking.

As for the food, Chatterbox updates their menu every six months, offering customers innovative and exciting new dishes that highlight fresh produce and seasonal fruits. Whether you feel like a sweet or savoury feed, head chef Casey Bunting has you covered.



***The Sweet Croissant French Toast (Photo: Jamie Shepherd)***

You might stop in for a caffeinated pick-me-up, opting for a Cold Brew (\$5) and suddenly be tempted by the Cherry Danish (\$7.50) in the display, attracted to the ruby red filling. From there, you'll think: It couldn't hurt to sit down for an early lunch. You'll be presented with an all day menu, spanning across both breakfast and lunch meals. Then comes the difficult part, choosing between a naughty breakfast like the Apple Crumble Pancakes (\$21), topped with a scoop of ice cream and honey syrup, or a refreshing Heirloom Carrot Salad (\$18) with Moroccan spiced carrots and topped off with roasted hazelnuts.

Since trying the delectable Croissant French Toast (\$21), no breakfast I have had since can compare to the warm and sweet bread, where the ice cream only enhances the gooey goodness. It was even topped with a generous pinch of fairy floss, and the presentation of the dish was breath taking.

Chatterbox Café is the first place that pops into any Werribee local's mind when it comes to a lunch outing, so you're unlikely to nab a table on any given weekend. You'd think this would affect the service, and the folks working at Chatterbox are certainly run off their feet – but they remain professional and friendly, even as the room fills with a cacophony of customers.

The never-ending chatter about Chatterbox Café is for good reason.

You can find Chatterbox Café at 63 Watton Street, Werribee.