

Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue 288
June 2020



Steaming Ahead in The Basin

This huge mural in the driveway of the Acorn on Forest tavern pays tribute to the coming of rail to our neighbourhood. The railway then opened up our neighbourhood

for development, whether it was fruit, vegetables and flowers for the Melbourne markets or commuters going to town. None of this was practical until the coming of the

steam trains.

While the train in the mural is believed to be the iconic Puffing Billy, it is nonetheless a fitting tribute to our enterprising forebears. Check the mural out for yourself.



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From the Editor...

Love in a time of pandemic



Throughout history there have been plagues and epidemics, which can transform rapidly into pandemics in these modern times of mass transit shrinking this big wide world into a close knit mass of interacting hordes. Fertile fields for viral contact and contagion. Person to person close contact, direct and indirect, was clearly the medium by which the viral invader was able to infect millions in a very short time.

The answer? Cut out the contact.

Sounds simple, and it works,

The lucky country lived up to its title.

Lucky because we were isolated and it was relatively easy to close down the mass transit from overseas.

Lucky because we had, love them or hate them, political leaders of all ilks who saw the threat as more important than their own ambitions.

Lucky because our leaders were willing to trust the science and make the hard decisions to match.

And very lucky because we had a big majority of our diverse people willing to set aside their own inclinations in favour of fighting for the common good.

Not nearly so lucky in many other countries.

Nor so lucky in the proposed aftermath, given that this was just one virus amongst many with some certainty that defeating covid-19 will not stop the next pandemic. That will be a new (or old) menace to be dealt with as it presents. But perhaps the most difficult to bear will be, as it has been for many this time, the social distancing – no kissing, no cuddling... not even a hand shake. In an age when most intimacy, or so it seems, is engaged in at an electronically borne safe distance.

Not a great outlook for romance.

Where are the poems and lovesongs about the untouchable, online world of digitised reality?

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
July	17 May	04 July

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.

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the voice of the community

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

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Knox & District Over 50s

A shout-out to all you Over50s out there in the Knox District. You are probably a little “over” the lock-down all Victorians have been enduring in recent times. Thankfully, at the time of writing, restrictions are slowly being relaxed and we can start to look forward to some socialising. Hooray!!

With the current relaxation of these restrictions, I’m sure you have all been enjoying more personal contact with family and friends. Or, you may have actually been able to travel to somewhere in the Victorian country-side and even go to a restaurant/ café to eat in. What a treat for everyone.

Usually, Knox Over50s meet monthly from January to November and provide guest speakers, day and overnight trips, a book club, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings at the Myer Knox coffee lounge, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies.

Although all our meetings and other activities have been cancelled or postponed for some time now, it is very likely that within weeks we will be able to resume our usual activities – slowly, but surely. As soon as we have any inkling of when that will be, we will let you know.

In the meantime, if you would like to check with us regarding any changes to the situation, please contact Jill on 9801 4363.

Best wishes from all of us to all you over-50s. Take care of yourselves and those around you.

Knox City Council’s Community Development Fund grants program for 2020-21 **CLOSES SOON!**

Knox City Council’s 2020-21 Community Development Fund Grant Round is currently open but will close at 5pm on Monday 22 June 2020.

A Community Development Fund grant could provide your organisation with resources to reconnect with your members and the wider community as we move beyond the current COVID-19 crisis.

The current guidelines provide wide scope for many different community-based activities and initiatives that can help Knox-focussed organisations recover from the impact of the crisis.

The Community Partnerships Team members can help you work through any project ideas or challenges that you may have. Please contact the Team at any time to discuss project ideas, or to raise any queries or concerns. We can be contacted on 9298 8000 or you can email: cdf@knox.vic.gov.au

Sulphur-crested cockatoo

Cacatua galerita

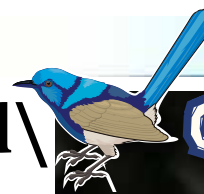
Probably the most recognised local birds, the sulphur-crested cockatoo is a rather large white cockatoo with a bright yellow (sulphur) crest usually folded back on its head. Found in more densely forested parts of Australia, New Guinea and some of the islands of Indonesia. They can be locally very numerous, leading to them sometimes being considered pests.

A highly intelligent bird, the sulphur-crested cockatoo is a seasonal breeder in Australia; little is known about its breeding behaviour in New Guinea. In southern Australia the breeding season is from August to January, whereas in northern Australia the season is from May to September. The nest is a bed of wood chips in a hollow in a tree. Like many other parrots it competes with others of its species and with other species for nesting sites. Two to three eggs are laid and incubation lasts between 25–27 days. Both parents incubate the eggs and raise the nestlings. The nestling period is between 9 and 12 weeks, and the young fledglings remain with their parents for a number of months after fledging.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos’ distinctive raucous calls can be very loud, which is a result of an adaption in order to travel through the forest environments in which they live, including tropical and subtropical rainforests. These birds are naturally curious, as well as very intelligent. They have adapted very well to European settlement in Australia and live in many urban areas.

Species that feed on the ground are very

vulnerable to predator attack. The cockatoo has evolved a behavioural adaptation to protect against this: whenever there is a flock on the ground, there is at least one high up in a tree (usually a dead tree), keeping guard. This is so well known that it has even entered Australian slang: a person keeping guard for sudden police raids on illegal gambling gatherings is referred to as a cockatoo or cocky for short.



Our Page 3 Bird



Winter morning by Lyn Hayhurst



257 Dorset Road Boronia

257 Dorset Road, Boronia is the site of the former Boronia Youth Hall, which was demolished in early 2019 to create a temporary open space for community. Based on community feedback, seating, planter boxes and plants have now been installed on site. This will create a more inviting space for community to sit and enjoy.

The long-term use of the site has not been determined and it is expected that this site will be available in its current state for 2-3 years.

Community Consultation

From 30 October to 2 December 2019, Council asked the community to share their ideas in relation to the temporary uses of the site located at 257 Dorset Road, Boronia.

Thank you to all those who shared their ideas at the pop-up community engagement and activations events in November 2019, as well as online.

The ideas and information provided by the community will assist Council with the next steps for this site.

A sunny morning at 257 Dorset.

Our President and Vice President found this the perfect spot to interview a new volunteer for the BBCN.

Community Training Workshops

Online with Zoom!

Knox City Council Community Training is a series of free workshops presented over the year for individuals, community groups, clubs and not-for profit organisations in Knox who provide activities, programs and services in Knox.

Please note: BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Date: Thursday, 11 June 2020 Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm

What's next? Resurfacing and Revisioning for Recovery for Community Groups

As we emerge from lockdown, what have we learnt? How have we changed? Restrictions are being eased and now is the time to think about what, and how we will emerge with our members and stakeholders during these next



stages.

This session will help community groups to consider a plan for moving forward in the next stages.

It will help you to think about what you need to reinvent or pivot to ensure the services you offer

are relevant and stay relevant for your community. The session will help you to network, talk to

others and gather ideas for reengaging and revisioning your organisation.

Topics discussed will include:

Reflection - challenges/barriers we have had to manage and what's new that we will take forward. What will resurfacing look like for your organisation?

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Tribute wall on Acorn Tavern, The Basin.

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Your Local MP Report

Sponsored by Jackson Taylor MP



With the easing of restrictions in a safe and appropriate manner, we now have many options moving forward, thanks to our community following the rules to keep us all safe. We're all in this together – and throughout a lot of heartache, we have seen our real community spirit shine through, with just one example being Foothills Community Care.

The day before Mother's Day, I was pleased to be able to volunteer with the team at Foothills Community Care and Community Casseroles helping lend a hand to deliver over 500 meals going to close to 200 households to thank and remind mums across our community that we love and thank you.

Getting on with it – local project updates:

- Work at The Basin Primary School is progressing full steam ahead, with work on their oval fix and playground project well underway – if you drive past, you'll see a bit of action going on there!
- In the last edition I mentioned that, following my advocacy to the Minister, new pedestrian warning signage were to be installed around The Basin, near the intersection of Forest Road and Wright Street, to enhance safety. Well – they've already been installed, ahead of schedule! Keep an eye out – and drive safe.
- This follows additional pedestrian warning signs being installed at the approaches to The Basin Temple, on Mountain Highway, to enhance visitors' safety;
- I warmly welcome the funding boost of \$250,000 to Women's Health East to continue to help prevent family violence; and,
- An architect has been appointed for the \$200,000 synthetic running track and sensory trail project, underway at Boronia K-12 College, to ensure that the project that is delivered meets the College's wants and needs.

Great Community Organisation – Foothills Community Care

Photos: Right with Nick Wakeling MP, Mayor Nicole Seymour and Stephen Barrington of FCC; Below with Dave Menz, Vic President of AustralianPeacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans



Something else I wanted to touch on was the brand new CFA Station in The Basin. Work has been ongoing behind the scenes – I've been working with the CFA, Knox Council and the brigade to ensure that this vital project is delivered. Further, the brigade has been working alongside the CFA to ensure that the plans for their new station meet their needs, and I'm pleased to let you know that this process is nearing completion. I'm so proud to have been able to secure this not just for The Basin, but our entire community this proud brigade helps to keep safe.

This edition's shout out is to the good men and women who run the Veterans' Advocacy Centre in Boronia. Recently ahead of Anzac Day, I was pleased to join Dave Menz (right) Victorian President of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veteran's Association (APPVA) to announce that they had been successful in receiving a \$5,000 grant to help them provide welfare and support to returned service men and women. I was so pleased to learn a little about what they do and (safely and responsibly) meet their team. Well done, keep up the great work.

Don't forget, I'm here to help you and your family with state government matters. However, as my team and I are currently working from home, my office is closed to walk-ins. That said, you can call my office on 9738 0577 or email me at Jackson.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au and I'll get back to you. And for any further you can search 'Jackson Taylor MP' for more and to follow me on Facebook. Jackson Taylor MP



Jackson Taylor MP

State Member for Bayswater

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

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that is a bit of ritual as we have been doing it for a couple of years now. Many times, we would pass the occasional person on a run, coming or going to the shops/work/friends. Now there seems to be people discovering the gentle act of a stroll with the kin *en masse*. Parents with pushers, people walking the dog, joggers in pairs. The only difference being the (now) almost unconsciously walking wider onto the nature strip as you pass. There is still the usual greeting, a quick "Hi" but no one stops to pat the dog or admire the new baby. I will admit, the local kids have made it a bit more fun with their chalk drawings and teddy bears in the windows. At least one house in any given street will have a few little hand painted signs reminding us to keep smiling or that "we'll get through this together" It's a great attitude.

Having a large family, the noticeable absence of children popping in is a big change. It is almost like they have all moved to the other side of town or interstate as they all observe their own self-isolation. Easter and the recent Mother's Day were a strange quiet time in our household this year. On the upside, we are saving a fortune as we don't have nearly any of the usual large family meals. My mother who lives in a retirement village hasn't had a hug from any of her family in over 6 weeks due to restrictions, something we all look forward to doing but her safety and health are paramount.

If I must name one thing that has changed and really surprised me, because I never saw it coming is my wife surrendering herself to technology. Early in the piece, she realised she wouldn't be able to do her Pilates class or have her regular Friday morning coffee catch up with her friends. Next thing I know she's asking about installing *apps*. (a word I have never heard her utter before) on her Ipad so she can have a class at home. I walk into the lounge room thinking she's watching something very funny on the TV but instead she's part of a six way video chat on her phone.

It really is a different world from what we are used to, I miss visiting the Dandenongs this time of year, the gardens in Autumn are always beautiful and



the weather perfect for walks. I miss the physical social contact with my family but we live in such an amazing time that with computers, phones and apps like zoom, skype and all the social media platforms visual contact and communications has never been a problem. I have never been a fan of the weekly food shop at the local supermarket, which has become totally unbearable during these restrictions and I try to avoid at all costs. That is one thing I can't wait until things get back to normal.

I guess so far we are lucky, instead of going for a drive on the weekends, we have our garden, a bit of house renovating that had been put off and of course, we are lucky to have our hobbies to give a lot more attention too. My wife even going as far as to make decorative face masks for palliative care nurses. I know this is going to pass and things are going back to how they were before, sometimes I think, "Do I really want it too?" So, in closing, I hope everyone is coping and following the simple rules of social distancing and good hygiene and look forward to a more normal Springtime.

Anyways, who's with me in saying I'm just really glad Netflix is a thing these days.

Tales from the bunker (so far)

Danny Nolan

I guess I have been lucky so far during this pandemic. I have had no one I know succumb to the virus or indirectly affected. The closet my family has come is through my son whose friend -a paramedic- worked briefly with a colleague after they were in contact with an infected person in Geelong. She was pulled from duty, tested and self-isolated at home until she received the all clear. The reaction time of this process was impressively quick and goes a bit of the way of showcasing how well the authorities have handled this crisis.

Meanwhile, life goes on. My wife and I and our remaining children at home were lucky enough to work in industries where we could not work from home or were considered non-essential but important enough to continue. I work in a large building with two other people each of us separated by at least 3 rooms, doors, or corridors each. So, life continued as normal.

Noticing changes to our lives in other ways is worth pointing out. We have a small house dog that we like to walk as a family unit most days or evenings depending on the weather, something

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Council provides a boost to local recovery

A further \$2 million will be invested in services and programs to spearhead local community and economic recovery and boost support for those most impacted by COVID-19.

Knox City Council Mayor, Nicole Seymour said the new package will accelerate recovery of the local economy and facilitate community confidence and resilience while addressing the hardship, instability and isolation impacting the Knox community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As the pandemic situation has evolved we have seen the emergence of a ‘new vulnerable’ in our community; individuals and families facing social and economic hardship, some for the first time,” said Cr Seymour.

“Similarly, many of our local businesses have lost customers, revenue and employees as a result of having to substantially change their operations or close altogether.”

“This latest package complements state and federal business support programs by providing extra support for our business community to recover, which will have positive social outcomes for our community.”

“It targets help for those most in need, by increasing community health and wellbeing services and providing additional funding to empower local service providers.”

“It also emphasises the important role our community organisations play in building connectedness and resilience, which will be crucial as our community bounces back from this pandemic,” Cr Seymour said.

- Highlights of the Stage 2 Community and Business Support Package include: \$380,000 funding to support services for vulnerable community members and those experiencing homelessness, including increasing access to hot meals and shower and laundry facilities

- A \$200,000 fund to enable local service organisations to increase services for the most vulnerable
- \$1,000 one off ‘kick start’ contribution to not-for-profit groups and clubs with a lease or license in Council facilities to help with operating costs such as utilities as they recommence operations
- \$200,000 to deliver Mental Health First Aid training via local sporting clubs
- \$465,000 in business support programs including grants, training and development, and mentoring programs
- Increased funding for both the Minor Grants Program and Community Development Fund to support community led recovery initiatives

In addition to the new measures, several Stage 1 initiatives have been extended until 30 September 2020, including waiving interest on late rates and charges payments; trading fees for businesses; and lease, license and hire fees for not-for-profit community organisations using Council-owned facilities.

Approximately 80 local community and business organisations provided feedback in the development of the support package, identifying key areas of concern and emerging social needs across the municipality, including homelessness, mental health services and counselling, family violence, financial hardship, social isolation and more.

Council’s proposed 2020-21 Budget includes \$3 million funding for dedicated initiatives in response to COVID-19, including this support package. It is expected that Stage 3 initiatives will be considered by Council at a later date, in response to evolving community needs.



FTGAS Picture of the Month.

This is titled “Nicholas Gardens” and is by FTG Arts Society member Rod Mackie.

A long way from the place of his birth, Scottish member Rod Mackie created this oil painting whilst on a visit to Nicholas Gardens in Sherbrooke.

Shirley Dougan

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Friday night Barefoot

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For all enquiries phone Dick on 0414 398 152.

New members welcome – no fees for the first year – coaching available – ph Patrick on 0459 999 261

Welcome Back!!!!

Joy, excitement and relief were some of the emotions on display on the first day back for Foundation to Grade two students on Tuesday 26th May, 2020.

I was taking my morning walk on that day and I saw parents and their children waiting in family groups a distance from the school, with excitement for the time when they could finally drop off their children at the local primary school. Parents were telling me that they were looking forward to getting back to work.

As I continued my walk I passed by St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School in The Basin and I was delighted to see the Principal Peter Steward and fellow staff also beaming with joy at the return of their much loved students. Peter had a sign he had made in bold letter saying, "Welcome back," and he wore a colourful party top hat in bright colours. So, I took some photographs that tell the story and capture the wonderful moment as teachers and students reunited. I have worked at this school in the past



Teachers Maryanne Bennett & Katelyn Dickson

and it has a very dedicated and enthusiastic team of teachers and leaders. It has been an enormous challenge for both primary and secondary teachers to provide an unprecedented online learning program.

After six weeks of lockdown and online learning in both primary and secondary schools throughout the state, I saw the students were beaming with joy and bursting to head back to their teachers and school friends. Parents were also radiating joy and relief as their online home bound children were returned to the classroom and their job completed, soon to be followed by the Grade 3-6 students in a couple of weeks.

A week or two before school opened up I saw firsthand the amazing work online as I worked in a classroom for two days as an emergency teacher with students who needed to attend school during the lockdown at Mullum Primary School in Ringwood. The children were amazing showing the typical flexibility of children to adjust to online learning and I also saw the challenge they faced in this new environment with all the restrictions needed at that time in the school. It hasn't been easy for them as learning and teaching are best done face to face in the classroom. Well done and a big thank you to the teachers for all their hard work and commitment. In all this the unsung heroes



Principal Peter Steward with Finn and Macy



have been the education support teachers who have also worked tirelessly in the online and in the schools assisting those children who needed their help. Also, much credit to the parents who have stood in the gap to help their children with the online program at home.

A delight for everyone to see school is back!!

Story & Pictures: Lyn Hayhurst

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Thought of a roaming kangaroo

Floating clouds, clear skies, Fresh cool winds and swaying trees White cranes on green meadows

How wonderful to see! Ripe fruits singing birds, smiling flowers and jumping dolphins over rolling waves How nice to see!

But no kids in schools no farmers in farms

No wheels on lanes, Neither meetings nor gatherings Is the land deserted?

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Recent In-Kind Donation

2020 Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged - Mother's Day

Dear Heather McTaggart & friends at The Basin Community House, On behalf of Tabulam and Templer Homes for the Aged Inc (TTHA), I would like to thank you for your recent and generous donation of paper flower posies for the above event held on Sunday 10th May. We so appreciate your support and we have thanked you on our Facebook page with these photos of our residents with the posies. The generous support of businesses and individuals like yours ensures our TTHA residents had a lovely surprise on Mother's Day in current

uncertain times. Your donation was delivered to our mother's on Mother's Day morning and was a welcomed and a joyful surprise. We so thank you for your generous donation and answering our call for assistance.

TTHA is a not-for-profit, charitable and ethno-specific certified and fully accredited Aged Care Facility in Bayswater. TTHA also provides care to the wider community through Accent Home Care and Planned Activity Groups as part of the Home and Community Care program, Accent Home Care. We thank you for your support and we look forward to the continued relationship between our business and yours.

Thank you again for your contribution!

Tabulam & Templer Homes



Health and Economy

The Coronavirus crisis has always been a crisis on two fronts: health and economic.

Now that we have the health safeguards in place, the next challenge for our country is to get jobs going again. Every week that we are closed for business the economy loses \$4 billion - that is the average weekly income of 4 million Australians.

Local businesses have been impressive in their efforts to stay open and their innovative approaches. Many have adapted by moving online or providing takeaway and thousands have made use of the JobKeeper scheme and other government schemes to support their workers and keep them employed.

To all these local businesses, thank you. You have each made a real difference in softening the blow of this crisis by keeping people employed.

Many of our community groups have been working overtime during the crisis.



Knox Infolink in Boronia has served our community for 28 years and they are on the front line helping some of the most vulnerable.

Denise and her team are continuing to help those in need by providing referrals for services, food parcels, fruit and vegetables, meat trays, toiletries, Myki cards, phone cards, vouchers for emergency prescriptions and much more.

Thank you Knox Infolink and all our community organisations for your wonderful work at this very difficult time.

Carbon monoxide and gas heater safety

This winter many Victorians are at home for longer periods due to the current circumstances of coronavirus (COVID-19) and may be running gas heaters for longer periods than usual. This could increase the risk of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning if domestic gas heaters are not regularly maintained, or operated without adequate ventilation.

Energy Safe Victoria recommends that all gas heaters are serviced at least once every two years by a qualified gasfitter.



**Alan
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Real Action For Knox



Knoxfield Ladies Probud Club

The Knoxfield Ladies Probud Club managed to squeeze in their Annual General Meeting just before the new rules of not congregating together were brought in. About one third of our members appeared at the door and managed to space themselves out in the strangely quiet and airy room in the Wantirna Club. After the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and accepted, Certificates were awarded and presented.

Valerie Poll and Elizabeth Tainton received certificates for 5 years valuable service on the Committee, Fay Ryan received a certificate for 10 years service as a Library Book Lady. It's hard work bringing the bags of books to each meeting, then taking them home again. These days Fay has two helpers Gwen White and Denise Lund who also heft bags of books for us to borrow.

Fay was also presented with a certificate for 20 years membership of our Club. Quite an achievement as she lives in the Dandenongs and therefore has quite a way to drive to meetings and outings. We enjoy Fay's memories of earlier times in the Club. Our Chairperson Barbara Watson, a member for 26 years, inducted our new



Fay Ryan

President Jan Waters, and also presented the new Committee with their badges.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel all our meetings, and postpone all the interesting and enjoyable outings which our Social Secretary Elizabeth had worked so hard to organize, at very reasonable costs to us. We were to visit the Country Fire Authority branch in Bayswater for a tour and demonstration with lunch to follow; another of our leisurely Sunday brunches; an all day bus ride to view the beautifully painted Silos in Tungamah, St. James, Devenish and Goorambat; a visit to the Healesville Glass Blowing Studio,



and so much more. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can re-book these outings.

Usually, the friendly Knoxfield Ladies Probud Club members welcome visitors. Your first visit is complimentary. We meet at the Wantirna Club, 350 Stud Road Wantirna at 10 am every third Wednesday of the month. When this sad and worrying Coronavirus time is past and it is safe to meet together once again, we would be happy to meet you. When that time arrives, for further details, please ring Jan 0407 577 921 or Jo on 0414 914 091.

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No visitors, no dine-outs, no cinema, no hugs, are we there yet??? Next day; What a difference a day makes, today 11th. May, we can have 5 visitors!! Maybe by the time this issue reaches you, lockdown will be over. But we needed to go this way to protect ourselves from this serious virus. We wish everyone good health, good recovery, and that life goes on.

As for the activities provided by this club, Life Activities Club Knox, there is no news, but if you still have a copy of previous newsletters, feel free to ring any convenor to learn of any new plans for the coming weeks.

Sandra, our newsletter editor, is in the middle of producing the May edition.

Armchair Travel, Cinema, Cards, Lunch, walks, Hang in there, we can probably meet in June.

For sure, our Anniversary will be advertised.

To learn more about our friendly club, i.e. Life Activities Club Knox Inc., and /or for a copy of our current newsletter, please ring:

Carol on 9727 2726

Or contact us on www.life.org.au/knox

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My Mother's Day Story

During this time of fear of becoming ill and dealing with isolation, it is difficult for us to think positively about anything. But it will soon be Mothers' Day, when we show our gratitude for all that our mothers have done for us. Some may even find it difficult to find something good to say about their mothers! Love is sometimes an unappreciated thing which is hard to recognise, but I am sure if we searched our hearts and minds we could find something to be grateful for!

I have a confession to make – I didn't always appreciate my mother even though she did her very best for me! My mother died of Alzheimer's disease in 1996. A number of years before she contracted the disease, she shared her story of how we came to Australia from New Zealand where we three girls were born.

It was in March 1945 that we (our mother and the three of us), sailed from Wellington harbour on a troop ship carrying US soldiers and Japanese war brides. The reason we were aboard this steamship was that no passenger liners were travelling between the two countries during the war years. I don't know how it was organised, but nevertheless I can vaguely remember seeing that huge vessel before we boarded it.

Our father had stayed for a few months in New Zealand to 'tie up loose ends' and then travelled to Australia on a sea plane. My mother and I were seasick due to the rough seas, and it must have been a huge ordeal for her as she had to leave my older sister in charge of my younger sister. Also, as we approached Sydney where we were to disembark, the captain was told that there were still submarines in Sydney Harbour so we had to wait weeks in Brisbane until Sydney harbour was clear and we could disembark.

We children were left to sit on a metal trunk in the care of a 'wharfie' while my mother went to find a phone box to phone her uncle to see if we could stay with him before boarding a train to Melbourne. He, along with other relatives, had no idea we were



coming, and we carried no official papers – it was all very secretive! I feel that my mother carried a big responsibility undertaking this nerve-racking voyage! She was a woman of God, with a strong faith which I believe carried her through life including this experience!

Paul tells us all about true love – like the love of a mother (1 Corinthians 13 - 'the love chapter'). He tells us that without love we are nothing! That love is patient and kind. That love never ends! That there are three important traits in life.....faith, hope and love – the greatest of these being love!

Beth B.

Buy Australian for Mental Health

The Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) encourages the Australian public to support and buy Australian made products. Local manufacturing is key to getting the Australian economy back on track. Especially with the current Covid-19 situation having drastically affected the Australian economy, buying Australian made products is an important way to assist our nation to recover from this crisis situation.

Buying Australian products equals supporting Australian jobs. At this time, when almost 1 million Australians have become unemployed, it is more important than ever. The link between unemployment and mental health struggles is one that is well established. Unemployed individuals have reported experiencing more anxiety and depression than in the general population. This is something that can be lessened by deliberately buying Australian made products, so more Australians can become employed once again. By buying Australian products, we are supporting the mental health wellness of our farmers, manufacturers, fishermen and processors who work so hard to provide strength to our economy.

Besides this, if consumers pump money into buying Australian manufactured goods, our nation's economy can be strengthened tremendously at the tail end of this pandemic. It is the duty of each member of the Australian society to support the smooth trajectory of recovery that we would all like to see, which can be facilitated by consciously seeking Australian made products.



#BUYAUSTRALIAN

Additionally, Australia has high quality and safety standards. This means that by buying Australian products and produce, we can rest assured that what we are purchasing meets the high standards set by the Australian Government.

The MHFA asks Australians to look for the green triangle Australian Made logo on the items they buy to support the economy, to support the mental health of Australian manufacturers and to ensure spending on quality products/produce.

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