

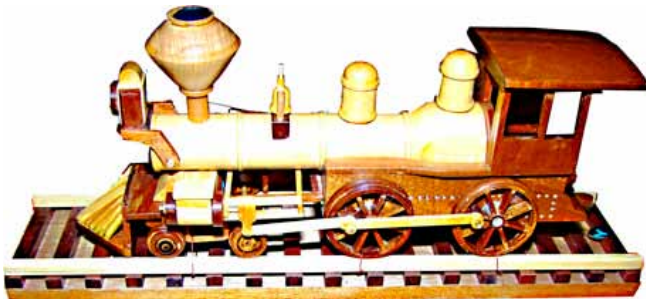
Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue 288
May 2020



ART GOES ON: Shirley Dougan of Ferntree Gully Art Society made a dollhouse sweet shop from a wooden box (above) while pre-covid Ross Waghorn gave us At Sherbrooke (left).

Life Under Lockdown



The Knox Wood Workers are in lockdown at the moment, but those who have their workshops at home are creating masterpieces.

When we re-open in the not too distant future we will be looking for new members, so for more information go to our web site: www.knoxWOODIES.org.au

Bill Ireland KNOX WOOD WORKERS



Ron and Vicki Papworth have used their lockdown time for a community venture, creating a superb Street Library, now open for your browsing/reading/sharing pleasure outside 286 Forest Road, The Basin (near Wright Street).

For more information on Street Libraries, go to <https://streetlibrary.org.au>



Care for your career.

Always wanted to work in **Aged Care, Disability or Home & Community Care?**

We have Courses happening in your area! **Boronia, Box Hill, Cranbourne, Frankston, Hampton Park, Lilydale, Pakenham, Ringwood & Rowville.**



Find out more about your **Government Funded** opportunity by calling Alex on **9761 2156**

This training is delivered with Victorian & Commonwealth Govt. Funding. Subject to eligibility. TOID 6832

Free circulation to 12,100 households and businesses in Boronia and The Basin

Published by Boronia and The Basin Community News Inc., ISSN 1321-3164

From the Editor...

The Main Game

Corvid-19 rules our lives as terrible figures roll into news broadcasts on an hourly basis, we can count ourselves among the lucky ones. With our semi isolation, distance from the origin and mostly bi-partisan approach to the danger response, we have so far avoided the worst of this viral menace



That our politicians were able, for the most part, to put their politicking aside in the national interest says a lot for our usually fractious and combative politicians. It also says a lot for our community who have shown a willingness to put the common good before their cherished freedoms. Turning on the television news we see, in one American state, even as the death toll mounts around them, disgruntled crowds trying to force their way into the local legislature armed with military assault weapons. Fortunately such self centred and selfish insanity is nearly non-existent here in the lucky country

But there are cracks, with, 'shock jocks' and political opportunists seizing on pockets of disgruntled annoyance as promises of political capital at the next election. A poor reward for all the community sacrifice.

Meanwhile, there are good sides to the pandemic. Many more people are leaving their cars to sit idle, saving on petrol and pollution, as they rediscover the joys of strolling their own neighbourhoods, pausing to renew old acquaintances (at an acceptable social distance). All of us have found ways to re-organise our lives, develop new domestic skills, and learned to appreciate our local neighbourhood beyond our front fence.

This pandemic is not yet over, just locally contained, and this may be the greatest danger now when it seems we have won.

For all the terrible consequences of this insidious disease, the pandemic is far from the greatest existential we face.

Remember climate change? The likely consequences of unchecked human induced climate change are far worse than the nasty toll of covid-19. Yet climate change (or more accurately 'Global Warming') has almost disappeared from public debate.

We let that happen at our peril.

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.

Proudly supported by
The Basin
Community



Support Our Advertisers

Because They Support Our Community
And please tell them where you saw their ad.



BBCN Deadlines & Distribution 2020

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
June	13 May	06 June

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 okay only if you do it intelligently and use facts.

Advertisements in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the committee of Boronia & The Basin Community News Asscn.

The political policy of the BBCN is strictly non-partisan.

BBCN EXTRA COPIES

If you don't get your BBCN in your letterbox or you want extra copies - The Basin Post Office and Milk Bars, Boronia Mall, Boronia & Knox Libraries... or Online...

Out of Area Subscription

If you live outside Boronia and The Basin and want to receive your copy of the paper - or perhaps you would like to have copies sent regularly to someone else - then the answer is annual subscription. *Just \$26.00 a year delivers anywhere in Australia (or by appropriate rate anywhere in the world.)*to cover new postal costs. Phone Margaret Comport (03) 9762 3020 or mail to PO Box 141, Boronia 3155



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2020

Boronia & The Basin
Community News

Published by

Boronia & The Basin Community News Inc

P.O. Box 141 Boronia, 3155

www.bbcn.org.au

Volunteer Committee of Management

ADVERTISING

John Edgley ----- 0401 684 498

LSD Advertising Manager

Editor

John Mortimore 0402 780 942

Email: john@malleebull.com

If you do not get an acknowledgement - please assume your email did not arrive.

President: John Pernu
0416 154 839

Vice President: John Edgley

Secretary: Jill Walters

Treasurer: Veronica Pearce

Public Officer/Secretary: Keith Cree

Voluntary Distribution Manager: John Pernu

General Committee

Margaret Comport - Roger Thompson - Siyun Fan

Indexer: Vicki Court - (BBCN Index is on Eastern Regional Libraries' Website at www.erl.vic.gov.au through Community Data Bases.)

Enthusiastic, responsible people passionate about communication and their neighbourhood are needed to assist on the committee. **Design, Typesetting & Graphics** Mallee Bull Media

Printing by Newspinters, Shepparton Paul Kelly, General Manager.



Find us on
Facebook

Pink-eared Duck

(*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)

If you aren't an avid birdwatcher, you're probably scratching your head thinking to yourself, never heard of him. Not a common bird, to be honest, I very rarely see them, except if you go to the Western Treatment Plant, Werribee. I occasionally see a pair at Liverpool Road Retarding Basin, and even less occasionally at Lakewood reserve in Knoxfield, but apart from that, I don't see them anywhere else (yeah I know, I should get out more). Mind you, sometimes at the WTP there are literally thousands of them.

Also called Zebra Duck, these ducks are highly nomadic and dispersive, often found in the swamps and wetlands of the drier country and the arid interior after big rains. Don't know how they know it's rained in central Australia, but they do. This makes sense because sometimes when you go to the WTP you will not see a single bird.

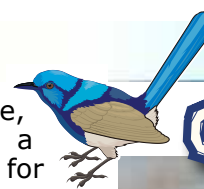
Sporting a bill similar to the Australasian Shoveler, another species of duck, it is a rather odd looking appendage, with drooping leathery flaps hanging down each side of the outer corners. Almost an outer space sort of look, don't ask me to elaborate on that point, I just hope you get it. Another thing some people wonder is, why are they called Pink-eared Duck? Well that's another good question, because right on his (and hers, sexes are similar) lug hole is a tiny pink spot. Now if you need an excuse to buy yourself a

good pair of binoculars, you've got one, as this pink spot is only visible with a decent set of bins. (That's birdo talk for binoculars).

And as for the name Zebra Duck, have a look at Kim's photo, I think that explains itself. Well actually I don't think, I know it explains itself, if it doesn't, Specsavers or OPSM is the place you should be going. Kim also asked me to mention that as of this weekend, 2nd May 2020, these beautiful birds will legally be allowed to be shot. That's quite a bizarre situation really. Daniel Andrews should be held to account over this, so let our local member Jackson Taylor know your displeasure at this ongoing fiasco.

I know I bang on time and time again about the Western Treatment Plant (picture an aviary about 7000ha in size) but as I said, if they are present then you would be looking at 5000 Pink-eared Ducks at least. The constant twittering whistles they give is almost comical, they appear to take it in turns to whistle, once one bloke decides to stop his mate next to him thinks I better get in on the act too, with the result being a symphony of Pink-eared Ducks.

I reckon everyone who reads these articles thinks I know everything about birds there is to know. I'd love to agree with you but I know that's not true. People ask me all sorts of questions about birds, and while I can sometimes give an answer, sometimes I just give a good impression of Homer Simpson, you know when someone starts firing a heap of questions at him and his eyes glaze over, an X-ray of his head revealing a donkey playing



Our Page 3 Bird



Photo by KIm Wormald

a ukulele. Maybe I'm not that bad but you may ask, what do Pink-eared Ducks eat? My field guide says they eat small organisms that they disturb by feeding in rotating pairs in the shallows. I didn't know that.

I'm predicting a huge change in people's activities once this nasty virus decides to ride off into the sunset. With overseas travel off the agenda for, I reckon, 18 months, people will focus more on their own country and its birds and mammals. It may also raise awareness of important issues like feral animals and their impact on our wildlife. Feral cats and foxes are the reason many of our mammals in particular are on the verge of extinction, and the more people who aware of this the better off they will be.

After the horrific summer we just had with some estimates saying we may have lost 2.5 billion birds and mammals and reptiles, our wildlife needs all the help it can get. Maybe when our field trips start up again you may wish to join us? Remember, you just don't know what you might see.

Des Palmer

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

**As we transition from Paper to On-Line
(with paper again when lockdown eases)**

TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHERE TO FIND US

www.bbcn.org.au

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...

Concerns for those residents who are socially isolated and alone,

It is likely that you know of socially isolated, alone or lonely people, in your community who are living with the elevated risks of isolation. They might even be a family member, a friend or a neighbour.

We are encouraging you to consider how these people could be linked to existing supports and services, to enhance their quality of life and to reduce the risks to their health and safety.

What can you do to help?

- Be informed of what supports and services are available, including yourself,
- Be willing to refer people in need, to the services available,

Knox says 'no' to family violence

Knox City Council has adopted a Family Violence Statement of Commitment, sending a strong message of its ongoing focus on reducing family violence in the community.

The statement outlines Council's role in addressing the complex drivers of family violence, to reduce the wide ranging and damaging impact it has on the lives of those affected and on the community as a whole.

Under this commitment, Council will develop initiatives and activities ranging from advocacy and leadership to community partnerships and direct service provision.

Knox City Council Mayor, Cr Nicole Seymour said the Statement of Commitment reiterates Council's dedication to drive a whole of community approach to the prevention of family violence in Knox.

"We have long recognised that family violence is a serious and preventable issue," said Cr Seymour. "Family violence is one of the leading causes of illness, injury and death for women, and it has life altering consequences for many children, young people, seniors and men in our community. We all have to be part

Knox Police News

- Or, be willing to refer the service providers to the people in need.
- In an emergency, call 000 for ambulance or Police

Some Local Service providers

- "Bridges" Ph 9763 9700 with programs including; community transport, community shopping bus, pet companion, phone a friend, a pen pal program, social support activities and outings. Bridges can also provide referral advise.
- "Knox Senior Safety Register" is a joint initiative between Bridges Connecting Communities and Victoria Police, helping

people feel safe and confident. Phone 9763 9700

- "Knox Infolink", phone 9761 1325, provide food relief and material aid to those in need

during these difficult times. A free service, available to those living in Knox, or those who are homeless.

(Please note, services are subject to assessment)

- Beyond Blue 1800 512348, Corona Virus Mental Wellbeing Support Service.
- Life Line 1311 14
- Seniors Rights Victoria 1300 368 821, Helpline, Support and Assistance.

Together we can make a safer community

of the solution if we are going to end violence." "It is crucial to us as a Council and a community that every person in Knox has the right to safe and respectful relationships and to live free from violence."

"Every member of our community has a responsibility to prevent family violence and develop a culture of respect and equality, and Council is in a critical position to be a leader in driving and supporting this change."

This reaffirmation of Council's commitment is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, with concerns that self-isolation and lockdown measures may create high-risk situations for those experiencing family violence. Council continues to work in partnership with Victoria Police and local service providers to address immediate needs.

Knox has consistently recorded a higher rate of family incidents than the average

of the Eastern Metropolitan Region and the prevention of family violence has been identified by Council as a key priority.

Council has a long-standing history of working with Government and community agencies to prevent family violence in our community through advocacy, capacity building and leadership. In adopting the Statement of Commitment, Council also approved the inclusion of new and continuing family violence prevention initiatives in the new Council Plan and Community Plan (2021 - 2025).

These activities include strategies such as leading and partnering with community groups to deliver prevention initiatives; advocating to other levels of government on issues such as awareness raising, behavioural change programs, and planning controls; and working with direct service providers to stay informed of the local situation.

"It is particularly significant that this Family Violence Statement of Commitment has moved away from the past simple, one dimensional view of Family Violence causes."

Creative Dreams

Papercrafts Store

Shop 3, 212-216 Dorset Road, Boronia VIC 3155
(Next door to Metro Cinemas)
T. (03) 9762 5800 F. 03 9762 5857
e-mail: creativedreams@bigpond.com

Trading Hours

Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 4.30pm

CLOSED - Sundays

Creative workshops available for Adults & Kids

The Internet

Laundrette

7 Alpine Street, Ferntree Gully

www.laundrette.com.au

Jumbo Machines

Ideal for Doonas & Blankets

Night Rate using Laundry Tokens

60 POUND (27 KG) WASH FROM \$8.00

18 POUND (8 KG) WASH FROM \$2.00

Drying Only is Welcomed

Next Door To Food Works Supermarket

Cemetery

Forest Road Supermarket

LAUNDRETTE

RAIL Stn

Station Street

Alpine Street

Comfort Station

Internet Kiosk & Wireless Hotspot

FREE Soap and Softener on some Machines

7.00am - 9.00pm Every Day (24 hours access by arrangement)

Ph: 0419 367 267

Ph: 0405 026 849

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Rd, Boronia (Cnr Langwith)
Phone: **9762 3177**

Serving the community for over 45 years

181 Boronia Road, Boronia (Cnr Langwith Ave)
www.boroniavet.com.au

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



huge difference, and that it has saved lives. New modelling shows us that some 36,000 Victorian lives could've been lost had it been 'business as usual' – so well done to all of you for making sacrifices and doing the right thing.

I wanted to also acknowledge Anzac Day that has just passed. I know it was a little different but it was beautiful to see so many 'Stand To' at their driveways or on their balconies to pay respect to our fallen. Lest We Forget.

I wanted to also let you know after working with the Roads Minister and the community that static pedestrian warning signs will be installed near the intersection of Forest Rd and Wright St in The Basin to make it safer for locals. This is a good, common sense win for our local community and for those who have contacted me in the past on this issue. I will keep working towards and advocating for better road safety in our community and for local wins just like this.

A quick update also, in that construction is set to start on \$361,000 of open space projects at both Boronia K-12 and The Basin Primary, and that over \$1.5 million of work to upgrade The Basin PS oval and other works are also set to start. More on this in later editions.

I wanted to finish by again thanking all of you for your positivity and love for one another and wanted to end



with this sentence which you can find in the form of a banner out the front of The Acorn in The Basin – 'We'll be back, the future is ahead – we love our community'.

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. And for any further you can search 'Jackson Taylor MP' for more and to follow me on Facebook.

It has been a tumultuous few weeks to say the least. From the very outset I want to acknowledge the amazing work of our healthcare workers, our early childhood educators, our teachers, our cleaners, our retail staff, our emergency service workers and so many others that are still out there putting themselves at risk to help others, we owe you a lot.

Amongst it all, amongst the challenges and heartache, I have seen and heard of remarkably kind stories of people helping one another, often complete strangers. I have heard of neighbours lending a hand and people and groups coming together like never before. There is a real kindness and love that has helped to shine bright when all else at times for so many has felt hopeless. I know we have some way to go, and there are people out there doing it bloody tough. So please, stick together and keeping doing what we are doing. And if you know anyone that needs a hand, let my office know.

We know that our actions of social distancing and the measures put in place have made a



Forest Rd & Wright St intersection.



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

Proudly Local

Enhanced community aged care services support older residents

Knox City Council is delivering enhanced community aged care services to complement its existing programs in supporting older residents, during the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Demand for community aged support services has increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Council has received further Commonwealth funding to support the delivery of additional meals through Food Services.

Knox City Council Mayor, Cr Nicole Seymour emphasised the importance of supporting older residents at this time.

"This is a challenging time for all of us, as we adapt to new circumstances and each do our part to reduce the spread of the virus," she said.

"However, there are those in our community for whom social distancing can mean social isolation, or who face challenges accessing

the essentials needed to stay indoors and stay healthy.

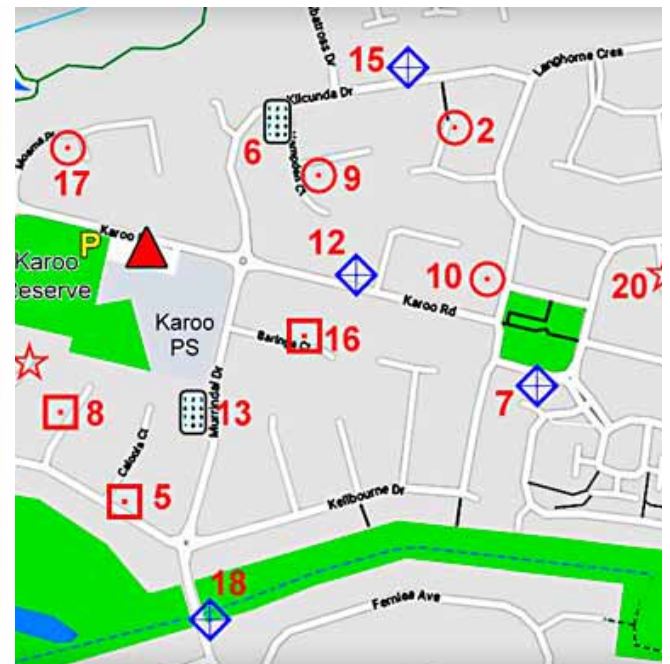
"We're committed to supporting our older residents through this time and I'm pleased we are able to increase the reach of these services to benefit even more of our community."

Some of the new and continuing services available to eligible Knox residents over the age of 65 include:

- **Meals on Wheels** – more than 250 people a week were already receiving meal deliveries, but demand has grown by 20 percent since the start of COVID-19 restrictions. Council has increased its delivery to meet this demand, and is also supporting the Meals on Wheels service to facilitate delivery of toilet paper to residents facing challenges accessing essential supplies.
- **Community transport** – existing bus services have been adapted to adhere to social distancing requirements and are operating to support residents to access shops, banks, chemists, and other essential locations. In some instances, individual transport can be accommodated for residents with mobility challenges. Community transport services are also delivering care packages, toilet paper and other items as required.

- **Shopping support** – Council has introduced a 'Shopping from a list' service, which collects and delivers groceries and essential items for residents who are unable to visit supermarkets.
- **Social support and connectedness** – while most outings and events have been temporarily cancelled, the Social Support Group has amended its format to deliver new virtual activities, including a care pack containing in-home activities for participants. Council's Bright Ideas Network, along with its community partners, is also providing information sessions via Zoom and teleconference to support residents in adapting to new ways of staying connected.
- **Occupational therapy** – the Knox Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) Occupational Therapist is still seeing clients to support them to stay safe in their homes.

Residents over 65 in need of support – or their families or carers – are encouraged to contact My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 and ask for a referral to the Knox Regional Assessment Service team.



Knox SOW



Knox Street Orienteering Walkers

Virtual Orienteering

The **Knox Street Orienteering Walkers** program has been suspended until at least June as a result of the 'non-essential services' and 'gathering of 2' rules. Their *Active April* Event was cancelled.

The Walk Organiser, David, emailed all members advising them that the monthly

walks had stopped. However he mentioned that all the old orienteering maps are available on the group's Maps webpage. With many walkers staying home, the old maps can be used together with Google Earth or Maps on your computer, tablet or phone to do **Virtual Orienteering!**

www.knoxsow.org.au/virtual.html

Detailed instructions are on the Group's website. Print a Map Sheet that shows the 20 clues and open Google Maps in Street View and away you go! Send your results to David and he will check them off against the master map and let you know how you went. If you want to compete against other members of your household you could also note the time

it took you to complete the course. You might even become a VO Record Holder!

Street Orienteering has 5 'great' benefits: Physical exercise, Mental exercise, a Challenge, Social interaction and Fun. Unfortunately with **Virtual Orienteering** you miss out on 2 of them and you will have to make your own coffee afterwards instead of visiting a café, but it certainly still sounds like a lot of Fun!

If you or your group are interested in 'actual' street orienteering, contact David and he'll let you know when they are starting again. 0419 337 311 david@knoxsow.org.au www.knoxsow.org.au

KnoxDraft Budget prioritises relief and recovery

A further \$3 million will be invested in focused initiatives to lessen the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, under Knox City Council's proposed 2020-21 Budget.

Recognising the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, the proposed budget provides for a range of relief measures and resources to support recovery of the local community and economy, while still maintaining a longer term focus on the goals captured in the Community and Council Plan.

Following its initial support package announced in March 2020, the \$3 million additional investment will fund new initiatives to support people in need, stimulate local industry and economy, and boost business and community-led recovery activities.

Knox City Council Mayor, Cr Nicole Seymour said the proposed budget had been prepared

during what are still very uncertain times, and needed to strike a balance between maintaining Council's core services and its crucial role in managing and responding to COVID-19.

"As we begin to plan for life after the pandemic, this budget acknowledges the need to shift our focus towards implementing stimulus projects and driving community recovery, all with an eye to a healthy, safe and prosperous long term outlook for the Knox community," said Cr Seymour.

"Our strong record of responsible financial management sees Council well-positioned to respond where support is needed most while still being able to deliver on our community's aspirations for the future."

Construction and improvement of local infrastructure will be a critical stimulus for the recovery of the local economy. Highlights of the proposed \$113.912 million capital works program include:

\$20.55 million on sporting upgrades including \$12.5 million towards new basketball courts at Knox Regional Sports Park

\$16.4 million on transport infrastructure including \$10 million on road and footpath renewals

\$19 million to improve parks and reserves including playground and public toilet upgrades

\$9.78 million to refurbish community buildings including Carrington Park Senior Citizens Centre and early years facilities

\$4.61 million for flood mitigation works including creating wetlands within Egan Lee Reserve and the Koolunga Reserve catchment

The budget proposes a 2% capped rate increase in order to fund relief and recovery measures, continue delivering essential services and complete long term projects.

Mayor Cr Seymour said Council also updated its Payment Assistance Policy to broaden arrangements for households and businesses experiencing financial hardship.

"This modest increase in rates will provide

relief where it is needed most but we're acutely aware of the extra burden any increase in rates might have for some people, so we've expanded arrangements to support anyone experiencing financial hardship," Cr Seymour said.

The redevelopment of the Knox Regional Sports Park will see that asset transfer to the Victorian Government, resulting in a one-off budget deficit in 2020-21 with the budget projected to return to surplus in 2021-22.

Council endorsed the draft 2020-21 Budget at its April meeting and now invites comment from members of the community. Budget documents will be available for inspection on Council's website, and submissions can be made online or in writing, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer. Submissions close at 5pm, Tuesday 26 May with a submissions hearing to be held on Monday 1 June if required.



Pandemic Pandas

The Panda Rounds round dance club of Boronia held its first Virtual Dance via Zoom on Thursday evening 9th April. Most members tuned in on a range of different Windows, Android and Apple computers, tablets and phones and had to set them up so they could be seen while dancing. It took a while to get used to the different screen views and to set up the music. A Bluetooth speaker certainly helped the tablets and phones. All participants had to have their microphones muted while the dance was being cued.

Once everything was working satisfactorily, the teachers, Alison and Phil, cued some rumbas, cha chas, waltzes and foxtrots for everyone to dance to. Most devices had multiple screens so we could see each other dancing. For some it was the first time they had to round dance without a partner! It was amazing to see what the dancers could do in a small space. The dancing finished at about 7.45pm and everyone sat around having supper and a chat. Alison plans to continue the virtual dancing every Thursday and Friday evening.

Panda Rounds usually dances on Friday nights in the Boronia Progress Hall. With the current rules, it looks as if they won't be back there for a while. For more information contact Alison on 0425 756 414 or pandarounds@gmail.com

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 free monthly telephone support?

Contact Bridges on 9763 9700 to get a Brochure or download a registration form from our website: www.bridgescc.com.au

Knox Seniors Safety Register

Volunteer Drivers Needed.
Make a difference in the community.

— **Looking for a rewarding and meaningful volunteer experience where you can give back in your spare time?**

Volunteer drivers support local seniors by:

- Providing crucial transport services
- Promoting independence & socialisation
- Supporting health and wellbeing
- Brightening the day of our clients

Find out more at www.bridgescc.com.au
Email or call: lynm@bridgescc.com.au on 9763 9700





Boronia Psychology

A friendly, caring and practical approach to counselling

Qualified and experienced Psychologists are available to provide counselling for individuals, couples, adults and children. We can assist you to cope and manage issues such as:

<i>Depression</i>	<i>Addiction</i>
<i>Anxiety</i>	<i>Relationship difficulties</i>
<i>Stress</i>	<i>Parenting problems</i>
<i>Sleep problems</i>	<i>Relaxation skills</i>
<i>Chronic pain and illness</i>	<i>Learning and behaviour difficulties</i>
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	

We are providers for TAC, WorkCover, DVA, Victims of Crime, private health funds and Medicare.

Ph: 9761 1298

2 Park Crescent, Boronia
www.boroniapsychology.com.au
reception@boroniapsychology.com.au

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum: the return visit

by Danny Nolan

It's been a good five years since I last visited the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) on Phillip Island. A long enough time to appreciate what fascinated me on my first visit there and to see how the museum had evolved in that passage of time. Though now well established in its new position on the main road between San Remo and Cowes, it's a long way from its humble beginnings.

The roots of the museum began when John Methven and his wife Krishna drove a Land Rover and Trailer full of personal memorabilia around Australia as part of a travelling show. Department of Veterans Affairs covered the cost of petrol as part of an effort to reach many veterans who had decided city living was not for them or gone to ground and hopefully bring attention to them that a group had formed (Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia) to lobby for recognition and better services. As the collection grew both during and following this tour the need for space arose when the Methven's returned to San Remo. A garage was arranged, and this became the first Museum open to the public. The garage became crowded as more items were donated and again, space became an issue. In 1999 the collection was moved to a site on the San Remo main drag that was once five shops.

From that point, the museum started to flourish and take on greater significance. This is when I first became aware of the museum on my trips down to the island in the early 2000s. The Museum has been open to the public seven days per week since then. The museum moved to its current and immensely larger location on the Island next to the airfield in December 2006.

It is run and manned by a dedicated



group of volunteers, many who were out in force when I visited recently. They were in the gardens, helping answer questions and working out the back setting up tables for displays or conferences. You get a real feel of why this museum has flourished.

The Museum is easily identified from the road with the two large aircraft flanking either side of the building. At \$15 I found the entry price a reasonable cost for the return of information and quality displays on offer, for an extra \$3 you can have a hand held device that reads bar codes on a selected display and offers more detailed stories and information on that particular item on show.

I've said this before in an earlier piece but it's worth mentioning. The small entry foyer complete with Café belies what opens before you when you walk through the relatively small door that leads to the larger museum area. It's almost

Willie-Wonka-like as you step through to the vast open hanger that houses the collection. Without going into too much detail, the exhibitions still impress. Running around the perimeter of the main floor is a corridor breaking down the history of the Vietnam war and Australia's (and New Zealand's) participation in it. Ranging from a comprehensive list of those who gave their lives, timelines of the war, uniforms of the different services and the original ballot marbles and tumbler that were used to determine the birthdays of those to be conscripted. The larger centre area has several collections and some wonderful dioramas depicting scenes from the conflict as well as some serious weaponry, including a Centurion tank and Howitzer field gun.

There are also three helicopters. *The Cobra* airship, a formidable piece of machinery which has been restored since my last visit and has been equipped with its payload of missiles and protruding front guns. Another, *The Sioux* light weight helicopter an almost toy like vehicle that reminds me of the choppers from MASH.

At one stage I heard the increasing buildup of *thud! thud! thud!* of a helicopter approaching and thought how impressive these sound effects were, that was until I realized we were next to an airstrip that also hosted helicopter joyrides. For a moment there the unintentional effect enhanced the experience.

The unique *Sound and Light* show- which on my last visit -had been moved from the rear to the front of the museum and is still stands out as a riveting experience. Told via a hologram narrator, videos and live props it tells a compact but comprehensive history of the Vietnam conflict from French Colonialism to the US withdrawal.

Behind the main exhibits is the area dedicated to rebuilding and restoring donated pieces. The two major works being carried out the Canberra bomber and Wessex helicopter have been restored substantially since my last visit and don't look like they are that far from being put on permanent display. Which makes me think whether they'll need to build another hanger because these craft are huge. Beyond the workshop is the *Garden of Reflection* which contains a replica of the Long Tan Cross and memorial plaques.

I grew up during the 1960s with the



Vietnam war on the news every night. By the time I was a teenager it was all over and all involvement by both Australia and the United States had ceased. Back then Anzac Day marches were huge affairs. In Melbourne alone, the sheer weight of numbers of continuing marchers in the parade stretched from the top of Swanston street to The Shrine of Remembrance for hours. There were large numbers of World War Two veterans and still many from World War One. I believe there may have even been one or two Boer War veterans.

These days no WW1 veterans remain, and the youngest WW2 veterans are all in their 90s. The Vietnam vets are now our largest group of surviving returned servicemen and while back in the day their participation was not held in the same esteem as the former wars. Fortunately these days their sacrifice has been fully acknowledged. Though the War Museum in Canberra is the pinnacle of all Australian



Armed service history and remembrance. The NVVM is a remarkable niche museum dedicated to a single period in our history

and is important for its comprehensive recording of a turbulent time in our nation and deserves a visit.

The Legacy of Our Veterans

Just in time for Anzac Day, Victorian communities were given more opportunities to remember and honour veterans through various projects to build and repair memorials, preserve stories and ensure their wellbeing.

Minister for Veterans Robin Scott today announced \$700,000 for 63 projects across the state as part of four grant programs: *Victoria Remembers*, *Restoring Community War Memorials* and *Avenues of Honour*, the *Anzac Day Proceeds Fund* and the *75th Anniversary of the End of World War Two*.

It includes a \$5,000 grant for the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association (APPVA) to provide direct welfare and food support, including Coles food vouchers, via their Veteran Advocacy Centre in Boronia.

Further support is being directed to organisations Carry On and Melbourne Legacy to provide on-going welfare support – including emergency food supplies and food vouchers – amid the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic.

Our community will already know the great work that the Veteran Advocacy Centre do in their Aussie Veterans Op Shop in Boronia Mall, as well as their partnership with the Aussie Veterans Coffee Co. café – staffed and run entirely by veterans and their partners.

The Victorian Government has worked to ensure all funded projects comply with coronavirus restrictions, such as physical distancing.

For more information about the successful grants, visit vic.gov.au/grants-support-and-commemorate-veterans.

"The APPVA already do amazing work in our community to support veterans and their families, who've served our nation so well. This grant is a small way of saying how much the Andrews Government supports and appreciates the work they do." said Jackson Taylor MP *"It will help ensure they aren't forgotten and teach future generations about the sacrifices of veterans and their families have led to the freedoms we enjoy today."*



Working towards a world without MND

Their Mission

To provide and promote the best possible care and support for people living with MND.

- The objectives of MND Victoria include: To provide the best possible care and support for people living with MND.
- To collect and share the best available advice on living with MND.
- To raise awareness of MND and the needs it creates.
- To encourage and support research initiatives and disseminate knowledge of research progress.
- To achieve our mission through innovation and influence.

MND Victoria came into existence on October 13, 1981 at a meeting attended by a small group of people with MND and their families, staff of health and welfare groups and other concerned people.

In the last financial year, MND Victoria delivered care and support services to 597 Victorians living with MND. These services included 8,200 individual contacts with people with MND, as well as delivery of 2,875 pieces of assistive technology devices to 392 clients. During the year, 209 new clients registered with the Association.

We have been told by many of our clients that "without MND Victoria we don't think we could have coped". Just recently the mother of one of our clients said that "thanks to the wheelchairs provided by the MND Victoria we can go out as a family and know that our son is safe. We have control over where we take him". Having access to all the equipment needed throughout the disease progression, at no cost to the person with MND, means that they can maintain as "normal" a life as possible, for as long as possible and this is so important with this disease.

For over 20 years the Association has also been supporting the best of the best Australian researchers in the bid to find the cause, treatment and potential cure.



Reaching the other side of this crisis

The past couple of months have been incredibly difficult for our nation and community. Thankfully, due to the efforts of all Australians, we are now starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Daily rates of increase in new cases are now consistently below 1%; we have one of the best testing rates in the world; and our health system is well equipped with 3,000 extra ventilators and 58 million additional masks.

This has meant that we have been able to ease some restrictions - elective surgery, dental and IVF treatment are slowly recommencing this week and the PM and National Cabinet will reassess the other restrictions in coming weeks.

Our task is not just to keep infections low, but to get the economy going again as quickly as possible. Despite the restrictions, life goes on in our community. This newsletter highlights some of the inspiring stories that have emerged

during this crisis and provides information about local projects that are continuing to progress.

As always, to keep up to date with the current measures and information on the economic support available visit australia.gov.au

A different kind of Anzac Day

With local RSL services cancelled, this Anzac Day was a very different one. But it didn't stop locals from finding their own ways to commemorate the day and honour our Anzacs.

Many gathered in their driveways or on their balconies to 'Light up the Dawn' with candles at 6am. Some even played the Last Post in their streets.

One of the most special stories was from

Lisa in Wantirna who honoured her veteran father, Rocky, with a dawn display of hundreds of candles and poppies in his front yard.

Rocky, a Vietnam veteran, was overcome with emotion as he 'stood to' in his garden remembering his fallen mates with his wife by his side. Thank you all for the touching ways you found to commemorate this important day. And thank you to all those who served our nation.

Support for small business

There are over 14,000 small businesses in Knox and unfortunately many are really struggling at the moment.

If you haven't already done so, please ensure you are aware of all the support packages which are available. This includes: *The Job Keeper package which provides your workers (including sole traders) \$1,500 per fortnight.

*Up to \$100,000 of cash flow support for small and medium businesses.

*Measures to protect struggling businesses from bankruptcy or insolvency.

*A new code of conduct to govern commercial tenancies.

For further information, please go to treasury.gov.au

(Pictured above are Damien from Tiny Bear Distillery and Brayden from Project Brewing. These two local businesses are helping each other out during the crisis. Damien has lent Brayden distilling equipment so that he can make and sell hand sanitizer while beer sales are down).

Churches and charities provide a helping hand

Churches, charities and other local organisations in our community have been doing a sensational job of supporting those affected by the crisis with food care packages and essential supplies.

For example, volunteers at CityLife Church

in Wantirna South are working every day to sort the huge amount of donated food and essential items, pack hundreds of packages and deliver them to those who need them most.

Crossway Church and so many others are doing the same. Thank you one and all for your amazing work.

Road projects continue

Even during the crisis, our local infrastructure projects are still progressing. For example, funding is secured for the Dorset Rd Extension, the Napoleon Rd duplication and extra carparks at Ferntree Gully and Boronia stations. The detailed planning work is progressing.

Other local road projects have also recently started or are beginning soon. The widening of the bridge on Blackwood Park Rd in Ferntree Gully is beginning and is expected to be completed in June; Stage 2 of the Monash Fwy upgrades has now begun with extra lanes being added;

and pre-planning is being conducted to install traffic lights at Lewis Rd/Boronia Rd with work expected to begin soon.

I will continue to keep you updated on the progress of these projects and others through your letterbox, social media or via email.

Quarry Reserve upgrades complete

The first stage of Quarry Reserve upgrades in Upper Ferntree Gully has been completed!

This was an election commitment of mine and Knox Council has used the funds to do the work.

Upgrades that have been completed include a nature-based playground for the kids, BBQ and picnic areas, fishing platforms and lookout. The next upgrades will be installing toilets, extra car parking and a city lookout.

The reserve is still open and if you live



Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

 tudgeMP
  alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au
 9887 3890
  www.alantudge.com.au

Real Action For Knox



nearby it's a great place to get your daily exercise (the playground will be closed until restrictions are lifted).

Community gardens continue to grow

The Knox Community Garden in Boronia is an amazing place.

It has been operating for over 30 years and has wonderful volunteers and delicious fruit and vegetables.

To help them continue to grow, I was happy to help secure \$12,000 of federal funding for them to upgrade the garden plots and signage. The gardens remain open during the crisis and they have put precautions in place to protect its members.

Sometimes, just a small amount of money can make a big difference. Please connect with my office if your local school, club or community group is not on my database, so we can keep you informed of upcoming funding opportunities.

Decking done at Boronia Bowls

The new deck at Boronia Bowls Club is officially open!

This is a wonderful club and I was pleased to have helped secure \$15,000 to assist with this project.

When the club reopens after this crisis, the new extended deck will benefit over one hundred club members by allowing disabled and elderly members to more easily access the club, as well as being a great place for BBQs.

This is one of many local sports projects that I'm working to deliver for Knox. I will always fight for better local sports facilities for these clubs, because I believe they benefit the entire community. They help keep people active and engaged and keep kids off the street and mentored by older people.

Alan Tudge MP



Anzac Day wrap up with Heidi Victoria

My daughter Charlie organised to play the Last Post in our street, and there were lots of neighbours who came to their letterboxes

with candles and torches. She then went to Waterford Park retirement village and played at 5 mini services around the village.

Heidi Victoria



The group photo is of Noel Mclean (Bayswater RSL president), other Viet Vets, two Boronia police officers (Cam and Bryce) and my daughter Charlie (16).

LEST WE FORGET

A Treasure for Local Communities - Radio Eastern 98.1

This amazing group of dedicated volunteers provides an inestimable service to the local communities of Knox, Maroondah, and parts of Whitehorse, Manningham, Monash and the Yarra Ranges. With a potential listening audience of 500,000 and approximately 23,000 tuning in to Radio Eastern daily, it has a huge impact for a local radio station. Each year over 1,200 community groups avail themselves of the free promotions for their programs and activities on Radio Eastern. In 2019 there were 82 volunteers serving in a variety of roles including presenters, administrative staff, technicians, editorial staff, sales, sponsor administrators and community engagement workers with the station actively recruiting volunteers.

Its beginnings were like a grain of mustard seed and 98.1 has grown to provide broad ranging services to many communities and individuals. Russ Read (a current presenter and lifetime member) is one of the longest serving volunteers and presenters. He recalls the early days with local community members who were the founding people in the 1970s including Stan Bannan, Ruth Chapman, Carmen Crowley, Herb Lilburn, Peter MacArthur, Gerald Smart and Peter James. Russ tells me Peter "... had a common desire to get a radio station serving our local area." Over a couple of years in the late 1980s and early 1990s test transmissions were performed to prove to the Federal Broadcasting Authority the station's ability to run a successful broadcast, so that they could gain a broadcasting license. On a humorous side Russ tells me that during early test transmissions a caravan was borrowed and set up on top of Cheong's Hill at East Ringwood for broadcasting with an antenna attached to the top of the water tank. At times the broadcast was interrupted whilst the presenter ran up the hill and climbed up the tank to adjust the antenna then run down the hill somewhat out of breath to continue the broadcast. Finally, in 1990 a license to operate was approved and the station commenced full time broadcasting in early 1991.

Radio Eastern serves the community in a



Pheona Smoczynska

wide variety of ways and a broad range of musical styles including rock, jazz, show tunes, easy listening, classical and country. Outside broadcasts also promote local community events such as Mooroolbark Miniature Rail and Steam bushfire fundraiser and all the local community festivals. Presenters also have regular interviews with individuals and community groups and a monthly interview with one of the local mayors. Over the last five years there have been around 2,500 interviews in many fields including sport, history, health, gardening, consumer affairs, religion, real estate and craft to name a few. A very popular program is the live streaming of the local EFL matches and also the Eastern Community Sports program with Colin Huggins. They are also an official emergency broadcaster for local bushfires, floods and other emergencies like Covid-19.

A wonderful initiative over the last two years has been a monthly talent program called Talent Search, a competition presented by Murray Smith and generously sponsored by Bendigo Bank. Locals compete for cash prizes and listeners participate in voting. Recently, I was sitting with Rick Robison, one of the presenters, for a coffee in Wyreena café and an elderly woman came over to our table and gave Rick a card of appreciation. He remembered her by name calling into the program as a listener. She seemed to talk for a long time but he continued to warmly listen. As the listener was about to leave she said, "I only have my little dog to talk to."

One of the most severe challenges faced by Radio Eastern was in July 2003 when a devastating fire consumed two studios which resulted in more than \$200,000 damage. It

was well insured with lots of local listeners generously donating to help rebuild the station from the ruins. One of the current presenters Russ Read commented in the local Maroondah Leader at the time, "To see it being built up, then destroyed-it's disappointing. We put so much work into it.... it's like a home away from home-it's part of your life." Clearly the local community felt the same and with their support the station was rebuilt but it took a year for the broadcast to resume. A major source of income is promoting local business.. Organizations and individuals in the local community can also pay a low membership fee. Over the last five years there have been 1,200 organizations using this service with 70,000 announcements going to air on a large number of topics including music, sport and local festivals. Each year over 300 community groups and many individuals providing community services avail themselves of free promotions for their services on Radio Eastern.

The station is serious about improving its service to the community and responding to community feedback as reflected in its McNair CBA Survey Analysis in 2018 and 2019. In response to the input from the listeners they are improving their communication, national news coverage and need for younger presenters. Overall, responses were very positive especially about the musical content, the presenters and community engagement. One listener sums it up with "Thank you for the radio service. Well done to all who contribute to make it happen."

Radio Eastern's goal is to expand their listening base with initiatives to include the local immigrant groups like the local Burmese population which in 2020 has increased to over 20,000. So, the station is currently training some young Burmese to potentially become presenters. Currently the station is live streaming on the internet on digital which takes the station all around the world.

Recently, I was interviewed by Rick Robison on Radio Eastern and I could not help but be impressed with the professionalism, warmth, passion and enthusiasm of all those who made me so welcome. Radio Eastern has become a treasured part of the communities that it serves. Well done and keep up the excellent work.

Radio Eastern 98.1 broadcasts can be found at www.radioeasternfm.com.au



Lyn



Russ Read



Colin Huggins

Owning a car costs way more than you think

Environmental economists surveyed more than 6,000 people in Germany and found that people underestimated the total cost of owning a car by about 50% — and that's not counting extras, such as financing costs. The researchers suggest that helping people to clock the true cost of their transport choices could reduce car ownership by up to 37% and cut associated transport emissions by 23%.

Many years ago I saw an motor association study that showed it was cheaper to take taxis and use a hire car once a month for day trips than to own and use a car for most people.

Of course we're not going to give up the lazy luxury of our personal car any time soon, but for many of us there's a lot to be saved by including public transport, bicycles and walking into our regular travel mix.



Look Sharp See Well



Weisz Family Optical

EST. 1969

256 Dorset Road, BORONIA

Telephone: 9762 3998



It seems like the world has changed a fair bit in recent months, however, Australia is probably one of the safest countries to be in right now, and our staff are doing everything in their power to make Martin Luther Homes one of the safest places in Australia.

A big 'Thank you!' goes out to everyone who supports us in practicing social distancing rules like Ursula who has started to enjoy her balcony a lot more in recent weeks.

However, not much has changed for our residents in the aged care facility as we now run an even more comprehensive activities program. We have set up regular video chats with friends and families, and we even have the Pastors speak to our residents on a weekly basis. Easter was a bit different this year but there were still many laughs and some claim to even have spotted the Easter Bunny around the facility.

Naturopathic Case Study:

Strengthen the Immune System with Foods and Herbs

Foods To Boost Immune System: rich in flavonoids with anti-viral properties

- Spinach, cabbage and dill: rich in kaempferol
- Onion, oregano, chilli pepper, apples, leafy green vegetables, broccoli : rich in quercetin
- Oranges, grapefruit, lemon and tangerines: rich in hesperidin
- Olives and extra virgin olive oil: rich in oleuropein
- Unrefined virgin coconut oil: rich in lauric acid
- Ginger, garlic, turmeric and rosemary: herb and spices with anti-viral qualities.
- To increase unprocessed whole foods like vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, eggs, tofu, seeds, nuts, legumes and whole grains.
- No sugar and refined carbohydrates: they suppress immunity and worsen viral infections
- Restrict alcohol: it also suppresses immunity and depletes key nutrients.

Gut Bacteria: Boost Your Microbiome

60% of the immune system is in the gut, so it's critical to support the gut health.

- Prebiotic foods like dandelion greens, Jerusalem artichoke, garlic, onion, leeks, asparagus, globe artichoke, banana, apples, flaxseed and seaweeds.
- Probiotic foods like yoghurt, coconut yoghurt, kefir, sauerkraut, tempeh, miso, natto, kamabiko and pickles.

Supplements and Herbs:

- A good multivitamin and mineral
- Vitamin C, 2000 mg /day
- Zinc, 20 mg/day
- Echinacea, Andrographis, Mushroom Extracts, Elderberry or Elder flowers, sweet wormwood, liquorice, Baical Skullcap, Olive Leaf.

Lifestyle

- Regular exercise like walking everyday for 1/2 hour at least
- Relaxation like a hobby
- Good sleep which can be improved with deep breathing exercises or meditation
- Staying connected with family and friends with Face time or any other Apps available.

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

Boronia Dentist
Dr Thomas F.E. Balfourt
 B.D.Sc.(MELB.) L.D.S. (VIC.)
 Evening & Saturday A.M. Available by Appointment
9762 5552 - (Opp.Boronia Vets)
 Suite 1, 178 Boronia Rd, Boronia

ESSENTIAL HEALTH FOODS

Christine Gozlan
BORONIA



Shop 10
 246 Dorset Road

Telephone: 9762 6093 www.essentialhealthfoods.com.au

LOCAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

HOME & GARDEN

TO ADVERTISE HERE

Contact
Ben Furlong
0415 673 621

Hassle Free Gardening
The Garden Ninjas

- ◆ Lawn Mowing ◆ Slashing
- ◆ Property Maintenance
- ◆ Gutter Cleaning ◆ Pruning
- ◆ Pre Sale Clean Ups
- ◆ Rubbish Removal

Chris: 0417 787 304
gardenninjas@hotmail.com

Melbourne TREE CARE
ALL TREE SERVICES
TREES PRUNED & REMOVED

- ✓ FREE QUOTATIONS
- ✓ QUALIFIED ARBORIST
- ✓ FULL INSURANCE

1800 80 60

Office: 9779 0478 Boronia
http://melbournetreecare.com.au

I.G.S. ELECTRICS

New homes, Extensions, Bathroom heaters, Ceiling fans, Power data, TV - Phone - Points, Upgrading, Switchboard, Safety switches, Surge protection

Free quotes
Call Jim: 0413 423 130
ph/fax: 9762 2380

REC 15764

Stumpy the Stump Remover

*Specialist Stump Removal
Any Size - Free Quotes

Call Ross
9762 5813

0427 101 929

JG & S PAINTING AND HANDYMAN SOLUTIONS

John Giacomelli
0409 900 455

MOWING & PRUNING
jgsphs@optusnet.com.au
Fully Insured ABN 55 862 044

Classic Gardens MAINTENANCE

Mowing & Edges - Weeding & Weed Control
Slashing & Pruning - General Maintenance

Police Checked - Free

D&L LANDSCAPING

- ◆ Retaining walls
- ◆ Concrete ◆ Decking
- ◆ Paving ◆ Artificial grass

Quality Landscaping at affordable prices.

Free quotes
David - 0431 290 064
david@dl-landscaping.com.au

KIDS CORNER

Kids Jokes

Q. What kind of runners do chickens wear?

A. Reebok, bok, bok, boks.

Q. What did the pencil say to the paper?

A. I dot my i's on you.

Q. Why did the class clown give Jenny a dog biscuit?

A. He heard she was the teacher's pet.

Funny but true kid's stories

One day a teacher asked her grade 3 students about jobs in building a house.

HOME & BUSINESS

CAR KEYS & LOCKSMITHS

Quality at an affordable price.
In shop and on-site service.

EASTERN SUBURBS LOCKSMITHS
9762 5757 (Fax)
NEW ADDRESS:
223-225 Dorset Rd,
For All Security
Fast Friendly Service ~ Seniors

BAYLISS PLUMBING SERVICES

24 Hr Emergency Services
All General Plumbing & Gas Fitting, Hot & Cold Water, All Roof Repairs.
Blocked Drains Machine Cleaned
Ph: A/H 9762 1963
Mobile: 0418 388 902

Doongalla Plumbing

Mobile: 0410 644 098
Phone: 9762 4242

- * Split System Installation
- * Maintenance * Gas
- * Repairs * Drainage
- * Hot & Cold * Sewers
- Water * Roofs & Gutters

BURROWS CONSTRUCTION

0439 378 045

Renovation & Maintenance Specialist
Professional and Reliable Service
Registered Master Builder with over 20 Years Experience

THE BASIN AutoMotive

Mechanical Repairs
Servicing & Maintenance
Stuart Metcalf
Fact.7 / 15 Macquarie Place
BORONIA 3155
Email: tbauto@aapt.net.au
Fax: 9720 9525
Ph: 9720 9518

VOLKSCARE
SPECIALISTS IN ALL VOLKSWAGENS

Audi, Seat & Skoda
◆ Mechanical Repairs
◆ Servicing & Maintenance
◆ Licenced RWC Tester

U12/4 Macquarie Place Boronia 3155
Phone: 9729 9281
(Melway: 65 A2)

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

Call Ken - 0408 058 394

K J ELECTRICAL SERVICES
A/H - 9762 4055

- ◆ Domestic & Commercial
- ◆ Free quotes
- ◆ No job too small

REC 28207

BUILDING SERVICES & SUPPLIES

ACADEMY PLUMBING SERVICES

ADAM LACEY | 0438 310 452

- GENERAL MAINTENANCE
- BLOCKAGES
- HOT & COLD WATER
- GAS FITTING - NG & LPG
- ROOF PLUMBING
- SEWER
- STORM WATER
- 24/7 SERVICE

FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

VISA AVAILABLE ON SITE!

f /academyplumbingservices ✉ academyplumbing@outlook.com.au

Superlative Home Cleaning
ABN 99322634069
Affordable, reliable and trustworthy

Weekly, fortnightly or one-off cleans
For an obligation-free quote

CROYDON GLASS

Window & Door Glass Repairs
Glass & Mirror Cut to
3 Chandra Ave
Kilsyth South 3137
Mob: 0409 028 451

◆ Pet Doors ◆
Splashbacks

GUTTER-VAC
Clean. Safe...Easy

Specializing in:
Vacuum Gutter Cleaning
Gutter Flow Gutter Guard
Solar Panel Cleaning
Ceiling Cavities Cleaning
Tank Cleaning

SATISFACTION

Call Bryan on
0437 910 050 or

Kitchen Upgrades

- ◆ New Benchtops
- ◆ New Doors/Panels
- ◆ New Drawers
- ◆ Cabinet alterations for new oven, hotplate sink, rangehood, refrigerator.

Obligation free quote
George 0418 395 855

Chris Cumming
Painting/Handyman

Mobile: 0403 415 244
Email: chris@paintnow.com.au
Web: paintnow.com.au

MASSAGE
TEL: 0410458851
OPEN 7 DAYS 10 am - 8.00 pm

AEC ARCADE
218-224 Dorset Road Boronia
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Relaxation Massage
Deep Tissue

Full Body Therapy
With or Without Oil
30 Minutes - \$50
45 Minutes - \$60
60 Minutes - \$70

She asked them, "What does a plumber do? One student confidently put their hand up and said, "Makes plums."

Kids Quiz (age level 6-12 y.o.)

1. Name the capital city of Australia?
2. How many players in each team on the court in a game of basketball?
3. How many sides does a triangle have?
4. Name the process of turning something from a solid into a liquid?
5. Name the string instrument in an orchestra which begins with the letter v?
6. How many sides on a standard dice?
7. Is a platypus a mammal? True or false?
8. Name the capital city of U.S.A.?
9. Which century was the gold rush in Australia?
10. Who wrote Mulga Bill's Bicycle?

10. Who wrote Mulga Bill's Bicycle?

Answers

1. Canberra
2. Five
3. Three
4. Melting
5. Violin
6. Six
7. True
8. Washington D.C.
9. 19th century
10. A.B. (Banjo) Paterson

Please send in any funny kid's jokes or brief stories. See you next time

by Lynette Hayhurst



PROFILE

A Gentle Giant - Peter Chen

This month's profile is of Peter Chen, a humble man who in 2004 in his mid-20s left his homeland of China, his much loved and respected parents and the picturesque town of Shanghai to study overseas. He tells me the most important date in his life was 29 November 2004, the day he arrived in Australia. This was the first time he had left his family and parent. Peter had never flown overseas before and had lived in Shanghai since the day he was born. It was a "turning point" for him as he had done it all by himself. In China, he tells me, his parents did everything for him; washing his clothes, cooking dinner, and he was very dependent on them. He says it was a "big challenge; totally different doing it all by myself."

Peter lived in a suburb-of Shanghai that was similar to The Basin, a small town called Fengxian. He remembers when he was little, around five years old lining up with the other 30 kids in the morning and the teacher would walk them all to school. He lived on the 3rd floor of an apartment but he had creeks nearby, trees to climb or he would catch yabbies in the creek with friends. They had no television or even an x box. He bought his first Nintendo in Year 6 and shared it with his friends. In the school holidays in summer time he and his friends would swim in a big river in which many drowned even the soldiers. He tells me the cultural revolution was "long ago" in China and it was "all good" when he was growing up. He lived close to the Fengxian Shanghai Bay National Forest Park which is lush and green, a lot like the Dandenongs.

Peter talks to me about the differences between China and Australia. He says in Australia it is more comfortable, less people, less cars and traffic. Shanghai has a population

by Lynette Hayhurst

of 24.28 million and it is in China's central coast and the country's biggest city. He says, "China's pace of a day is pretty fast like any of the big cities, it is pressured. Australia is a big country with less population and people enjoy life and you can drink more coffee than in China. Customers are closer to each other since he says in the big cities of 10 million there is not time to know each other. We are quite blessed." The best thing he says about Shanghai is, "the family, friends and all of your childhood you grew up with. It is pretty there, downtown is very modern. In Shanghai shops are open until midnight with many on the streets. At night it is safe on the streets because so many are out walking."

Peter tells me that his parents, who still live in China, visit once every year or two and he calls them every fortnight to see how they are going. His father's name is Shilong and his mother is Lanhua. Peter's dad is a P.E. teacher at primary school level. His mother "who teaches English," is a strict and tough teacher who still teaches at the age of 63 She is the decision maker in the family as she has a sharp mind and is a strong woman." Peter tells me warmly and with respect about his father in law whose name is Quikang. He used to be a governor in China and he was very honest. Peter admires him because, "even during all his years of employment he never took anything from anyone even though he could have."

One of the most important dates in his life was on 10th April 2010 when he first bought The Basin Fruit Shop which he later sold in 2014 and then bought a fruit shop closer to his home in Ormond but finally came back and bought it again in 2019. Peter says he hasn't any

great goals to be rich, famous or an astronaut, just simple but powerful goals. He wants to be a good husband, a good dad and a good son. He wants to make sure he looks after his family needs financially so the job as a fruiterer enables him to do that. He says, "I have a good job, good enough for the family." He hopes people don't judge him because he is a fruiterer. "It's just like any other job; there is pressure to provide good fruit for the customers." Peter says, "If you can wake up at 4 a.m. in the morning to head off for fresh fruit and vegetables each day, the customer appreciates that and knows if you



Peter with his happy workers.

are a reliable fruiterer."

Peter tells me the most important thing in his life is, "his family, yeah-my parents, my son, and my wife. I would do anything for them." His wife's name is Ophelia (Qian) and he met her at Monash University in 2005 and married in 2009. He says if he had not married he would have returned to China. She completed a master of accounting and he a Bachelor of Industrial Design and later a Master in Risk Management. I ask him to tell me a funny story and he tells me his life is pretty boring as he spends three hours on the road each day heading to the markets and delivering to his shop in The Basin. But he tells me with great joy and affection about his little boy. He says he plays with him daily and "he surprises me with his changes- I think that's pretty funny." He says Chinese laugh at word humor like many of us. Peter's son is called Aiden and he has Noonan's Syndrome, it is not a mental condition but a developmental delay, he is of short stature, Peter is over six feet tall. Peter daily walks with Aiden for up to an hour a day with "father and son time." His goals at the moment are to, "support my family, look after my kid and his medical issues and see he is living happily and that one day me and my missus would see him have his own family." He tells me the lessons he has learnt so far in life are how to be a good husband and father and how to be independent and he has learnt that money does not come easy and he should know with his long hours of work every day. It seems to me he has succeeded well in all of these goals.

Chen in Chinese means strong and Peter in Greek means rock which aptly fits Peter both in regard to his family and in his local community. It was a real delight to spend time with this fine young man, a good husband, father and son who made a momentous decision to leave his much loved family, friends and home in Shanghai and live and work amongst us. We are all the richer for having Peter come and call Australia home. Reminds me of the Peter Allen song, "I still call Australia home."



Peter with his wife & son