

# Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS



Issue 293  
Oct. 2020



## ELECTION ISSUE



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

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## From the Editor...

### How I learned to hate Telstra...



Everyone it seems has a sorry tale about a telco or two. The usual solution to a service complaint is the ubiquitous "...turn off your computer then turn it back on" and it mostly works. But for a real problem it's the musical chairs of various 'technicians', few of whom are easily understood. Only the sales people seem capable of grasping the problem and applying a solution that works, well almost.

It's been a month now... a whole month with no emails in or out! When most of my work involves emails this is not a happy situation. Campaigning? Sorry, no time. I'm waiting for a robot to return my call. No, I'm not kidding. Several times as I struggle through this electronic wilderness I have been referred on to a robot. Like the sales people, the robot is sympathetic and helpful sounding, three or four times I have even been promised a solution. I'm not sure quite what the solution is but the robot sounded very hopeful. Each time it has promised me redemption with "I'm sending you an email.."

Well, that's nice... an email. Emails can be very useful, but I'm not sure how this will work when the problem is that I cannot send or receive emails. The robot has cheerfully signed off, solution imminent, before I have time to explain this dilemma.

Another few hours I will never see again, but I live in hope.

Meanwhile, a five minute setup solution is "malleebull39@gmail.com"

My sincere apologies to all those who have tried to email me in the past month and yes, a month gone now since the big storm, the falling trees and instant darkness...

When the lights came back on in four days, Telstra was gone and the long wait began.

Life is too short to spend it waiting on smart machines

Email:

malleebull39@gmail.com

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 House &**



Ferntree Gully  
**Community Bank® Branch**  
**Bendigo Bank**

**SUPPORT YOUR PAPER**



### BBCN Deadlines & Distribution 2020

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
NOV	20 OCT	31 OCT
December	17 Nov	28 Nov

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**

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**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 Newsprinters, Shepparton** Paul Kelly, General Manager.

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# Royal Spoonbill

( *Platalea regia* )

When I was a lad, and I reiterate, it wasn't that long ago, this bird fascinated me. For those who haven't seen one, it is has got just that, a bill in the shape of a spoon. With wide sweeping scythe like movements through shallow muddy wetlands it searches for yabbies and other invertebrates with its super sensitive bill. Like most birds though, unless you go to the right places to look, you'll never see one. Our local wetland over on Eastlink called Rigby's is normally a very reliable spot to see them, but sometimes they just aren't there.

In flight they can easily be mistaken for Ibis, I certainly have to do a doubletake each time I see Ibis flying overhead. I know, I know, I say it every time, but they are a stunning looking bird. Take a look at Kim's photo of one, what a photo. We are absolutely blessed to have these photos from Kim each month. Visit her website *Lirra Lirra* to view her stunning photography. She is recognised all over the world for her photography, not hard to see why when you look at photos like this.

We have two species of Spoonbill in Australia (both moderately common in Victoria), the Royal and the Yellow-billed Spoonbill, with both species intermingling in some situations. The Yellow-billed often has an amount of muddy discolouration on his plumage, in stark contrast to the Royal who is always immaculately clean with plumage as white as the driven snow.

I have just recently finished a job on a new bridge over Altona creek in Altona Meadows and, for some reason that I can't explain, several species of wader would sometimes come very close to the bridge while feeding, seemingly oblivious to the men working right near them. I got as close to a Great Egret, Intermediate Egret and Black-winged Stilt that I would ever have dreamt possible, and couldn't believe my eyes when I lifted my welding helmet to find five Royal Spoonbill feeding about 10 metres from me. You'd take that any day of the week you could

get it. And yet the men working all around me were even more oblivious, they didn't notice the birds at all. Huh, go figure. That is except for my mate Dave who claims a Toucan flew over while I was welding. And then an hour later reckons a Pterodactyl soared overhead but by the time he sung out to me it was gone. I have to put up with a lot on these job sites, honest I do. Especially from Dave.

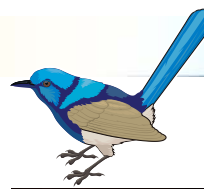
I don't want to open a can of worms or in any way offend people of faith who believe humans and perhaps all animals didn't evolve but were created, but how, or maybe who, could have dreamed up this bird's bill. I personally believe in evolution, and believe evolution in no way discounts the possibility of a higher being. But whoever or however this bird's bill was designed, it's pretty well out there, isn't it?

And on the subject of bills, every single species of bird has a bill which is highly specialised for the efficient consumption of food to give them the energy to continue. Go on, say it, no kidding, of course that's just elementary, but think about it. A bird of prey's bill, ideal for tearing apart meat. A Cockatoo or Parrot's bill for cracking hard seeds or tearing timber apart in search of grubs. Finches' beaks for finding and picking up tiny seeds.

The list goes on, you'll all be bored to tears if I continue: you get it.

## Field Trips

Our field trips have started up again if any newcomers out there are thinking of joining us. On a personal level, I just love meeting all the people who have come along on our field trips,



## Our Page 3 Bird



Royal Spoonbill by Kim Wormald

it's a fantastic experience to meet people with a similar interest in the natural world. The going out into the bush and seeing birds, mammals and plants also gets me fired up too, I just love it. So if anyone reading this has had their interest piqued, (I love using words like that too) come along. You may have knowledge on something to share with us, or want to learn from the group, we have a wealth of knowledge between us. Fresh eyes can also pick up the most unlikely of things which increases our appreciation of the wildlife we must cherish; much more than we have .

Des Palmer arc\_up\_welding@live.com.au



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# Stringybark

## Virtual Festival 2020

Coming Live to your Backyard  
Sun 18 October



Live on Facebook  
**KnoxArtsandEvents**  
[knox.vic.gov.au/stringybark](https://knox.vic.gov.au/stringybark)

This is a virtual program recorded in compliance with the Victorian Government's current COVID-19 restrictions.





## Beat Up or Blunder?

It has never been my practice to argue local government conflicts in this paper, but when untenable accusations of incompetence and bias form the base of an election opponent's campaign against me then I claim the same right of reply as any aggrieved victim.

This concerns a planning permit on the historic Ferndale site in The Basin and some of the most basic principles of town planning and mutual respect.

Every piece of land has a planning scheme which may contain zones and overlays to protect land owners and the neighbourhood, allowing certain activities and structures while restricting others. When you buy a piece of property you are also buying the right to do things that comply with the planning scheme. I do not believe that any home-owner or ratepayer should be arbitrarily stripped of their property rights without very good reason. We rely on respect for the planning scheme to protect our environment, both built and natural, from inappropriate development and environmental damage. We can't just pick and choose which part of the planning scheme to comply with.

In the case of Ferndale, the historic site is subject to the restrictions and permissions of a Rural Conservation Zone that includes designated permission to operate a restaurant on the site.

The first I heard of the application for a planning permit was in a very brief side conversation with the main objector at the annual Knox Sport and Recreation Awards on June 6th, 2019. The impression I got from the description of what was planned was something like an all-night licensed King Street nightclub on the edge of the National Park. My response was to the effect that "there's no way that would get up". Remember, this was a very brief conversation in a crowded room with no notes. Although my mental image of the permit application was unclear, it was very much in keeping with descriptions in many later emails. It was an example of the argument by exaggeration that was to dominate the debate. What the owners actually proposed was a small, high-class Japanese restaurant entirely within an existing building, tucked into the heavily treed slope

Article authorised by J Mortimore 44 Inverness Ave, The Basin

amongst the trees, not visible from the surrounding roads and operating normal restricted restaurant times. It could hardly be more discrete. However, in all the statements of opponents, 'small' and 'discrete' are missing terms.

At a personal level, this was just six days before my wife was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and my attention was consequently disrupted for some time. Nonetheless, I fulfilled all my Councillor duties and more. Meanwhile, the objector corresponded with the Mayor of that time, Cr Jake Keogh, who gave him written advice on the available planning appeal options. Worth noting is that it is not necessary that objectors live in the vicinity of the subject property. Any Knox resident with an interest in the application or objections could lodge an objection themselves. I am told Ms Dwight did not lodge an objection although she was eligible to do so.

I twice visited the subject site to seek any compelling reason for stripping the owners of the property of their zoning permission -- and found none. Much has been made by Ms Dwight of my visit to the site and the fact that I knew the site manager personally as if there was something sinister in this. The manager is a Fire Brigade

colleague and a person of impeccable good character and honesty. Worth noting is that at least one of the VCAT commissioners also subsequently visited the site for the same reason and with the same outcome as me.

Amongst the things I have been repeatedly accused of are not 'calling in' the planning application rather than allowing an officer to make the judgement under delegation. The truth is that because there were insufficient objections I was not notified of the application and when I said that no-one had asked me I was treated with contempt. The untruthful exaggerations continue into the present.

The main objector has some grounds for disliking the proposed restaurant, particularly increased street traffic, but neither the Council nor VCAT believed it was sufficient grounds for refusing the permit. We would all like less traffic in our street.

I understand people wanting to put their case as forcibly as they can, but that does not justify deliberate exaggeration to knowingly distort the truth. This case has been beset with untruthful exaggeration from the outset and denials can't change that, nor refusing to look at or consider the evidence of which there is plenty.

**Truth should not be optional.**



Coach on Old Coach Road, near Ferndale Circa 1880 Men dismounted to help around sharp bend.

# Peter Lockwood

Councillor

Knox City Council, Baird Ward

## Keep Knox in safe hands



crpeterlockwood@gmail.com



CrPeterLockwood

Authorised by Peter Lockwood

PO Box 2001 Bayswater 3153

**Vote 1 Peter Lockwood**



## Your Local MP Report

Sponsored by Jackson Taylor MP



# Major revitalisation boost for Boronia

Boronia is one of six town centres in metropolitan Melbourne to receive a revitalisation boost as part of the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Program.

As part of the Building Works Stimulus Package, the Program is funding shovel-ready projects in Boronia, Melton, Noble Park, Reservoir, Lilydale and Tarneit.

Each site will receive \$500,000 from the state government for local infrastructure projects to improve public space and amenity while supporting local jobs and stimulating local business and community activity. This investment will play an important role in Boronia's coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery

*"We all know Boronia is in need of a bit of love – it's the biggest shopping precinct out our way, next to Eastland and Knox Westfield. We all want to see it live up to the potential we know it has,"* said member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor. *"To kick-start the revitalisation of the Boronia Town Centre, the State Government is investing \$250,000 with a co-contribution from Knox City Council of \$370,000 for a major revitalisation of Lupton Way, in Boronia."*

This will mean that the tired, old laneway between the shops and Boronia Station will be completely overhauled – turning it into a pedestrian prioritised zone that will prioritise pedestrians while providing for station pick up, drop off and loading areas for local shops. An original artwork will be commissioned that improves lighting in Lupton Way, making it a safer place to use for locals.

Minister for Suburban Development Shaun Leane stated, *"We are all living more locally. Investments like this will create jobs closer to home and support local businesses, while giving locally loved places, like Boronia a much-needed boost."*

The Victorian Government will work with Knox

Council and other local stakeholders to explore further opportunities for co-investment in Boronia, including the Green Spine Corridor, Boronia Train Station Concept Plan, laneway galleries and gateway public art, placemaking and much more.

Jackson Taylor said, *"I'm so pleased to have been able to secure this funding for a project that will overhaul this laneway – benefitting businesses, cafes, pedestrians and commuters alike."*

*"It's an important first step – and more needs to be done. I'm looking forward to working closely with Council on further opportunities to help bring Boronia back to life and to back in businesses that are doing it tough. This is the start of change in Boronia. I'm so pleased to have been able to secure this funding for a project that will overhaul this laneway – benefitting businesses, cafes, pedestrians and commuters alike."*

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For more information on Suburban Development programs go to [www.suburbandevlopment.vic.gov.au](http://www.suburbandevlopment.vic.gov.au).

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# 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



# Walking the News...



## Distribution report

### October Issue

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

Our grateful thanks to Ross Ellard and Steve Masters, who have resigned from their rounds. We are grateful for your help for many years and wish you both well.

We hope all our walkers and drivers are keeping well. We hope to resume normal printing as soon as possible.

Please let me know if your circumstances have changed or if you intend to take a break as soon as lockdown has ended.

**Permanent Walking rounds currently**

#### available are:

The following rounds are available, if you can assist with these deliveries, please contact me, details below.

#### The Basin:

The Basin Shops: 95 Papers  
Doongalla Rd, Simpsons Rd, Milleara Rd & part Sheffield Rd inc Salvation Army Farm: 60 papers

#### Boronia:

Part Woodmason both sides (Power Rd to Reserve). Power Rd (Part): 120 Papers

Part Hazelwood Rd, part Dorset Rd, part Wattleree Road, Wadi St., Sutton Av., Phylliss Av., Esther Ct., Aubrey Gve. (190 papers)

#### Wantirna:

Lewis Rd (part), Allanfield Cr., Kleinert Rd (part) Roselyn Cr., Russell Cr., Charlotte Rd., Annette Grve. (145 papers)

#### Temporary / Casual walkers or drivers:

*For further information on the above rounds, or if you can assist with any deliveries on a casual or temporary basis, we would love to hear from you. There are always people away on holidays or temporary sick, so if you have any time to assist just once a month, please phone Veronica on 0403 522 308. Please note these are voluntary positions.*



## Ferntree Gully Arts Society Picture of the Month.

ENDORSED BY THE KNOX RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Jude DWIGHT



*Make the Change,  
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Yvonne ALLRED

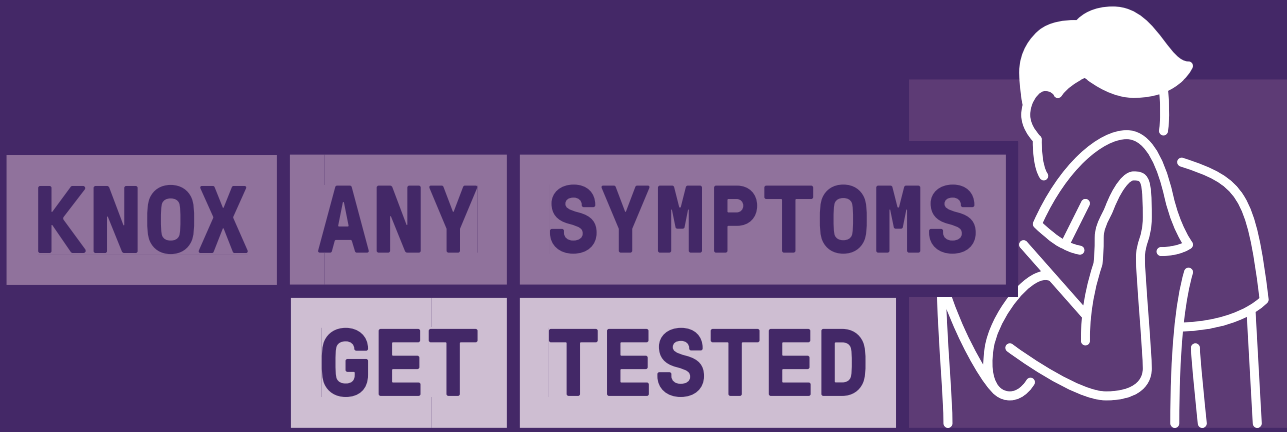


Independent for  
**Baird Ward**



f YvonneAllredBaird





It's important to get tested for coronavirus at the first sign of any symptom and stay home until you get your result.

- Ferntree Gully - EACH  
Weekdays: 9.00am - 12.45pm  
1.15pm - 3.30pm
- Melbourne Pathology -  
Ferntree Gully  
Weekdays: 8.30am - 4.30pm
- Rowville Respiratory Clinic  
By appointment only
- Dorevitch - Ferntree Gully  
Weekdays: 8.30am - 4.00pm  
Sat: 9.00am - 12.00pm
- Westfield Knox  
Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Bookings are required at some testing locations.

Opening hours subject to change.

Getting tested means you keep yourself, your friends, family, workplace and your community safe. It's not over yet.



For more details visit [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](https://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





## A LOCKDOWN DINNER DATE WITH FRIENDS - TRY IT

Rule Breakers? Well, we did sit at the table opposite our friends from another household. We did share the same meal, and we did spend a couple of hours talking together; but we didn't break the rules.

Our time together was online, through a free video sharing application (Google Meet). Both couples prepared the same main course and dessert, kept to the same timetable and connected online at the agreed time. Both had the screen showing the other couple on the table opposite them, and it was not a bad substitute for the real thing.

The same plan works with games too, and with multiple couples, so why not try it? It doesn't really matter where the other people are, they could even be interstate or overseas perhaps. It's a great idea.

John Pernu

## Thanks Maggie

Recently I was walking on the bike path alongside Underwood Road. My companion was a Staffordshire Terrier who was being "babysat". I've always thought that these dogs were a bit of a bulldozer, and sure enough, and before I realised, he had crossed in front of me and I fell forward right over the top, landing splat on the ground. Apart from a bit of bruising to my right leg and arm, the main injury was to my pride.

Anyway, as I got up and dusted myself down, running up to me came Maggie - she had been driving past at the moment that I fell. She parked in a side street and ran to see if I was alright. A similar fall had happened to her the previous week; she still had the hole in her trouser leg to prove it.

Just a special little example of caring for others. Such acts go on all the time, but they don't usually make it into the news. I'd never met Maggie before, but actions like hers are really infectious - it would be great to be able to publish "contact tracing" for such acts of care and concern.

John Pernu

### ESSENTIAL HEALTH FOODS

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

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Suite 1, 178 Boronia Rd, Boronia

## Energy Insurance

When the many downed trees took out all power to The Basin on August 27th, local butcher Russell thought he had an inconvenience on his hands.

He was wrong. It was much worse. When the usual few hours became three days much of his stock was no longer safe and had to be dumped. Anyone who encountered Russ on the fourth day could attest to the fact that he was not a happy butcher.

So he did something about it and, as you can see below, he bought a generator that could carry him through any future power outage - insurance against the inevitable/.

Russell even claims he could power the entire shopping precinct!!

Let's hope that's not a prediction.



### Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

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

\*Serving the community for over 45 years\*

181 Boronia Road, Boronia (Cnr Langwith Ave)  
[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 client 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.

## When Nature Comes Calling

It began with a sound like a big truck rushing up the highway, transforming quickly into a jumbo jet coming in to land.

"He's low," I thought, as the rush became a roar.

Then the sound of branches and trees falling, very loud, very close!

A moment close to panic with my wife at the opposite end of the house as big branches crashed onto our steel roof and the lights went out, then a massive crash that surely heralded major damage.

Out of the shadowy impact zone emerged the familiar figure. SAFE!

It's surprising how quickly a threat to our loved ones can wipe away all other concerns. No lights, no Internet, no phone, no video... instant transformation. But we're safe and beyond that little else matters.

Smaller branches kept raining down and several times the house shook from heavy impacts nearby.

Almost as quickly as it began, the thrashing of vegetation and shower of smaller branches subsided and the savage windstorm swept up the mountain and away.

In the aftermath the scale of the damage is almost overwhelming. We have half a very big tree on our roof and a swathe of destruction through my treasured rainforest. Some will grow back, others are gone and, for the first time in a decade, we can see our neighbours' back porch.

But our damage is light compared to some, such as the Fern Street, The Basin house on our front cover. Fortunately there was no-one home when the storm threw a couple of huge old pine trees through the house, followed by some smaller trees to complete the damage.

Now the ravine resounds to chainsaws and wood chippers, still clearing the mess a month on... or taking out suspect trees before the next storm comes. Our world is warming and most weather, hot or cold, is driven by heat

John Mortimore

### The Internet

## Laundrette

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Photos: Top left, Melbourne Tree Care up in the tree tops taking down a dangerous tree. Above. A tree trunk on my roof, precariously balanced and unstable. Left. Inverness Avenue with powerlines supporting a copse of fallen trees.

# William Matthews Funerals

45 Cave Hill Rd, Lilydale

24 HOUR SERVICE - ALL AREAS

Despite the current COVID-19 outbreak and restrictions we can still hold funerals within the Government Guidelines

Live streaming of funerals is available to accommodate those unable to attend.



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[www.williammatthewsfunerals.com.au](http://www.williammatthewsfunerals.com.au)

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## Backing In Grassroots Cricket Locally

Our local grassroots crickets will soon be enjoying better facilities at Miller Park Reserve, with the announcement of funding through the Community Cricket Program – Community Facilities stream.

Local Member for Bayswater, Jackson Taylor, announced \$89,000 in funding to upgrade facilities at Miller Park.

The ground is the home of the Knox Boronia Churches Cricket Club – the Burras – and the funding will see the demolition of the old and unsafe nets and the construction of a new outdoor enclosed three bay cricket net training facility, bringing the facilities into the 21st century.

The project is one of 15 across the state to share in \$1.4 million from the fund.

With over 235,000 registered cricket participants across the state for 2019-2020, Victoria is the national home of cricket. That number is expected to rise this summer thanks to Australia's inspirational win at the recent 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final at the home of cricket the MCG.

That's why the Andrews Government is getting on with modernising cricket facilities so clubs like the Burras and communities can cater for even more Victorians, particularly women and girls keen to get involved in cricket.

This initiative is part of the Government's commitment to sport and active recreation by developing high quality, accessible community infrastructure that encourages all Victorians to get out there and get active.

Victorian Government is also encouraging Victorians

to stay active at home with the new Get Active Victoria platform that aims to motivate Victorians to move more, every day.

Mr. Taylor also acknowledged Knox Council, who

will be delivering this great local project and their financial contribution.

For more information visit [www.getactive.vic.gov.au](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au)

The fund is part of over \$915 million government investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure, since 2014.



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your city



## Knox Seniors Festival 2020

There's something for everyone.

Featuring: Retro Aerobics, Author Talks, Thriving at any age presentation, Art Club and more.

Don't miss: A morning with Athol Guy on Friday 9 October, 10.30am.

Contact Linda on 9298 8828 or [linda.keenahan@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:linda.keenahan@knox.vic.gov.au)

See the full program at [Knox.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival](http://Knox.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival)



**KNOX**  
your city

## Community Training

Check out the free workshops on offer in Knox City Council's Community Training Program in October & November.

Workshops are open to individuals, community groups, clubs and not-for-profit organisations in Knox to help members develop new skills and network with other community groups.

Bookings essential.  
Go to [knox.vic.gov.au/communitytraining](http://knox.vic.gov.au/communitytraining) or phone 9298 8000







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An Information Resource Centre for the Community

## COVID 19 RESPONSE

For Knox residents and those that are homeless who are struggling in these challenging times: We can offer the following Free Services based on assessment:

### Food parcels

- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable parcels
- Frozen meat trays
- Snack Packs
- Bread
- Toiletries
- Re-usable

### Information, Referral & Advocacy

Information & referral to Household Relief  
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Telstra Assist & Phone Cards

Energy Mentors

Homeless Tailored Packages

Shower Program

Chemist Vouchers

MYKI Cards

Home Delivery Service for those in isolation, with serious health conditions, those outside the 5 km radius of our office and other extenuating circumstances

And More.....

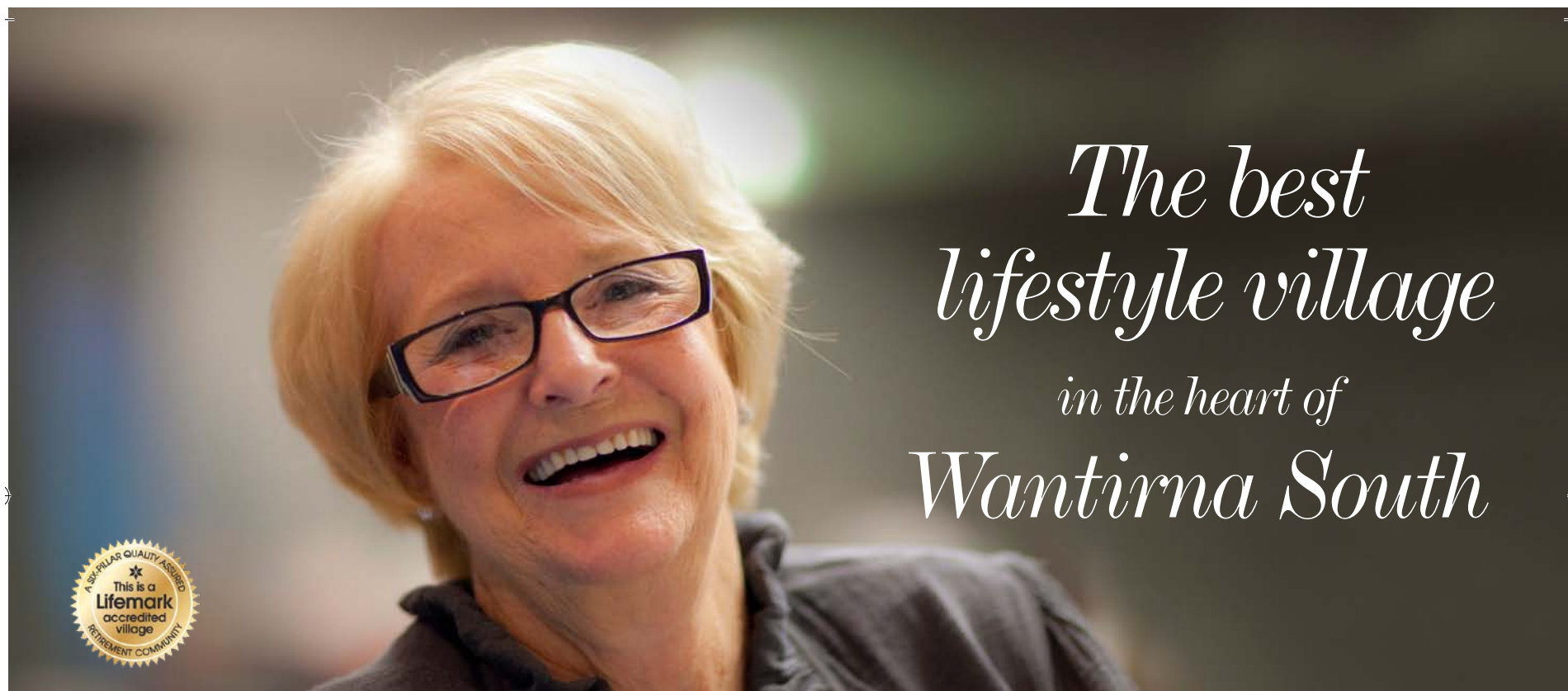
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Hours of Service: Monday – Thursday  
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**Do you know a senior or a person living with a disability who is socially isolated in the City Of Knox? Family, Friend or Neighbour?**

**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**



## Local news – Deal signed to provide COVID vaccine early next year

Living in Victoria, we really need some hope right now.

The Victorian restrictions have been devastating and the path out looks like it will be long and protracted. One of our best chances of getting back to normal is if a vaccine for the virus is found and made accessible.

Recently we have been making some great progress.

Last month we secured a \$1.7 billion deal for the supply and production of both the Oxford University vaccine and the University of Queensland vaccine, should their trials prove successful.

These vaccines are some of the most developed in the world and are both very promising candidates.

As a federal government we have been focused on getting agreements in place so that if and when a vaccine becomes available, we can quickly produce it and make it accessible to every Australian for free. Ultimately, this will save lives, protect lives,



and allow Australians to return to their lives.

The Oxford University vaccine is the most progressed in its development and is currently in the final phase of development. It shows strong antibody responses, strong T-cell responses and outstanding safety outcomes with the Phase 3 clinical trial seeing it tested on 50,000 people across the globe.

Although the development has been accelerated, safety has remained the top priority. The Oxford trial were recently paused due to a possible adverse effect in one patient, but after the case was independently assessed it was deemed that trials could safely continue. This is a clear demonstration that safety remains the most important consideration in the development of this vaccine. We will never produce a vaccine that is unsafe.

If the Oxford vaccine successfully passes these trials and is approved by the governing bodies, it could be available as early as January next year.

The Queensland University vaccine is not as progressed and is currently in Phase 1 of human trials but is still a very promising candidate.

Having agreements for both these vaccines means that we have a greater chance of having a safe vaccine that we can produce. We will continue to sign deals when promising candidates are found to increase this chance.

We expect that a vaccine will be initially provided to healthcare workers and the vulnerable, then the rest of Australia. The PM has made it clear that vaccines cannot be made compulsory, but we do expect most Australians to jump on the opportunity to protect themselves against this virus and return to their normal lives.

There is still a chance that a successful vaccine may not be developed, but at the same time I am carefully optimistic that we will have one next year.

It is a bit of hope in what has been a very distressing year for Victorians.



# Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

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

9887 3890 [www.alantudge.com.au](http://www.alantudge.com.au)



*Real Action For Knox*





Not for profit organisation, Evie Grace Foundation, has announced its partnership with social enterprise, Ecopads Australia. The team is on a mission to end period poverty in East Africa.

Period poverty is a global issue. It affects up to 500 million women and girls a month, leaving them without basic access to sanitary pads. Evie Grace and Ecopads will assist some of the 65% of women and girls in Kenya facing this plight, by providing them with affordable, reusable cloth pads. The need is urgent. Tragically girls as young as 13 are forced to offer sex in exchange for clean pads, increasing HIV risks, and the threat of rape. Community taboos about menstruation, and extreme poverty additionally worsen risks of infection, where dirty scraps of toilet paper, and even cardboard, are the only alternative to pads.

Evie Grace Foundation and Ecopads Australia were both founded by young Australian women, and their shared commitment to sustainability, and human rights will create a unique endeavor.

Maddi Kent founded Evie Grace Foundation in 2018, and she has provided menstrual hygiene packs and education to thousands

of girls in East Africa. Committed to eliminating child exploitation through community empowerment and education programs, Evie Grace Foundation also advocates for street children and rescues them from the devastation of starvation, rape, and kidnapping. They have successfully fundraised \$83,000 to purchase land for a rescue and rehabilitation home for street boys and are starting to fundraise for a Therapeutic Home for Girls in Malawi.

Freedra Thong, founder of Ecopads Australia, began sewing cloth pads in late 2015. This led to research on



Freedra Thong

cloth pad usage and she discovered pressing issues of menstruation taboos and poverty around the world. Fast forward five years and Freedra has distributed more than 20,000 reusable pads to people, not only in Australia but all over the world through Ecopads 'one-for-one' initiative.

"20 billion pads and tampons end up in landfill every year and that's just in Australia. Knowing these take 500-800 years to break down, we need to do better and make the switch to reusables".

Maddi is optimistic about the new partnership with Freedra and Ecopads.

"Without Ecopads' assistance, more women and girls will continue suffering and even dying in their communities. But now, together, we can save lives. As a team, we'll provide education and resources to fight period poverty. As women, we know that periods should merely be annoying. They shouldn't constitute a death threat."

Maddi Kent and Freedra Thong  
ecopadsaustralia.com



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<i>Sleep problems</i>	<i>Relaxation skills</i>
<i>Chronic pain and illness</i>	<i>Learning and behaviour difficulties</i>
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	

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## Knox Regional Netball Centre Scores \$5 Million Towards Redevelopment

The Knox Regional Netball Centre is set for a transformation, thanks to a \$5 million funding boost from the Victorian Government's *Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program*.

Local Member for Bayswater, Jackson Taylor MP, today announced that the project is one of 27 to benefit from a share in more than \$68 million from the stimulus program.

This investment recognises the overwhelming demand for shovel-ready community sports infrastructure and is part of the Victorian Government's \$2.7 billion *Building Works* package creating jobs and kick-starting vital projects across the state.

The project will involve the redevelopment of the overall site and the construction of an additional two new indoor netball courts to Netball Victoria standards, with

associated facilities and amenities including toilets, two change rooms and storerooms.

Once complete the project will deliver world-standard facilities that local netballers, of all ages, from right around the east will love for years to come.

The facility will provide a perfect base for many local netball clubs, including Fairpark Netball Club, The Basin Netball Club and Boronia Netball Club, to develop programs, train, host games and events.

This investment is about helping grassroots sports communities get back in the game when the time is right.

From sports field lighting upgrades at multiple sites to new indoor sports courts, investments like these provide high-quality and accessible places for Victorians to reap the benefits of sport and active recreation participation.

By working with local government authorities, alpine resort boards and sporting clubs and organisations, the program is fast-tracking shovel-ready community sports infrastructure projects across Victoria and is expected to create almost \$140 million in local economic activity.

This includes jobs in construction and supply chains with benefits for local businesses through the Victorian Government's Local Jobs First requirements which will be built into contracts.

The program is part of the more than \$915 million in Victorian Government investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure since 2014.

Mr. Taylor acknowledged the Knox Council as well as the Federal Government for their commitment and financial contribution to the project.

For more information about infrastructure grant opportunities available through the Victorian Government visit [www.sport.vic.gov.au](http://www.sport.vic.gov.au)



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Email: [reception@radioeasternfm.com.au](mailto:reception@radioeasternfm.com.au)

For the very latest program information go to:  
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**LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB KNOX**

**NO NEWS, IS GOOD NEWS???**

Maybe sometimes, but this club would like to have some good news to share with you.

I suppose what is more important, the hope is, that our community avoided the virus, and as well as can be expected. NOW, let's plan for better times. We do have plans for a Bus trip to Echuca. This beautiful town has so much to see, and we'll also visit the surrounding areas. 5 Days / 4 Nights, in April, it should be lovely weather, most meals included, motel accommodation, tours, entry fees, a cheerful, entertaining bus driver, and fun people, all included.

Sailing on the mighty Murray, aboard the Paddle Steamer, with a real steam engine, The "EMMY LOU", (Shovel more coal and timber).

So many of our activities needed to be cancelled of course, Safety First. But you can rely on our Conveners, there, at home, planning, planning, for the future good times.

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

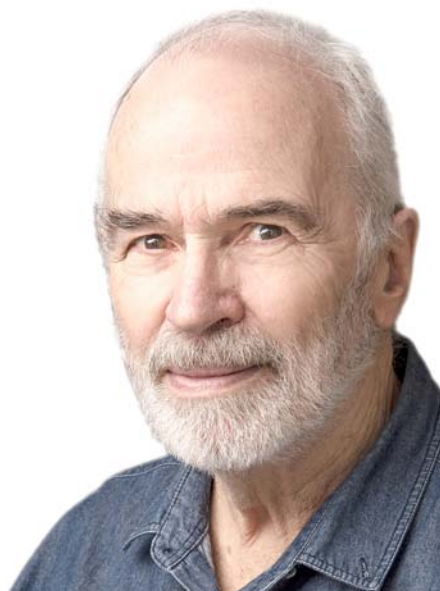
Or contact us on [www.life.org.au/knox](http://www.life.org.au/knox)

Pictured right: Rochester - Painted Silos, and we'll see them up close.





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**VOTE 1 John Mortimore**

**Long Term Commitment**

## **CURRENT POSITIONS:**

### **Community Organisations**

Key founder of The Basin Music Festival (16 years)  
Editor, Boronia & The Basin Community News (25 years)  
Firefighter, The Basin Fire Brigade (23 yrs, Life Member)  
The Basin Community House Committee of Management  
Service Member, Boronia RSL

### **Knox Council Committees**

Chair, Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing Committee  
Chair, Environment Advisory Committee  
Chair, Disability Advisory Committee  
Active Ageing Advisory Committee  
Boronia Focus Group

### **Joint Committees etc**

Chair, Eastern Regional Libraries Board  
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (Executive)  
Municipal Association Vic (MAV)  
(MAV) Environment Committee  
Metro Waste Forum  
Eastern Transport Coalition

## **Why Vote For Me?**

### **LOOK AROUND**

We are a vibrant, attractive and dynamic part of Knox, one of Melbourne's finest suburbs. Crime is low, violence rare, over-development contained, parks and recreation reserves in top condition - this doesn't happen by accident. Careful planning, policy debate, responsible budget development and community input all play their part, as does the ability to work closely with a team of colleagues

### **ASK SOMEONE WHO KNOWS**

Talk to the locals who run the pre-schools, sporting clubs, community organisations such as the Scouts, U3A, Infolink, EACH, The Basin Community House... etc... ask how they have fared on my watch.

### **NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION**

I answer to YOU, not to a political party. I have established good relationships with all local politicians That allows me to be an effective advocate for you when needed.

### **MY COMMITMENT TO YOU**

I will continue to work to enhance and protect our natural and built environment.

I will defend your rights

I will continue to fight for a fair go for all residents, especially those who are elderly, disabled or disadvantaged.

I will continue working for gender equity, minimised family violence and programs to reduce problem gambling, suicide and mental illness... and more...

## **Compare**

Check out my community and Council service, then compare with my opponents.

## **CALL ME**

I'm happy to take your call at any time if you want to discuss my work or intentions.

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## **Chandler Ward**

### **KNOX CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020**

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