

# Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS



Issue 287  
April 2020



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## From the Editor...

**"I'm not as brave as I thought I was."**

*John (Moz)*



Coming to the end of life, when disease had stripped his love of life, when pain and discomfort ruled his daily existence, the best mate of my youth made the decision to end it while he could under Victoria's new Assisted Dying legislation.

A former resident of Stewart Street, Boronia and an avid member of the Society for Growing Native Plants, Moz had retired to country life in Strathfeldsay, near Bendigo, with his wife Margy, one of my favourite people and a country girl through and through. There, they lived close to nature and the inevitable battles with the elements, particularly the droughts.

Yet they prevailed.

Unfortunately, Moz contracted a nerve degeneration disease that slowly ate away his ability to do the many things that made up his life and community involvement. Eventually he was confined to a wheelchair to get about and slowly lost his ability to perform most of the basic actions that we take for granted. To have to rely on others to care for himself was anathema to Moz. Eventually, life became a burden.

That was then that Moz, supported as always by Margy, decided to take advantage of Victoria's new Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation. At first it was just a possibility, a path that could be chosen later if he wished.

When Margy phoned me a month ago to tell me that Moz had decided to go ahead and that he wanted me there when he departed this world, she stressed, "You don't have to do it."

"Yes I do," I replied. He was my mate.

So, on Saturday 21st of March I drove up to Strathfeldsay, arriving late morning as Moz was being taken for a final inspection of their property in his wheelchair.

We retired to the covered patio behind the house. Soon we were joined by local friends and then by Bob, a friend to us both for over 65 years. Old mates.

Then the yarning began, tall tales and usually true, as is the tradition of old friends coming back together. Moz had difficulty talking but joined in when he could and we competed with each other to make him smile. No-one mentioned why we were there until Moz said, "I'm not as brave as I thought I was."

When the first of the three stages began there was barely a pause in the blokey conversation. Then came the second stage with little change. No fuss. After the third stage he faded, then raised himself in his seat, looked around at us all and said loud and clear; "I love you all." Then he settled back and slept, so we took him off to bed and held him as he slipped quietly away in the loving company of his devoted wife, his family and his life-long mates.

*John Mortimore*

### Share your neighbourhood.

This is a community newspaper run by unpaid volunteers. If you would like to help in any way; writing, illustration, photography, advertising etc etc - please contact the editor or president. It can be fun!



We aim to provide the people of Boronia and The Basin with an effective medium of communication, information and expression and to promote community identity, cooperation and pride. Views and comments expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of any member of BBCN Association unless acknowledged as such. Products and services listed or advertised in the paper should not be considered as endorsements. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy of editorial content, BBCN takes no responsibility for errors.

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Issue	Deadline	Distribution
May	14 April	02 May
June		

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We welcome all contributions from our community but can not guarantee publication. Email is preferred but not essential. Articles or letters that have no contact details, are abusive in nature, or contain racial or other vilification will not be published. Insulting the editor is fine only if you do it intelligently and use facts.

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

## MEMBER 2020

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Enthusiastic, responsible people passionate about communication and their neighbourhood are needed to assist on the committee.

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# The death of a Pied Cormorant (Phalacrocorax varius)

She was hatched on a bed of seaweed on Mud Island, in the southern part of Port Phillip Bay. It was probably about 10 years ago, though she had no understanding of time, surely it was about that many summers ago. Time was of no interest to her, only the constant struggle for survival, that search for food, which began at first light and finished at dusk. Some days were just a bit too easy, a belly full of fish before mid-morning, ah, they were good times. Plenty of bad days in between though, when fish were hard to find.

Fishing in the bait balls were her favourite thing in her life. The teeming swarms of bait fish, Southern Anchovy and Pilchards, swirling churning waters, boiling with fish, mustered tightly together by the Dolphins and Seals and their assistant henchmen, the Couta, Snapper, Australian Salmon and Snook. The aerial bombardment from the Gannets and Terns began next, then it was the Cormorants turn, feasting had never been so easy.

Steve had fished under the bridge often over the years. He lived in Yarraville, 10 minutes away. It was either feast or famine with him too. Some nights it was on; big mulloway and flathead, once he even caught a kingfish. He never forgot the look on his mates faces when he came in to work the next morning. "You caught a kingy under the West Gate? No way". The photo on his phone didn't lie, a 5kg Kingfish, the most sought after fish in southern Victoria. Steve didn't keep any of the fish he caught, for him it was just the thrill of the chase, the battle between man and beast. He would never admit it but deep down Steve was an environmentalist. He was repulsed by the litter he always saw there, filthy bastards he thought to himself, haven't they heard of a bin? Discarded fishing line was his pet hate, the thought of fishing line in the waterways didn't bear thinking about.

He glanced at his watch, 11.52pm. He'd had enough, it was a cold, 9 degrees his weather app told him. The constant drone of traffic above him had slowly subsided, the number of cars diminishing, mainly big trucks now taking advantage of quieter roads, where speed limits were actually attainable. That was it, he thought to himself, home to bed. He picked up his rod and to his dismay, the reel had no resistance and freely raced as he wound it in. A snap off had somehow occurred, he had no idea how, but he realised

then he'd lost the lot, the proverbial hook line and sinker. While he was annoyed about losing some gear, the thought of the line in the water troubled him. Nothing I can do about it now, he mused. Within 20 minutes he was fast asleep, the warmth of his wife's sleeping body slowly generating into his.

She woke at first light, having roosted on a pylon off Williamstown. Hunger, the eternal companion, drove her away from the pylon and in closer to shore. Three tiny King George whiting were a nice snack, but not enough. The Yarra might be a better option, and she was soon busy plying her trade just upstream of the West Gate.

Why did she take the lump of squid sitting on the riverbed, when Cormorants normally only take live prey? Hunger was probably the answer. A sharp shooting pain shot through her body, as the piece of bait and size 4 hook entered her mouth and got stuck in her throat. She raced up to the surface and tried to disgorge this thing in her throat but to no avail. She swam to the riverbank, but something was following her. Something heavy was definitely chasing her, connected somehow to her by a thing like spider's web, but infinitely stronger. On the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1970, at 11.50 am, a section of the West Gate Bridge collapsed, killing 35 men. I studied the memorial plaque in awe, slowly reading the names and trades of each of the men who died that terrible day so long ago. Most of the men were steelworkers like myself; boilermakers, welders, ironworkers and riggers. Men whom that morning would have had no idea what was about to happen. After this sobering experience, I walked down a path to the bank of the Yarra, to search for birds, to lift my mood.

I quickly scanned the waterfront, a pair of Black Swans gracefully swam upstream, and a multitude of Silver Gulls squabbled over surface titbits. A juvenile crested tern flew past, its head changing direction occasionally, scanning for surface fish. What I took to be a white plastic bag was caught in a ringlock fence which led from mangroves up on higher ground to down below the waterline, three strands of rusted barbed wire above the cyclone mesh.

The white plastic bag, on closer inspection turned out to be a pied cormorant. The body had begun to decompose, I guessed she had been there about a week. The fishing line twisted around her body, and the line from her beak fixed tight around the top strand of barbed wire. Such a grotesque sight, such suffering, needless suffering to end the life of one of our precious birds.



## Page 3 Bird



Photo courtesy Kim Wormald

Her eyes closed for the last time. No need to struggle anymore. She knew death was not far away, but memories came to her involuntarily. She saw the huge jaws of a Great White coming towards her, missing her by millimetres, its rough skin brushing against her body as its teeth missed their mark. The strange one-eyed alien with constant bubbles coming from its mouth, clumsily moving towards her which she quickly swam away from. The adrenaline rush of feeding in the bait balls, the orcas and sperm whales out off Portsea, the time she found herself surrounded by a school of couta before somehow making it to the surface and flying away. 22 chicks successfully raised. Contented feelings of a belly full of fish.

She was flying in a tight vee formation now with 30 other Pied Cormorants. The feeding grounds off Cheetham Saltworks was the destination. Suddenly, without glancing back at her mates, she banked off to the right away from the flock. In wide sweeping arcs she gained elevation, higher and higher, the bay could be seen in its entirety. All her feeding, roosting and breeding places were below her in 360 degrees of panoramic splendour. The river flowing into the bay, Jawbone off Williamstown, Altona and Point Cook, Mud Island far off to the south, where her life began and where she nested and raised a brood of chicks every year. Effortlessly she kept ascending higher and higher, higher than she had ever flown before, until the huge expanse of water below her was just a blue blur.

Des Palmer

## TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PRINT EDITIONS

In accord with state and federal new laws and regulations and guidelines

and for the protection of our valued volunteers and readers, the committee of Boronia & The Basin Community news has decided to suspend printing of

the paper for the first time in over 25 years  
Online web and Facebook versions  
will continue in production

Ed...

## It's Not All Bad News!

Many good news stories remain isolated from the wider community. Recently, while pulling up at traffic lights, and in a queue, I noticed a person lying on his back on the footpath near a bus stop - at that moment a passer-by bent down to check on the person, and then dialled for an ambulance. I don't know the rest of the story because the lights changed, but many people would have simply walked on by for fear of getting involved.

Acts of compassion and kindness are frequent, and demonstrate the other side of the often negative news bulletins. It would be uplifting to publish some of the good news stories which have been happening in the lives of our BBCN readers. Do write in to the Editor to share your positive experience, something that reinforces the goodness of people. That would be an encouragement for us all.

John Pernu  
President

# Message From the Mayor

## Cr Nicole Seymour

As I contemplate the month past and look forward to the weeks and months ahead, there is much to share with you from the Mayoral desk. There is no shying away from the challenges our community, have shouldered over recent months. As if the bushfires were not crippling enough, the Corona Virus is really testing our resilience. Rest assured, Council is well positioned to manage any immediate impacts within Knox, especially for those groups identified as being the most vulnerable. Council's Emergency Management Team are in regular contact with the Department of Health and Human Services and we are well positioned to enact our pandemic plan if needed.

**Knox is a healthy community.** We live in a region that has excellent air quality (the outer east is often referred to as the lungs of Melbourne) and we have ready access to fresh drinking water. Our neighbourhoods are characterized by well-treed open spaces, a natural filter. By maintaining one's personal hygiene by thoroughly washing hands, being sensible when it comes to managing coughs, runny noses and sneezing, and avoiding putting yourself in situations where the risk of exposure to the virus is high (referred to as "social distancing") then you should be able to see this through. **No need to panic buy** either. Be practical and resourceful – for example: if there's no toilet paper, it's not the end of the world – someone will have a roll or two to spare or if worst comes to worst do as they did generations ago and use a cloth that can be washed. I also encourage people to **be kind and considerate** during this time where fear is being recklessly encouraged, especially if you know of older vulnerable residents living in your street. They may not have the same resources as you and could do with a helping hand in times like this. Finally, if you experience any symptoms, please take it seriously. Stay home and call **1800 675 398** for advice. You can also source up to date information at the following website – [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus).

**Waste / Recycling:** A lot of people in the community



have naturally been interested by the State Government's recent announcement regarding recycling and proposal to add a fourth bin for glass recycling. We welcome a focus on better waste management. The State policy has only just been released, so the local detail of what this means for Local Government and what it looks like in terms of implementation is yet to be discussed and determined. We'll provide more information once these details are clearer. Ultimately the most important outcome we are aiming for is the overall reduction in waste going to landfill. And you can do your little bit right now by choosing products with limited wrappings, reuse glass containers, recycle correctly and start composting. You don't have to wait for a new bin!

**Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy – Community**

**Input needed.** We invite you to have your say on opportunities for 5 precincts that have high environmental and landscape significance in Knox –

Precinct 1 - The Basin Rural Landscape

Precinct 2a - Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Precinct 2b - Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds (Lysterfield / Rowville)

Precinct 3 - Dandenong Creek Valley (Wantirna, Wantirna Sth, Scoresby, Rowville)

Precinct 4 - Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds (Wantirna)

This is your chance to share your thoughts on various topics, including protecting the natural landscape and character, preserving areas for wildlife, land usages, economic opportunities, and connectivity. Your feedback will help Knox Council develop the Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy, and set a long-term vision and strategic directions for each precinct. **Have your say by 8 April 2020**

For more information or to make a submission visit <https://knox.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/knox-green-areas-and-rural-consultation>

## Community Development Fund:

This is one of Council's major grants programs to support not-for-profit community groups in Knox. Council provides annual funding for once-off project and annual event grants to not-for-profit community groups in Knox. The aim of the CDF grants is to develop, enhance and support the involvement of community groups in activities and projects which respond to identified needs in the Knox community. Submissions Open on Monday 13 April 2020 and Close on Monday 25 May 2020. For more information visit [www.knox.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/grants)

That is all for this month. I am hopeful that we will work through the immediate health and economic challenges we face by rallying together as a community. We are strong. We are resilient. We are Knox.

Regards,

Cr Nicole Seymour –

Mayor & Tirhatuan Ward Councillor

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## Walking the News...



**NO April Issue**

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The Boronia Veterinary Clinic and Hospital has been in existence for 40 years and under current ownership for greater than 30 years.

With 16 veterinarians on staff, we are one of the largest companion pet only veterinary hospitals in Melbourne. This has allowed us to offer a very broad range of services and expertise uncommon in other veterinary clinics.

We continue to work at providing the broadest range of options possible for our clients. Our philosophy is firmly rooted in the principle of providing as many options for a clients as possible but understanding that the "right" option in any situation is not always the most advanced option.

The clinic offers extended consulting hours (Mon-Sat 7am-9pm and Sun and Public Holidays 9am-8pm by appointment) and our hospital provides round-the-clock care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our existing clients also enjoy a 24 hour service.

# Your Local MP Report

Sponsored by Jackson Taylor MP



- Three local businesses have received grants via the Boost Your Business Program, congrats to Crusader Hose, Advatek Lighting & Harry Hoo.

- New static pedestrian warning signage to be installed in The Basin near the temple to make it safer for locals crossing the road

- Over \$220 million to modernise and change the game within our recycling industry, also creating a new Container Deposit Scheme (see below)

- The Basin CFA new station plans are well underway and there will be plenty more to say on that

This editions local shout-out is to the local schools who made visible displays at the front of their school to thank our local CFA brigades. What a brilliant touch to thank those who have gone above and beyond for us.

Don't forget I'm here to help you and your family with state government matters. You can call my office on 9738 0577, email me at Jackson.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au or pop in to the office at Mountain High Centre, Bayswater.



Jackson and Senior Sergeant Vogels displaying a new body worn camera,.

It's no secret I love supporting local schools and acknowledging the great work they do. That's why I held my annual Principals breakfast to say a small thank you at the Hatter and the Hare in Bayswater. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and there was a lot of talk about the current upgrades to a lot of the local schools, with more to come.

It was also fantastic to catch up with Senior Sergeant Vogels at Boronia Police to talk about the Andrews Governments rollout of Body Worn Cameras for operational Police. With nearly 10,000 rolled out, we haven't got many to go. This has made a positive impact in the overall interactions Police have had with the community and is a means of recording for evidentiary purposes. And with 3,135 new Police we will keep them coming to help keep them and the community safe.

I am also 'trailing' a section called 'Getting on with it' which provides a couple of quick updates on some new bits and updates to projects in a succinct way:

## TRANSFORMING VICTORIA'S HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING

Following the release of the white paper on the circular economy, the Andrews Government has made the decisive step to change Victoria's recycling for the better – and for good. Over the next ten years, the initiatives will see waste to landfill reduce by up to 80%, and will create over 3900 jobs. We will also be getting on with implementing a real container deposit scheme.

The Victorian Government is transforming the states recycling system, investing \$129 million to overhaul the way we do household recycling and introducing a new four bin system including:

- Glass recycling – purple lid
- Food and organics – green lid
- Plastics, metal and paper recycling – yellow bin
- Household waste – red lid

The package will support Local Government to provide new glass recycling service by 2027 and food and garden organics service by 2030.

The Labor Government will also introduce a Container Deposit Scheme to be rolled out by 2023.

The container deposit scheme will generate better quality and clearer recyclable materials to be used again across different industries.

This will be supported by a statewide education and behaviour change program to help Victorians recycle right and make better decisions for the environment and economy.

The Andrews Government's landmark reforms will be changing the way we think about waste and recycling, through a number of important changes:

□ We will be doubling funding for businesses to invest in infrastructure to sort and re-process recyclables for use in manufacturing from \$28 million to \$56 million;

□ This includes \$30 million in grants to make Victoria a leader in recycling innovation;

□ We will also provide \$10 million in grants to help businesses improve resource efficiency, reduce waste and increase recycling in their daily operations

– saving them time and money;

□ A new \$7 million Business Innovation Centre will bring together industry, universities and councils to develop new technologies and collaborate on creative solutions to waste challenges;

□ For waste that can't be recycled, processors will also be able to access \$10 million for waste-to-energy initiatives, minimising the amount of rubbish being sent to landfill;

□ While \$11.5 million will go towards treating hazardous waste – protecting the community from illegal chemical stockpiles.

It's important that Victorians are getting a reliable and harmonised recycling service no matter where they live. A new waste authority will be created in 2021 along with declaration of waste as an essential service to provide stronger regulation and accountability across the industry.

These changes will see Victorians, produce less waste, recycle better and provide recycling system we can all rely on.



# Jackson Taylor MP

## State Member for Bayswater

Suite 2, Mountain High Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater Vic 3153

9738 0577 @JacksonTaylorMP Jackson Taylor MP

jackson.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au jacksontaylor.com.au

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# Anzac Tribute

This is the story of my grandfather Thomas Riley's WW1 enlisting experience. It was originally published in the Western Mail in 1939 under the pen name of T. Y.

My grandfather; wrote many articles for the Western Mail and I have the privilege to be the custodian of seven of his scrap books containing his compositions and many other cuttings from other contributors about the War and other items which he was interested and participated in.

This article itself tells an amazing story detailing his efforts to enlist in the First World War. His determination and commitment to serve his country says a lot about him and probably many others at that time.

I never knew my grandfather as he died before I was born and my father seldom spoke of him in detail, but through these journals, I feel I know him well now.

I am so very proud of him and to be his granddaughter.

Thomas Riley 1 December 1891 – 4 October 1951

28th Battalion, 19th Reinforcement AIF

Private, Number 2375

Lisa (Riley) Reid

## ON ENLISTING 1939

Dear 'Non Com'- There was a recent news item re the persistence of a young farmer in his determination to enlist for the war and his perservance being rewarded by his being the first name on the list. No doubt many diggers outback had similar experiences at the beginning of the last Great War and I think that they would be worth telling via the red page.

My own endeavours to be in at the start cost me a lot of travel. In 1914 with A J Binning at Winderie station (20 miles south of Gascoyne) I had just finished a contract



Below/left - Thomas Riley homecoming and his Passport photo (above)

for the road board and I was on my to Binthalia station (20 miles north of the river) to cart the season's wool. On reaching the river I met the mail man who informed me that England and Germany were at war.

Eager to enlist, I turned my horses head for Carnarvon. Meeting a fellow teamster who had seen service in the Boer war we decided to write to Francis-street drill hall offering our services together with our mounts. My mate was accepted without the mount, owing to his previous war service.

Eight weeks later 25 volunteers for Light Horse were wanted. Twenty six of us were examined. I was rejected again. Disgusted I travelled overland via Peak Hill to Meekatharra (500 miles) per sulky and tandem. Selling my turnout there I sought out the resident recruiting officer, Dr. Thorn. Again, I was unlucky.

Reaching Perth I decided that I would first see my people, whom I had not seen since 1900. So per S.S Warilda I set sail for Hobart. Rejected again. I sailed for Brisbane. There I was no more fortunate and went north to Cloncurry.

Christmas 1915 saw me back in Hobart. January 1916 saw me again at the recruiting depot. They remembered my two previous visits and rejected me without further examination. I then went to the Mt Lyall mines, where six months later I was passed for service by the local medical officer, but recommended for the medical board. There was no board when I reached camp and bluffing the doctor that it must be a mistake and that I was O.K. I was sworn in; leaving with a draft of the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion, three weeks after entering camp (October 19, 1916).

A few days before reaching W.A. I was stricken down with a relapse of malaria and ague and put off at Fremantle. Again I was threatened with the medical board and again escaped.

Finally I was put in a draft for the 28<sup>th</sup>, leaving W.A. en route for France on January 29, 1917, on the Miltiades. I was with the 28<sup>th</sup> when the armistice was signed.

T.Y. (28<sup>th</sup>) Perth.

The Western Mail October 5, 1939.

## CHALLENGE to our COUNTRY of CORONAVIRUS; the NEW ENEMY - a CALL TO ARMS

On Thursday morning, 19<sup>th</sup> March, an Australian citizen in lockdown in France said, "This is wartime" and covered the kind of strategies he and his friends are planning to support their local neighbours at this time. Make no mistake, we are at war, the enemy is the virus and we need to put on our armor individually from the highest levels of leadership, all of us together to defeat this enemy.

Our armour consists, like any good soldier, courage, strength of character, patience, kindness, the Aussie digger spirit of "looking after your mates", wisdom to listen and respond to authorities advice, not rumour and most of all love one another.

We all have the other enemy from within of selfishness, impatience, rudeness, anger, aggression, dog eat dog and a lack of genuine love and concern for others. All of us including myself need to get a grip and choose to be calm, positive and strong and encourage one another to resist the enemy from without and from within. We will win the war if we all pull together.

In 1941 the British Prime Minister gave a stirring and inspirational speech to the British people when they were under real threat from the armies of Adolf Hitler poised to invade Britain. He showed strong leadership and rallied the people with these words

"We shall fight, fight, fight and whatever it costs... we shall never give in..."

Never, never, never in nothing great or small, large or petty-never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense..

We have many long months ahead of us... our aim is victory at all costs, without victory there is no survival.

We need unconquering willpower...

Brace ourselves to our duties... so that it may be said,

**"This was their finest hour."**



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Ceremony &  
Anzac Day  
Dawn Service  
CANCELLED**

Unfortunately Boronia RSL has had to cancel the planned Commemorative Day March & Anzac Day Dawn Service this year.

As everyone is no doubt aware this has been bought about by the escalating spread of the Corona virus throughout Australia.

Hopefully this can be bought under control in the near future and life can get back to normal again.

We look forward to you joining us for our Remembrance Day Service at the Tim Neville Arboretum in November later this year.

We thank you for your understanding.

Ian Roberts

Secretary Boronia RSL Sub Branch Inc

**“The Price of Liberty is  
Eternal Vigilance”  
LEST WE FORGET**

**Real ESTATE Month**

Personally I would like to say thank you for all your support over the years. Now I would like to support you during this time, if you need to chat or need me to access household essentials, please let me know and I will try to help in any way I can.

The property market in the last couple of months has really recovered to record levels of demand for property. On the weekend at 20 Paisley Avenue Boronia, the owner was very happy to of had 108 groups thru his home over 2 weeks, culminating in an unconditional auction sale, \$40,000 above advertised reserve price.

**The Basin Sold**

6 Norman Street	\$1,330,000
4 Bed 2 Bath 1092m2	
27 Christopher Avenue	\$689,000
3 Bed 1 Bath 728m2	
3 Rome Beauty Avenue	\$755,000
3 Bed 1 Bath 730m2	

**Boronia Sold**

20 Paisley Avenue	\$630,000
3 Bed 2 Bath 315m2	
2 Green Street	\$776,000
3 Bed 1 Bath 1065m2	
1/38 Pine Crescent	\$615,000
2 Bed 2 Bath 364m2	

**“Let there be no panic”  
No more library  
fines for children’s  
and teenagers’  
overdue items.**

**A lot of us have been there. You have just received a reminder from your local library that the kids’ books, games or DVDs are either due back, or are already overdue – and fines to be paid!**

**Then it begins – the great book hunt – under the bed, under the cushions, in the Lego box, maybe even the sand pit. Or, did we accidentally return it to the school library.**

**From now on families can relax!**

At its recent Board Meeting, Eastern Regional Libraries (ERL) decided to remove fines for overdue children’s and teenage books, games and DVDs in order to encourage more families and teenagers to borrow library items without worrying about fines for late returns.

Fines can have a major impact on low-income families, their children and on teenagers, and can exclude the very community members who rely the most on library services.

For families with children, or our teenage members, with outstanding fines, ERL is wiping the slate clean. Overdue items still have to be returned - but there will be no fines for being late.

ERL Chair, Cr John Mortimore said “overdue fines were not particularly effective as a compliance tool. ERL believes that the majority of families and teenagers will continue to return their books on time, even without the fear of fines.

Library fines can contribute to significant financial hardship. ERL wants to ensure that every child and teenager in our community is free to read, learn and create”.

According to Cr Peter Lockwood, ERL Board Member, “reading and storytelling with your child, particularly from 0 to 5 years, promotes brain development and imagination, teaches your child about language and emotions, improves literacy and strengthens your relationship. Children who are read to, and read a lot, are more likely to be ahead of other children when they go to preschool.

The ERL Board hopes to reduce the barriers to library usage and encourage more families and teenagers to explore our exceptional children and teenage collections without worrying about fines for late returns.”

**Events  
Cancelled**

Knox City Council has made the decision to cancel all non-essential events and gatherings for the foreseeable future.

This decision has been made following the lead of the State Government in light of the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Victoria. Council has chosen not to proceed with these events in the interests of public safety and community reassurance.

Ticketholders to paid events will be contacted by Council regarding refund arrangements.

Council encourages all Knox residents and visitors to continue following the advice of DHHS on hygiene and safety practices and to remain informed on the latest details at [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

Follow Knox Arts & Events on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/knoxartsandevents) for updates on future events.

**DO YOU KNOW A SENIOR  
OR A PERSON LIVING WITH A  
DISABILITY WHO IS SOCIALLY  
ISOLATED IN THE CITY OF  
KNOX?**

**Family, Friend or Neighbour?  
Did you know they can receive  
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From our website: [www.bridgescc.com.au](http://www.bridgescc.com.au)

**Knox Seniors Safety Register**

**Volunteer Drivers Needed.  
Make a difference in  
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e-mail: [creativedreams@bigpond.com](mailto:creativedreams@bigpond.com)

**Trading Hours**

**Monday - Friday 9.30 - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm**

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**Anthony Vlek 0468 477 744**

## Council prioritises community health & safety

Knox City Council made the decision to temporarily close a number of Council operated facilities from general public access, in order to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the community and its workforce, and to prioritise the delivery of critical services for Knox's most vulnerable residents.

- The following facilities are closed to the public: Knox Civic Centre Customer Service Counter
- Knox Regional Netball Centre
- Knox Community Arts Centre
- Ferntree Gully Arts Centre
- Carrington Park Leisure Centre
- Rowville Community Centre

Libraries in Knox will also close from the end of their usual opening times on Friday.

Mayor Nicole Seymour said the closures would be in effect until further notice.

"This decision was not taken lightly but evidence overwhelmingly supports a proactive approach," said Mayor Seymour.

"We are monitoring the situation and taking any necessary actions based on DHHS advice and risk assessments."

Mayor Seymour confirmed that to date there were no known confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the Knox community or of Council staff, the temporary closure of facilities being a proactive measure of Council in the interests of broader community safety.

"While we know these facilities are valued within the community, temporarily closing or changing the way we handle some services allows us to focus on prioritising our most essential services at this challenging time." This also ensures we comply with the Federal Government's requirement regarding limiting indoor gatherings to 100 people. These facilities are all large scale and it would be difficult to manage user numbers at this time.

The primary users of these facilities are sporting, leisure and community organisations and Council is working to keep these groups informed and assist in communicating with members and participants. In many cases, these organisations have already cancelled activities or events held at the closing facilities.

### Council run Early Years Facilities & Services:

For now, it is business as usual for all of Council's childcare and kindergarten facilities, including three-year-old preschool services at Rowville Community Centre. Additional precautions are in place in line with DHHS recommendations and the situation is being monitored

very closely. Council takes direction from the Federal and State Governments and is committed to ensuring families and children are supported at this time.

Immunisation sessions are also proceeding as scheduled.

### Public Health services:

Council's syringe container collection and disposal service (sharps service) will function as a mobile service from Friday 20 March, and residents are requested to call Council for further information on accessing this program.

### In Person Customer Services:

Due to the temporary closure of the Civic Centre in Wantirna South to the public, the customer service counter will be unavailable. Additional staff will be managing customer service by phone and most transactions can be processed online via Council's webpage.

Service requests and payments that can be lodged online include:

- Planning and building
- Waste
- Rates and valuations
- Infringements
- Animals
- Parking and traffic
- Community laws
- Trees and parks
- Roads, footpaths and drains
- Health and food safety

## Community News - Monash Fwy upgrades set to start

Big upgrades will begin this month on the Monash Fwy. The upgrades, including extra lanes, will ease congestion and cut travel time for the thousands of Knox locals that use the freeway every day.

The most important improvements for Knox residents will be extra lanes between Warrigal Rd and EastLink outbound and extra lanes between Eastlink and Springvale Rd inbound. These are heavily congested parts of the road that many of you would travel on every day.

Because of the importance of these upgrades for commuters from the east and south east of Melbourne, last year I announced with the PM that the Federal Government would provide \$184 million of extra funding to get this

project started sooner. This means the project is now scheduled to be finished in 2022 and will create 1,000 jobs in the process.

I know the length of time to build these projects can be frustrating, it certainly frustrates me too, but disruptions from this roadwork should be minimal. Overnight lane closures are expected throughout the construction but the freeway will remain fully open during peak times. I will continue to keep you updated on the project as it progresses.

Next on my agenda is the Dorset Road extension and duplication of Napoleon Roads. We have money locked into the federal budget for this and I am negotiating with the state transport minister over the implementation schedule. This is a big project - \$130 million all up. I will keep you informed about this one as it progresses, as I know that it is important to

many of you.

As usual I will keep you updated on all our local projects through Facebook, email and letterbox.

Thanks for your patience and support as we get this project and other local projects done.







# Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

tudgeMP
 alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au

9887 3890
 www.alantudge.com.au

Real Action For Knox



## Toy library gets revamped look

Thanks to a Community Development Fund from the Knox City Council, the Knox and District Toy Library has experienced a major revamp.

The works have been completed over six stages, commencing in 2017 and finishing up in February 2020 with the installation of signage. The majority of the work was completed in October 2019, where the toy library closed for three weeks in order to finalise the bulk of the works. There is now brand new shelving right throughout the library, as well as a range of capital improvements such as new heating and flooring.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. In this case, it takes a village of volunteers to update a toy library.

Not only was the toy library supported by a Knox City Council Community Development Fund Grant, we were a Stronger Communities Programme recipient and locally, Alphonse Wong from Harcourts Rowville provided additional support. Ferntree Gully Rotary Club helped out at our working bees and of course, our members have been hugely supportive as we finalised works.

We now have an inviting space where toys are easy to find. Families can come, play and stay and connect with other local families.

### About the toy library:

The Knox Toy Library has been an integral community service to the families of Knox for the past 42 years. We aim to support the development of children through play, and do so by providing access more than 2500 fun, educational and age-appropriate toys for loan at an

affordable cost.

The children who use our service are predominantly aged between birth and 6 years. Our membership fees are kept low so that all children in the Knox community and surrounding areas can have access to quality toys regardless of their socioeconomic background.



## Balmoral: A New Lifestyle

Why choose a retirement village? For some it's location. Or facilities. Services. Low maintenance. Or new home features. But, for most, it's the promise of a thriving, social, welcoming and supportive lifestyle that is so important.

Balmoral Over 55s Lifestyle Village offers a lifestyle few can match. It boasts an active, fun and happy community in the heart of Wantirna South. Being one of the few privately owned villages in Victoria, it puts people first, and has done for over 35 years. This means that the opportunities to socialise, meet new friends and get involved at the village are encouraged and supported at all levels.

At the heart of the village, the Balmoral Community Centre is always busy. Residents come together regularly


for a cuppa, an activity or to share a meal. Residents embrace the over 30 activities on offer as well as events, fundraisers, market days and cocktail parties (to name a few!).

So, whether it be dining events or themed functions such as AFL lunches, Oaks Day, Australia Day BBQ, Anzac and Remembrance Day Ceremonies, the Salvation Army band, or St Patrick's Day Lunch. Or monthly activities such as a trivia competition, Devonshire tea, line dancing, bingo, movie afternoons, craft, crazy whist, book discussion club, speakers group, computer group or the bowls club smorgasbord dinner. Whatever your interest. Balmoral could be just the right fit for you.



To see what's on offer, drop past Balmoral any time. Balmoral Village is at Ridge Road, Wantirna South. Phone 03 9800 1333

*The best lifestyle village in the heart of Wantirna South*



Stay local! Balmoral is a community within a community. Enjoy safety, security, low maintenance, landscaped gardens with beautifully appointed apartments and villa units.

03 9800 1333

Call us today to make the move to Balmoral.  
Balmoral Village, Ridge Road Wantirna South 3152. [www.balmoralvillage.com.au](http://www.balmoralvillage.com.au)

*Balmoral*  
OVER 55 LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

## Knox Historian – Doll display

FROM ANCIENT Rome to Barbie – that's the theme of a new display of 'Dolls Through the Ages' at 'Ambleside' museum, dedicated to our most ancient 'plaything'.

Simple dolls made of cloth first appeared more than 2,000 years ago in ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. However, the modern form of dolls of children and animals rather than adults first appeared in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Dolls were made of wood, rags, bones, even ivory and wax. As manufacturing methods improved dolls became more refined: eyes that moved, realistic hair and body types, and a range of clothes for dolls.

The new display at 'Ambleside' features more than twenty dolls, some of soft material, some composite with soft bodies, pedigree walking dolls, and dolls in national costumes. And of course, there's Barbie. The display includes several early Barbie dolls, a number of Barbie's friends, and rare items such as early Barbie carry-cases.

The display is at 'Ambleside' museum & homestead, is

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## Favourite Recipes from our house Fruit Loaf – Take Two



Sorry for incomplete fruit loaf recipe. I make this fruit loaf regularly, it is a modification of the Simply So Good Crusty Bread Recipe (previous recipe – you can also look it up online). To make this loaf I combine half and half, plain flour with oats.

### Ingredients:

1 ½ cups of plain flour

1 ½ cups oats

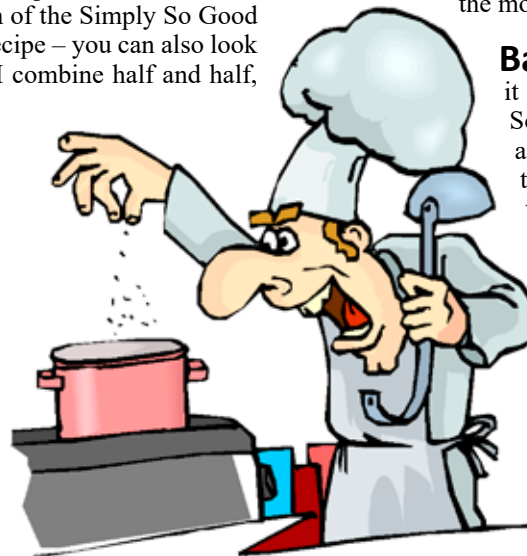
½ teaspoon of yeast

1 ½ teaspoon of salt

Mix in your choice of fruit and nuts.

1 ½ cups of water.

**Method :** I use whatever dried fruit and nuts I have in the pantry. For example, sultanas or currants, fruit medly if I have some, 1-2 teaspoons of Chia seeds, 1-2 teaspoons of pepitas and or a couple of handfuls of nuts (I have used pecans or almonds, whatever you have or whatever you like). Mix all the dry ingredients then with a slicing



motion mix in the water. When mixed cover with a damp tea towel and allow to prove/rise for 12 hours. I mostly prepare it in the evening to prove overnight and bake it in the morning.

**Baking:** Next to bake it you bake it the same way you do the Simply So Good Crusty Bread. You need an ovenproof pot with a fitted lid to retain the heat. Place your pot with its lid on in a hot oven 220 °C Allow it to heat up for ½ and hour. Next put your well floured loaf in the heated pot and bake with lid on for another ½ hour. Then take lid off and bake without lid for a further 15 minutes. Fruit loaf complete. Allow to cool on wire rack. Often I can't wait for it to cool. The fruit loaf is delicious with or without butter. Hope you give it a go.

Tip – I also have room in my oven for three round pots so

I bake three loaves at a time, and gift a loaf or two to friends or neighbours. Efficiency!

*Maria,*  
Sunny Boronia ; )

## Naturopathic Case Study:

### Concentration Issues

P. a 7year old little boy is presenting with processing disorder, attention and concentration issues, possible ADD, poor sleep and tummy pains. Food intolerance test showed high reactivity to eggs, dairy, gluten and chicken

#### Treatment / prescription: for the first 6 weeks

- High Quality Norwegian Omega 3 supplement rich in DHA.
- Support brain and cognitive function with a combination of amino acids including Glycine, Leucine, Carnitine and Taurine, together with vitamins and minerals as well as antioxidant herbs Bilberry, and Grape Seed.
- High strength multi strain, multi species probiotic formula to support gastrointestinal and general immune system health
- Powdered multivitamin supplement providing essential vitamins and minerals for children

### Boronia Dentist Dr Thomas F.E. Balfourt

B.D.Sc.(MELB.) L.D.S. (VIC.)

Evening & Saturday A.M. Available by Appointment

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Suite 1, 178 Boronia Rd, Boronia

- **Prescription for the next 6 weeks**
- Combination of glutamine, B6, Taurine and Zinc to support GABA production and slow down the nervous system
- A supplement containing amino acids as well as magnesium, zinc and B6 to improve sleep initiation and maintenance as well as mood modulation
- A supplement containing Vitamin C and bioflavonoids as well as Vitamins A & E, Selenium and Zinc to help down regulate inflammation
- **Treatment outcome 12 weeks later**  
- P. is now talking when spoken to and is learning new skills. He is now able to stay focussed throughout the day at school and his teachers have praised his progress as he is excelling in his extracurricular reading class that he has recently started.

Christine Gozlan, Naturopath at Essential Health Foods, 246 Dorset Road – Boronia. Tel: 03 9762 6093

## ESSENTIAL HEALTH FOODS

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B.H.Sc – Naturopath – A.T.M.S.

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## Miracles

## Happen at Easter!

One Easter, Bill heard a knock at the door – it was his neighbour, Doris. He didn't want to answer the door, but Doris persisted on knocking! Bill became angry and shouted to Doris to go away! But Doris yelled back that she wasn't going anywhere! In frustration, Bill came to the door and opened it an inch! What he saw was a beautiful Easter lily in a pot! Doris said, "This is for you!" Bill grunted, but took the lily from Doris, then shut the door! "Where am I going to put this thing?" Bill asked himself. He cleared some papers and books from the corner table, and placed the pot on the table. For a few days, Bill stared at the lily, and occasionally watered it.

Time went by and Bill's eyes kept being drawn towards the lily in the corner. He found the lily was the only bright and clean thing in the room, so he ashamedly started to tidy up the room, throwing some things away and finding a place for others. The place still looked tired and dirty, so Bill decided to clean it up. He found himself whistling while he cleaned. As the days passed and seeing that the room seemed to be so light and airy compared with the other rooms he steadily worked at cleaning up the rest

of the cottage. He arose early and found the effort made him hungry, so off he went to buy food. He found the fresh air of spring so inviting, it made him want to get out among the plants in the garden, which were starting to sprout. He was so busy weeding and cleaning up that he didn't see Doris as she walked by. A smile appeared on Doris' face as she greeted Bill, who returned her greeting with a smile!! Miracles can come from the most unlikely of events!

*Christ, who came into the world to show people how fulfilling life can be, was tried and crucified by a jealous and angry mob even though he did nothing wrong, but after three days he walked from his grave, showing that life on this earth need not be the end, but with faith in God, true life can go on forever! A true miracle! You can read about the miracle of the resurrection and about change through faith in God in the Gospels and the Epistles in the Bible, or you could go to a church in your area on Easter Sunday.*

Beth B.