

# Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue 291  
August 2020



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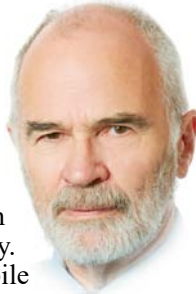
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## From the Editor...

### Evidence and Proof



Never in the history of humanity have we had so much evidence on almost every subject as we have today. A couple of finger taps on our mobile phones brings a whole world of information and evidence in milliseconds. Conversely, never have we had such flimsy regard for the importance of real evidence to decide proof.

Why worry about proof when you've got opinion. Sounds right; must be right.

It's a common saying that "everyone is entitled to their opinion". That's true of course, but only when you keep it to yourself. An opinion based on ignorance and wishful thinking can be a dangerous thing.

We have seen in recent times how ignorant opinion has morphed into belief and created such dangerous effects as the anti vaxers who ignore the overwhelming medical and scientific evidence to put not just their own children's lives at risk, but also the lives of other children. Now we have such laughably silly idea as the one that says face masks are mind control devices. Of course it's not really laughable, people are dying because of other peoples' refusal to wear masks. That dangerous nonsense is nobody's right to share.

Climate change is another big subject for the true unbelievers. For some it is just the slow rate of change, the frog in the saucepan principle, that feeds their clinging to disbelief. This is compounded by self interest for those in the fossil fuel industry and the fanatical fans of radio and television shock jocks who bandy ignorance about like lollies for children. Such people do not need real evidence, they have certainty instead. Still others are driven by fear of a dangerous future they cannot control. Much more comforting to sit back in the warm comfort of their ignorance.

This is one field we cannot ignore.. The change is here and now, creeping forward with the slow certainty of a glacier, the change not obvious but unstoppable nonetheless.

It's never too late of course, we have the support of science, the knowledge of evidence, the native intelligence of our species... and very little time.

Covid-19 will eventually subside, beaten by evidence based science, we desperately need the same and more to limit the menace of global warming.

*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 |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| Sept    | 16 AUG   | 29 AUG       |
| OCTOBER |          | 17 SEPT      |

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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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

the voice of the community

## MEMBER 2020

Boronia & The Basin  
Community News

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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

**Printing by Newspinters, Shepparton** Paul Kelly, General Manager.



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# Wedge-tailed Eagle

## ( Aquila audax)

*I am the Eagle, I live in high country,  
In rocky cathedrals that reach to the sky”*  
John Denver, “The Eagle and the Hawk”

A lot of people complain about the work they do, why do I get all the good jobs is the run of the mill sarcastic statement. I’ve been known to utter it myself, don’t worry about that. But sometimes I think to myself, hey, maybe I do get all the good jobs. Take the last three weeks for example. A building site next to Avalon airport near Little River. Flat, cleared land, not many trees, sheep, cattle and cropping farmland, nothing too exciting. The punch line here is that it is Raptor central, the number of birds of prey present is mind boggling.

While it would be quicker to tell you what I haven’t seen, here’s the list seen either on the job site or close by. Black Kite, Whistling Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Swamp Harrier, Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby (or Little Falcon), Collared Sparrowhawk, Little Eagle and the King of the airways, Wedge-tailed Eagle.

\*\*\*\*\*

Qantas, Virgin, Jetstar - household names emblazoned on the sides of the jets, all sitting idle. At least 40 of them are on the tarmac, like frozen apparitions. At first light their eerie forms take shape, struck down not by a mechanical fault or safety issue, but by a virus you need a microscope to see. But the birds don’t seem to mind. The Black and Whistling Kites hover and glide lazily over the silent monoliths all day long, seemingly trying to cajole them into action. 2 Wedgies often sit on the Avalon Airport training jet tail, a massive Jumbo, an ironic twist of fate.

\*\*\*\*\*

With a wingspan of up to 2.8 metres they are an enormous bird. Whilst airborne, the size is hard to gauge. Get up close and personal with one and you’ll be blown away. The photo accompanying this article was taken by yours truly, on my phone camera literally on the other side of the road. He is a juvenile bird (adults are much darker) which may account for his trusting nature. Those talons are much larger than my hands, once they clutch onto a rabbit or large bird, escape is not an option. My field guides say that wedgies have an incredible strike rate, once they chose a victim, they seldom miss. If you have ever seen a Wedge-tailed Eagles nest, you can’t believe your eyes. Without exaggeration, a man could hide in it if he crouched down. My friend Peter Fry owns a bush block in the Brisbane Ranges and last count had 5 on his property. We stand underneath them in awe, shaking our heads in disbelief. And the work in making them must be a task let me tell you. But something sinister goes on in these nests, believe me. Well, sinister by our standards. Wedgies normally lay 3, sometimes 4 eggs. 3-4 eggs means 3-4 chicks, right? No, not very often. The biggest chick of the clutch sometimes gets hungry in between the parents bringing food in, and what a tasty snack my smaller brother or sister could be. Eeeek, sibling rivalry just took on a new dimension. That’s why you often see three eagles together, Mum, Dad and the strongest chick of the brood.

That isn’t sinister really, that’s just nature at work. No, real evil is only ever undertaken by humans. Take the two recent cases, one in Gippsland and one in NE Victoria of men being prosecuted for killing these beautiful birds. Farmers have traditionally thought of the eagle as an enemy, a killer of lambs. I don’t know the number



Photo by Des Palmer

of healthy lambs they take, but surely one here or there doesn’t matter. 99.9% of farmers now leave these birds of prey alone, realising they do more good than harm by cleaning up dead animals on their properties.

I can’t let the opportunity pass to tell you something else I saw not far from the job site, at Western Lagoon, part of the WTP. A small flock of White-fronted Chats were feeding on the roadside when they suddenly took to the sky, a juvenile Collared Sparrowhawk managing to cut one out of the flock then seize it before disappearing. This all took about three seconds from whoa to go.

Sadly for me the Western Treatment Plant is closed due to the pandemic. Working next door to Australia’s premier birdwatching venue and not being allowed in is akin to giving an

alcoholic the keys to a distillery and on turning the key realises he’s been given the wrong one. Doh! While looking over the fence at Western Lagoon has been good (I’ve seen Brolga, Marsh Sandpiper and Bar tailed Godwit) it just isn’t the same.

Our field trips have started again but are now on hold again. We recently had a children’s birdwatching day at the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin. Pip, Emmy, Hamish, Riley, Maddie and Lily all enjoyed a great morning, seeing plenty of birds. We also spotted a Red Fox much to the delight of the kids, but not to your correspondent.

Des Palmer

## BBCN MEMORIES

### From Cann River:

By John Edgley

On the 7th July I was contacted by Rosemary Arnold of Cann River with a request for a copy of an article from our May 2006 paper. The article was presented by Pauline Brown, and was about the life of Ron

Edmenson who was a bomber pilot in the RAF in the Second World War and flew a remarkable 30 plus missions. After the war he migrated to Australia and joined the Royal Australian Air Force.

I found the article at the Boronia Library and with their help made a copy of both pages suitable for framing. The paper was the smaller version. I sent the parcel to Cann River and was contacted a few days later saying her father’s story was hanging on the wall.

## LETTER

### Re Des Palmer - July

Rather belatedly, I just read Des Palmer’s story of the pied cormorant in July’s edition of BBCN. I must say it was beautifully written and I congratulate Des for the strong feelings this work aroused in me. Well done!

Marion Tremlett





## Bob and Barry and an Electric Wire - they Live to Tell the Tale

On my morning walk along Forest Road, The Basin, it was Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and I came across Bob and Barry Valentine who looked in shock and excitedly told me of a large tree fallen across Forest Road, The Basin. Their eyes were bulging with shock as they explained that the tree had pulled down a 240 volt electric wire and both of them had been whipped by the wires and survived, one on the face and the other on his legs. They survived because the wire was severed on both ends otherwise they would never have lived to tell the tale. One of them then said that they immediately started to direct traffic away from the danger-local heroes indeed. Reminds me of a well-known song with a few changes to the words:

*"Bob and Barry and an electric wire,  
Merry, merry men, their pants weren't on fire  
Laugh, Bob and Barry, laugh Bob and Barry  
Gay your life must be!*

The tree fell right across the road blocking all traffic in both directions and power was off for some residents all day. The first fireman on the scene was Allan Small as he only needed to walk to the scene from home which was only 30 metres or so away.

The fire trucks from The Basin were unable to open their electric doors to let the trucks out to attend, so other fire trucks attended the scene first. Well done Bob and Barry and all the emergency services who attended on the day! Another job well done!

Lynette Hayhurst



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[www.boroniavet.com.au](http://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



Firstly, I want to also say my heart goes out to everyone in our beautiful community, I know this is tough, but together as we have been - lets stand together and continue to be kind to one another and help each other out, let's not lose that.

Thank you again to all of you who will continue to work on the frontline, thank you, thank you, thank you. So, please all, look after yourself, stay home, stay safe. We've done this once and we will do it again, together. Please also continue to help-out those who need it most and if you need help, never be afraid to ask for it.

Please remember that if you are sick, get tested and stay home. We've all got to play our part to help beat this virus. Doing that, ensuring we keep our distance, practicing good hand hygiene and wearing a mask will help us slowly reopen again and get to a 'COVID Normal'

Back in March we announced a \$1.7 billion economic survival package and as part of that we have now seen over \$44 million in payroll tax refunds and small business grants received by business across Knox and Maroondah. From talking to local business, cash in their pockets was what they needed most.

And again we know businesses need our support, that's why we announced a further \$534 million support package to help as many businesses and workers get to the other side of this. For more go to [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au)

Remember to anyone who has lost casual shifts or lost their job you can apply to be part of the 'Working for Victoria' scheme. Visit: [www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria](http://www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria)

Over the course of the journey we know we will need to do more and we absolutely will to help Victorian's navigate their way through this pandemic

'Getting On With it' – Project Updates

- \$250,000 to revamp 'The Train Park' in Bayswater so families can enjoy it for years to come

- \$300,000 to provide the Bayswater Junior Football Club with a new female friendly pavilion and upgrades to the existing pavilion

- Delivering over \$30 million of upgrades at local schools across our local area including Boronia K-12, The Basin Primary, St Bernadette's Primary and Boronia Heights Primary.



This editions shout out goes to the massive team on the ground (which includes well over 1,000 ADF personnel) doing contract tracing, testing, enforcing the restrictions, keeping us fed, keeping us safe, educating our kids and so many others who are continuing to work whilst so many of us get to work from the comfort of our homes, I know I've said it before but you deserve every amount of thanks and recognition you get! And thanks also to the team at the BBCN who are helping to keep the entire community informed during these rough times.

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](mailto: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.

*Knox Deputy Mayor, Ct Marcia Timmers-Leitch, and children with Jackson Taylor at the much loved train in Marie Wallace Reserve ("Train Park") in Bayswater.*

**Tell us what you think**  
**Tell us what you want**  
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**email: [john@malleebull.com](mailto:john@malleebull.com)**  
**This is your community paper**



# Jackson Taylor MP

State Member for Bayswater

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## A Silent Pandemic The Power of One

Experts are concerned that suicide rates will increase during the Covid-19 pandemic. Stephanie Dalziel of the ABC has written some eye-opening articles on this topic over the last few months.

In her May 6 article she tells us that annually over 3000 die of suicide a year in Australia and that modelling suggest Covid-19 may cause up to 750 extra deaths a year if the unemployment rate reaches 11%. Also, lifeline calls have increased by 25% and Beyond Blue by 40% since before the pandemic. To bring this home in Victoria in 2019 there were 726 deaths by suicide which is two a day, whilst the covid-19 death toll so far in just over 40 in 6 months, which if extended to a year and if it was four fold the current level of deaths, it would be one death in every three days, a sobering comparison and these figures without the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on suicide rates during 2020.

In 2018, in Australia of the 3,046 deaths by suicide which is 8.3 a day, of those 2,320 were males and 726 females, so three quarters of the deaths are males each year. On 5 June Kristian Silva from ABC News quotes in an article Judge John Cain the Victorian Coroner that these figures are, "staggering and really troubling... (and)...isolated people are at greater risk." With the current Victorian Stage 3 lockdown restrictions completely banning any visits in homes, this is a recipe for disaster. Traditionally, men are less likely to access professional support for mental health issues and are more likely to turn to friends for help and this is being prevented by the current lockdown rules. Ruth Vine is the newly appointed Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health for Australia and we need advocates at all levels and especially in this field to intervene to advise the Victorian government to reconsider the total isolation and allow at least one person to visit especially for those who live on their own.

Many more lives may be lost from suicide than Covid-19 if we continue this path of total isolation in homes. Allowing, like New South Wales during their lockdown one person in a home to visit would make a huge difference to the mental health, saving more lives during this challenging time. We need strong but wise, informed and compassionate leadership like Winston Churchill encouraging us to never give in, leaders who give us hope to help us navigate these unprecedented times.

As I have been on my morning walk and when I am



shopping I see in the eyes of those around me fear, anxiety and depression, it is palpable. On a personal level in my life, in my darkest hour I have experienced these emotions. It was a close friend who slowly and gently walked with me out of the darkness into the light. I know that you can make it too, I have seen someone close in my life, experience deep depression and feel hopeless over a long period of time, but those around him never gave up and neither did he and his life has completely turned around with that vital support. May the "power of one" be with you too.

I have some practical suggestions for increasing contact with others during the current restrictions.

1. Exercise with a friend, like walking, riding or running, it will work on two counts since you will have someone to talk to and send positive mood improving endorphins in your body.
2. Be open with your friends, self-revelations open the way to help others to open up but be respectful if they don't want to talk about their feelings. Provide a warm and positive environment for them to talk.
3. If you are really concerned about their welfare then do not be fearful of asking them directly how they are travelling or feeling. Are you okay is okay to say. Accept if they don't want to talk about it at least they know you care.

Also, it is important to consider reaching out to the following services for direct phone contact or visit websites to read about this important topic. There are people out there both personal friends and professionals who care and want to help you through this unprecedented time of stress and uncertainty. The following organizations provide for phone access and helpful websites with information and support.

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636 [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)  
Lifeline 13 11 44 [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)  
Mensline 1300 789 978 [mensline.org.au](http://mensline.org.au)

Lynette Heyhurst

## Knox reaffirms commitment to addressing homelessness & social housing

At its July 27 meeting, Knox City Council endorsed The Regional Local Government Homelessness & Social Housing Charter 2020. The purpose of this charter is the provision of housing as the critical first step to addressing the often complex social and health needs of homeless people.

The charter was determined following a forum of CEOs, senior staff, housing providers, peak bodies and State Government. The forum was initiated by Monash Council seeking to unite the 13 Councils in the east and south east, who together represent 2 million-plus residents, for urgent action on social housing.

A campaign on this important issue will begin in late August, once all Councils have had the opportunity to consider and endorse the Charter.

We will keep you up-to-date once the campaign commences and look forward to your support on this issue.

In addition, Council has issued the following statement regarding the State Government's announcement it will provide reusable face masks for vulnerable Victorians, to be distributed by local councils.

*Reusable face masks will be made available to those living with chronic conditions, people who are homeless or living in public housing and crisis accommodation, people living with a disability, people using family violence and mental health services, people using drug and alcohol services, refugees and Aboriginal people. People who are eligible to receive a mask will need to visit their local community health centre, or a local pharmacy. Knox Council will also be proactively distributing masks to vulnerable people in Knox. It is expected that the first deliveries will arrive this week. For more information about eligibility for free masks and how to get one visit the DHHS website: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/reusable-face-masks-covid-19>*

**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](http://www.bridgescc.com.au)

**Knox Seniors Safety Register**



Authorized by P Lockwood 511 Burwood Hwy Wantna Sth

**Cr Peter Lockwood** Knox City Council, Baird Ward





**PLEDGE** (People Linking to Embrace and Develop Gender Equality) is running a special series of three workshops for women to encourage and support them to gain confidence and discover their strengths and potential.

The workshops are suitable for local women who would like to be a stronger person in general, and/or are feeling they would like to make a difference or take on a role in their local organisation, club, school or community but don't have the confidence or know where to start.

Women experience subtle and not so subtle messages about gender limitations. These workshops challenge the narrative that women are somehow limited because of their gender and aim to support women to take a stronger or leading role in our local Knox community.

PLEDGE is inviting interested women to register their names for the workshop.

Please note- these workshops are dependent on the COVID19 restrictions being lifted. All participants will be notified if there are changes.

**Facilitator-** Julie Nicolaou (BSc Counselling) is an experienced qualified trauma informed professional with a demonstrated history of working in the not-for-profit sector. She is skilled in multiple therapies, coaching and counselling. She is passionate about seeing women fulfil their full potential.

**Dates** - Sundays 4th to 18th October 2020

Please sign up [here](#) for these workshops or Email Liz at [lSenior@each.com.au](mailto:lSenior@each.com.au) if you have any queries.

Time- 3x3 hour workshops on consecutive Sundays 10:00am-1:00pm Lunch provided.

The Basin Community House, 21 Liverpool Rd, The Basin.

Cost- There is no charge for these workshops.

Registration cut-off- Friday 25th September 2020

**Walking the News...**

**Distribution report**

**August Issue**

**NO Distribution Report for this month. If Covid-19 restrictions are eased in time we will resume normal distribution for our September issue.**



# Library to You

the library. If you have any friends who are not members and might

ERL and Council have been thinking a lot about vulnerable people in Knox. The library would like to offer you a free delivery service if you are interested.

There is no cost to you. You can phone your friendly library staff and ask for the books, magazines or DVDs you would like and we will deliver them directly to your door.

To make things easier for you, we have also removed the fines for late returns. You can read or watch at your leisure without rushing back to

benefit from the free delivery service, please ask them to phone their local branch. They can join up and use the free delivery service. They should tell the friendly staff that the "Boss" (the library CEO) told them to call.

Your friends will be set up as members in about two minutes by providing their name, address, and phone number. Their date of birth would be great, but is not a requirement. An email address too that would be useful so the library can keep in touch with news from the library.

**Joseph Cullen, Chief Executive**  
**John Mortimore, Board Chair**



# Experience Commitment Results

**VOTE 1 John Mortimore**

## Chandler Ward

**KNOX CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020**

### CURRENT POSITIONS:

Chair, Knox Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing Committee

Chair, Knox Environment Advisory Committee

Chair, Eastern Regional Libraries Board

Chair, Knox Disability Advisory Committee

Member, Knox Active Ageing Advisory Committee

Member, Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (Executive)

Member, Municipal Association (MAV) Environment Committee

Member, Metro Waste Forum

A founder and Vice President of The Basin Music Festival (16 years)

Editor, Boronia and The Basin Community News (25 years)

Firefighter, The Basin Fire Brigade (23 yrs, Life Member)

Member, The Basin Community House Committee of Management

Member, Boronia RSL



# PROFILE

by Lynette Hayhurst

## Heang SAR A Woman of Courage, Faith and Love.

This is the amazing story of Heang Sar and her first hand experiences in the palace of the King of Cambodia, wealth, persecution, protection, escape and a journey of faith.

Heang was born in 1943, into a Buddhist family in Cambodia. As she sits before me with her wavy black hair gently touching her shoulders, with a warm smile, she is a picture of calmness and humility. Heang will now tell you her story in her own words.

"As a child I was brought up in the Buddhist religion and my grandfather was a priest in the Palace of King Norodom of Cambodia. I remember my childhood and enjoyed it very much as I was very happy. We lived in Pnom Penh and I was given the opportunity to train in dancing as an 8 year old in the Palace School for the pleasure of the King and Queen, it was a wonderful time. After a few years I married a man called Ang Sui who was an engineer and he really loved me and life was good with him and we had six children three boys and three girls. We were a wealthy family with a chauffeur to drive my husband to his work and I was able to help others in need in my community.

However, everything changed suddenly when Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge came into power in 1975. That time came to be called the "killing fields," and I lived through those horrible times.

During Pol Pot's rule around two million Cambodians died of starvation, execution, disease or overwork and I was one of those who suffered with my family. Pol Pot's troops swarmed across the countryside invading villages and finally they arrived in our town in trucks, knocking on doors and forcing us out of our home into the forest with whatever we could carry. We had seen the poorer people earlier that day herded into the forest, then the sound of gunshots and the troops returned alone. This was the beginning of a nightmare of years on the run for me, my family and so many others. As we headed out of our town along the road we got very tired and so we went a few metres off the road to rest and eat. My oldest son Tony called out, "Mummy soldiers come back!" I said, "Shh" and the soldiers marched by but they did not see us. We knew we would be dead if they had seen us. A year later the troops came to where we were and found out that my husband was an engineer. They called him to the forest to question him and they bashed him so badly that he died. So, at that time I was left with my three boys and three girls all under 11 years of age.

A few months later my three daughters died from starvation and later on all of my brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews had been killed by the troops. It was during this time that I really learnt how to cry. I felt I wanted to die but my boys needed me. I heard my oldest boy Tony ask his brother, "Ty, will you take good care of Mum. If she died we don't know where we will live." Somehow, we kept going but more was to come.

The troops separated me from my boys for weeks and made me go into the forest along with others to chop down trees with axes. One day I lost my axe which meant I would be shot. As I lined up to return the axe, I was so scared but just when it was my turn to step forward a loud thunder clap sounded nearby and the soldier was so scared he told me to go away, so I did, I was saved again.

After more than three long years in the forest I decided to head on foot to the Thai border with my boys. It took four days and nights. At the border the officials only allowed us to cross if I could tell them my name, the names of my boys and their ages. With all the distress of these years on the run I was so traumatized that I lost my memory, I couldn't remember any of the information needed. My oldest son Tony, quickly made up all our names and ages and they allowed us to enter Thailand. We spent three long years in a refugee camp, but finally the day came when, in 1983, we were approved to live in Melbourne with my three boys and a girl I had adopted who had lost her parents."

Heang and her children made this country their home and her boys Tum, Ty and Tony have all become well respected members in their chosen professions. So many times in the forests of Cambodia she knew her family had been delivered from certain death. Heang believes she had been gently but powerfully protected by God, her hiding place, and guided to the shores of Australia to a new country and a new religion. She continues to be a much loved and respected woman in her community. Others turn to her in times of trouble and stress to bring peace and calm. Heang is a woman of faith who loves God with a passion and zeal and continues to love and serve others. She is a woman of great strength and courage and her story is one of endurance, love and hope.

Heang is one of my dearest and closest friends whom I have known for over ten years, that's why it's a special one this month.

Lynette Hayhurst





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# Saving energy in the colder months

With social distancing measures in place, many of us are spending more time at home. While this means more home cooking and cosy evenings in, it can also mean an increase in energy bills.

Here are some tips to save on gas and electricity year-round and particularly while the cold weather is still upon us.

## Keep the warmth where you want it

- Insulate to stay warm and reduce heat loss through windows. Choose the right curtains and blinds and install them properly to keep the heat from escaping.
- If you're not using your fireplace, block your chimney with a chimney balloon to stop heat escaping.
- Close doors between heated and unheated zones of the house.
- If you're renovating, consider where you want to keep the heat, and ensure that space is well sealed.
- Fit weather stripping and seals around door and window frames.
- Install a high-efficiency heater and make sure it is maintained to ensure your safety and keep it running well.
- In some cases, it might be cheaper to run the heater on your reverse cycle air conditioner than use gas heating.

## Use timers and thermostats

- Install a timer to allow you to turn the heating on before you get up in the morning and switch off automatically when you don't need it.
- Set your thermostat for between 18 and 20

degrees and adjust as necessary. Every extra degree adds 10% to your heating bill.

- Wear warmer clothes and add blankets for cosiness in living areas.

## Go solar

**Consider installing a solar energy system on your home. Solar Savers is a local government initiative designed to make solar easy and more affordable for Knox residents. Additional financial support is available for pensioners and low-income households.**

[www.solarsavers.org.au](http://www.solarsavers.org.au)

If you already have solar, you may be eligible for a rebate on a battery. Visit [www.solar.vic.gov.au](http://www.solar.vic.gov.au) to see if your suburb has been designated for rebates.

## Get advice from the experts

Knox City Council has partnered with the Australian Energy Foundation to help residents and businesses get free expert advice on how to improve energy efficiency, minimise their carbon footprint and even save money on their energy bills. Knox residents and businesses can call 1300 23 68 55 or email [advice@aef.com.au](mailto:advice@aef.com.au) to speak with an experienced energy advisor.

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# Hello Banjo

## (or: Making good use of downtime in a pandemic)

**Danny Nolan**

Mt. Evelyn Zoo and B&B or The Yarra Valley Nocturnal Zoo as it is now referred to had big plans for the year 2020 but like most things on the planet this year, these were disrupted and postponed until further notice. Or so one would assume.

When most businesses that involved public attendance in the state were being shut down due to Health Authority isolation procedures the zoo still needed to continue the massive task of feeding and caring for the animals (though the Bed and Breakfast section needed to close). Thankfully, most of the zoo's helpers are all involved with the NDIS. The majority of whom are young, have some learning disabilities and crave routine (as well as being devoted to the zoo's owners Steve and Loo) this was great for all involved.

Since there would be no customers for the B&B and School and aged centre tours were halted, plans that were in place but just needed time to implement could be now considered.

That time was now available.

One of these projects, a new information/learning centre was built for the school tours, complete with a small store. In the guise of a barn, it also became the new morning meeting place for the team members. It has a high ceiling with walls decorated with corrugated tin and life-sized animal statues scattered about.



*Banjo and zookeeper Madelyn*



*Banjo at his new home*

At the opposite end to the entrance are glass doors that open up to reveal the undulating fields below where the pens for the kangaroos, dingos, wedgetail eagle and potoroos among others could be viewed. Spread out below, the mountains of the Yarra Valley stretching out in the background completing a perfect picture.

Another huge change that occurred due to the Lodges of the B & B being unused, decisions were made that all but one was transformed into reptile houses.

The reptiles have now taken over.

An unexpected influx of snakes, frogs and frilled necked and monitor lizards that had become available had new digs in the once comfortable lodgings of weekenders. The decision to scale down the B & B was a planned event as it can be very labour intensive and heavily regulated but

since the zoo was even more regulated and labour intensive one gave way to the other. The B&B in this case losing out.

Then came something no one predicted.

Back in January of this year, I was talking to zoo owner and operator Steve Handy about the then devastating fires that were affecting the country at the time and the massive loss of wildlife in particular koalas on Kangaroo Island and regional New South Wales.

I asked if the zoo would be able to take some that were rescued but alas there are strict rules in place for koalas that have been rescued, whether hurt or saved from a fire zone, by the Victorian Department of Agriculture. All animals eventually must be rehabilitated back to the wild. Those unable to be (mainly due to ill health) must be euthanised.

Did you know it is illegal to have in your possession a dead koala? let alone a hide or skeleton. So imagine the regulations for owning a real one.

Steve said that all these things would always work against the zoo getting a tree-hugging marsupial but the odds were always stacked against them because only koalas bred in captivity were allowed in certain collections and that koalas only like specific kinds of gum leaves. Koalas can only live in bushland where their favourite trees are growing, and they will only eat a few of the hundreds of species of eucalypts which grow in Australia. Koalas in different areas of Australia like to eat the leaves from specific



*Head Zoo Keeper and Banjo hit it off immediately*



# Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

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the zoo wouldn't hold their breath.

Well like most things this year, the unexpected happened. The zoo was offered and was granted permission to house a male koala approximately seven years old. With this came the information not known earlier that koalas from different areas had tolerances to other types of gums, notably Stringybark blue-leaved, thin-leaved and swamp gum (or Ovata). Gums readily available locally at Lillydale Lake. The local council has been very generous in letting the zoo prune swamp gum from the lake when it wants. It was then discovered the zoo had a good supply on its own property's outer border.

Of course, with the new arrival, a proper habitat needed to be built. Steve, for such a laid-back type of guy, knows how to design and build with a speed that never ceases to amaze me.

On April 30 Banjo had arrived (he kept his name from his previous residence) and was an instant favourite of all the zookeepers. Banjo was used to humans and had no problem being handled or being patted. Which was an advantage because everybody wanted to

hug Banjo.

I was lucky enough when the first lockdown ended to be able to visit Banjo. The first thing you realise is that a koala's

fur is like a little kitten. So soft and fine. Up close they are the most amazing creatures. It is also obvious that when a koala is comfortable, they do not wake up or move for anyone.

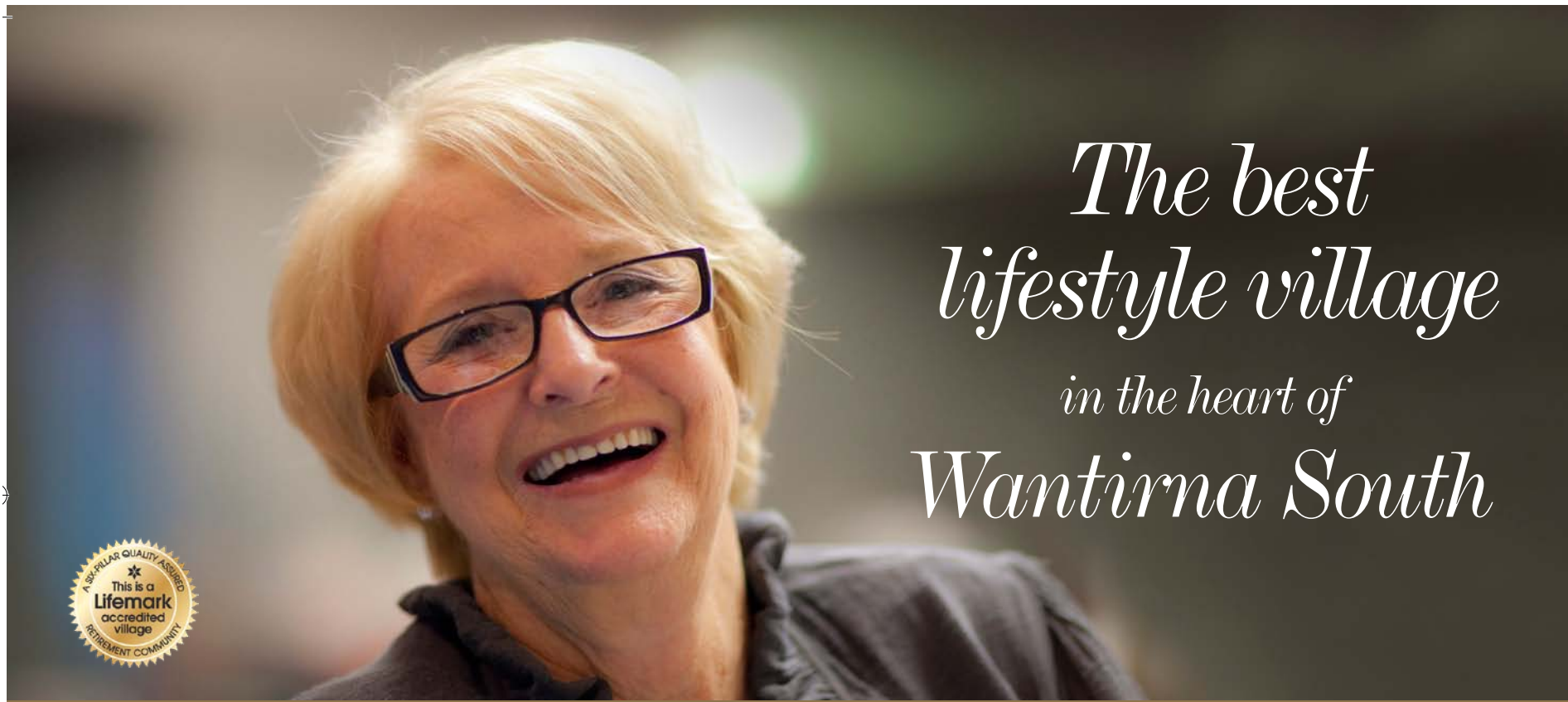
With the recent Summer fires there was a decimation of a large number of koala's and their habitat, for example, according to the Government of S.A Dept. of Environment web site, before the fires there were an estimated 50,000 koalas on Kangaroo Island – about half in native vegetation and half in blue gum plantations. Large areas of their preferred habitat have been burnt, and a substantial number of koalas are expected to have died, add this to the Southern New South Wales carnage, and it has highlighted how vulnerable these and other native animals are.

I'm pretty sure Banjo doesn't know what he's in for when the zoo starts night tours when this whole pandemic thing clears up. Because a chance to have a cuddle with a koala this close to home is a chance too good to miss.




types of gum trees. For instance, koalas in Victoria eat the leaves of different gum trees from those eaten by koalas in Queensland.

So, when it came to having a koala as an attraction,



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# \$500,000 BOOST FOR BORONIA

Boronia will benefit from a \$500,000 Suburban Activity Centre investment to support the community, to undertake projects such as minor infrastructure upgrades and maintenance, community activities and local business activation.

The injection is part of a \$6 million investment in suburban and neighbourhood centres announced by the Andrews Government as part of the Building Works stimulus program – creating local jobs for more locals, to help them through this tough time.

Boronia, along with Melton, Tarneit, Reservoir, Lilydale and Noble Park will share in \$3 million provided for suburban activity centres.

The \$500,000 investment will be used to help improve the local areas through on-ground works including upgrades to parks, public spaces, increased lighting, public art installations and new footpaths and bike paths. Mr Taylor will be working closely with Council to deliver an exciting project and will keep the community informed every step of the way and will continue to advocate for further investment for Boronia's activity centre.

Local shopping strips will share in a further \$3 million provided through the Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Fund, providing grants of up to \$100,000 to stimulate business activity, support local economies and improve public amenity and accessibility during the coronavirus pandemic.

Knox is among 31 local government areas across Melbourne that will benefit from these works. Mitchell Shire is also part of the program.

The Victorian Government will work with local government, business and the community sector to deliver the initiatives. Councils are encouraged to put

## STOP PRESS

forward projects that are ready to launch.

The Victorian Government has invested more than \$9 billion towards protecting Victorians from the health risks and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Taylor welcomed this investment to kick-starting the improvement of the Boronia CBD and that he is excited that this journey has begun.

More information about the Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Fund is available at <https://www.suburbandevelopment.vic.gov.au/grants/neighbourhood-activity-centre-renewal-fund>

Applications for the fund will close on Friday, 21 August 2020.



## How We See Ourselves!

I spend some time every day walking for my general health. A lot of times, I walk by a tree-lined creek, listening to the bird life, smelling the different smells, saying 'hello' to others using the path, and generally I am enjoying myself or sorting myself out!

We have an ongoing problem with graffiti artists who believe they are enhancing the walls and fences in the area, but who mar the environs for others. However, one day recently I saw some positive messages pencilled on the pathway. The first one said – "Keep hydrated!" The second and third messages were positively reinforcing – "You're beautiful!" and "Be proud of yourself!" It is amazing how it makes you feel, when someone encourages you in this way. I feel that these young people, and that is who I think is passing on these messages, want to suggest to us how much better we would feel if we were to encourage and uplift people including ourselves.

It is easy especially at this time of isolation and restriction to feel hate for the world and all those in it that don't want to help our communities stay safe, and also a time when we can feel depressed and down on ourselves. But we are not alone even if sometimes we feel we are – there is always someone who cares about us, even though we find it hard to believe that. That person is God.



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## More people are shopping online and ethically!

At Etiko we make only organic, vegan and fairtrade clothing and we have noticed that more people are buying our brand during the pandemic than ever. We have had an increase in sales (**28% up on last year**), enquiries and engagement from new customers and welcomed back many old customers during this crisis and it fills us with hope.

While half the world has been asked to stay at home to save lives, it seems shopping habits migrate from the streets to the couch. So what is the difference in how people shop when they shop online as opposed to hanging around shopping malls and strips?

Well, we've considered two possibilities.

People buy less but more considered, if you think about the amount of temptation for seasoned shoppers, in a fast fashion outlet bookended with sale tickets and 'the paradox of plenty' the allure of low prices can lead to more items in the basket for the price of peanuts. So if we take the fluorescent lighting and pop music out of the equation and move to the lockdown couch we've fewer distractions and potentially the ability to stay focussed and think about the social issues attached to fashion and clothing



manufacturing and not buy anything that clashes with our values. Too much clothing has plastic in the fabrics as well as the packaging, fast fashion is renowned for textile dumping and modern day slavery. Sure it's nice to treat yourself and loved ones, but it doesn't have to be a cheap thrill!

People are tuning their behaviour to match their beliefs. Organic food and clothing is important, it means no chemicals in the farming or the processing. Organic also means no petrochemicals which can be



found in rubber soles, vinyls and sometimes fabric dyes. Organic is irrefutably better for the environment and better for the makers. Fairtrade certification is important because it requires a living wage be paid to everyone in the supply chain, not just the sewers, even the farmers and couriers. Many brands say they are ethically made but unless they are certified you honestly cannot be certain everyone is getting paid correctly or that it's 100% organic. Vegan is another issue with clothes, animal products can be found in glues, fabric dyes again and we're talking about hooves and skins.

We hope that given the time and the acute focus on 'what does the future look like?' has inspired more people to live more ethically. We're cooking at home more, spending more time at home with family and focussing on comfort as opposed to heels and neckties.

Ethical fashion is all of our futures and Etiko are the leaders in this field- 15 years of doing no harm, organic, vegan, fairtrade and recycled/compostable packaging. Etiko are a B-corp business, Social traders certified, FairTrade, GOTS, Received a Human Rights award and consistently achieve an A+ Accreditation in the Baptist World Aid fashion report. We think it's so important to do the best we can that we created a *Guide to Ethical Living* for our newsletter subscribers too!!

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**Boronia Mall, Dorset Square**

**For more information or details contact Sally Cunningham: [sally@etiko.com.au](mailto:sally@etiko.com.au)**



## Keep Australia Beautiful Week 2020

**17-23 August 2020**

Keep Australia Beautiful Week is held late August each year to raise awareness about the simple things we can all do in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment and encourage action. Don't forget to share your photos, success and updates on social media using #KABWeek2020 Facebook: @ **keepaustraliabeautiful** Twitter: @ KABNAHQ Instagram: @ **keepaustraliabeautiful**



# Millers Homestead, Boronia

## Future Use of Miller's Homestead

On 30 March 2020, Council considered a report on the potential future uses of Miller's Homestead. The report brought together your feedback, Council officer research and the results of the feasibility study. Council agreed with the results of the community consultation, that 73% of the community preferred Miller's Homestead to be used for proactive programming, and art and a history centre, managed by a community or not-for-profit group.

We are currently recruiting a Project Officer who will be focused on the work required for Miller's Homestead, including undertaking the Expression of Interest to find a community or not-for-profit group, and getting the facility ready for its new use.

The Project Officer will also set up a Community Reference Group, giving the community an opportunity to be more involved with Miller's in the future. The opportunity to apply for the Community Reference Group will be advertised via the Miller's Homestead mailing list and Council's website and social media channels.

### COVID-19 Update

Please note that due to the current pandemic and the declared State of Emergency, Miller's Homestead is closed. No bookings for the facility will be accepted at this time.



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Well would you believe it? Last time I was talking about the relaxation of restrictions and since then we have been on a real roller-coaster ride. Just when we were looking forward to an improvement in our social lives, things went pear-shaped! What next? Time will tell.

Just as well us Over50s are a resilient lot! It takes a lot of inner strength to stay positive at a time like this and we hope you have been managing as best

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as only you can through all the recent turmoil. Stay positive – a wise person once said "this too shall pass". Everything does.

If you are in need of assistance please reach out to family, friends or local community groups as soon as possible. Don't be afraid to say you are struggling – a lot of people do under such trying circumstances.

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| <p>Contact the Knox Council offices if you are unsure of where to obtain help. Telephone number is (03) 9298 8000. Or, If you are tech savvy, information is available at <a href="http://knox.vic.gov.au">knox.vic.gov.au</a>.<br/>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.<br/>Although all our meetings and other activities have been cancelled or postponed for some time now, we remain hopeful that 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.<br/>In the meantime, if you would like to check with us regarding any changes to the situation, please contact Jill on 9801 4363.<br/>Best wishes from all of us to all you over-50s. Take care of yourselves and those around you.</p> | <p><b>LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB KNOX</b><br/>No visitors, no dine-outs, no cinema, no hugs, are we there yet??? Next day; What a difference a day makes!, today 11<sup>th</sup>. May, we can have five visitors!! Maybe by the time this issue reaches you, lock-down 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.<br/>As for the activities provided by this club, <b>Life Activities Club Knox</b>, 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.<br/>Armchair Travel, Cinema, Cards, Lunch, walks, Hang</p> | <p>in there, we can probably meet in June.<br/>For sure, our Anniversary will be advertised.<br/>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:<br/><b>Carol on 9727 2726</b><br/>Or contact us on <a href="http://www.life.org.au/knox">www.life.org.au/knox</a></p>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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**KEEPING**

**OUR**

**LOVED**

**ONES**

**SAFE**

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**US**

**TOGETHER**

It's up to all of us to keep our friends and families safe.

- No more than 5 visitors at your home.
- Outside the home, families and friends can meet in groups of up to 10.
- If you do have to see people, keep your distance. No handshakes or hugs. Maintain good hygiene. Don't share food or drinks.
- If you're feeling unwell - you must stay home. Don't visit friends and family. Don't go on holiday. Don't go to work. Stay home.

And if you have symptoms - get tested.

This is a wake up call. We cannot be complacent.

The only thing between us and a second wave is what we do next.

**STAYING**

**APART**

**KEEPS**

**US**

**TOGETHER**

**For details go to [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](https://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)**

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