

# Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

*Our Active Neighbourhood*

Issue 299  
May. 2021



## The Tradition Continues...

The Basin Junior Cricket Club whole club photo celebrates another great year of community sport.

*"Thanks to all our partners, kids, parents, and supporters for supporting us to play a great game in a challenging year"*



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Anthony lives in The Basin  
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Norma Seip interviewed by Lynette Hayhurst:

### **A Woman with a Heart of Gold**

Norma Seip, a presenter at Radio Eastern 98.1 fm was awarded the Order of Australia this year for service to community health through her advocacy and advisory roles.

**Norma:** "I was humbled, surprised but also greatly honoured to have been awarded an Order of Australia recently. I grew up in post-war country Victoria. It was already multi-cultural and had already learnt the lessons we, today, seem to find so hard – inclusion, support, social justice. In other words doing whatever you could to engage and support your community."

Most people didn't have a lot of money and were hard working – men and women – but they always had time for each other. A friend was just someone you hadn't met yet – someone you would engage with a smile, a kind word, or eye contact. Newcomers from all parts of the world were welcomed; listened to and valued for who they were – we all learnt together. There was no social media or soapies so our values came from our beliefs, elders and faith.

Music was always present – men whistling as they walked, women singing or humming as they went about their chores. The dances at the local halls taught us to dance and to mix, and to share as each family contributed to supper. I don't recall anyone who didn't go to church where singing hymns united us as one community.

I came to Melbourne as a teenager and very much missed the sense of community. It was then, at 15, that I realised the greatest ill we have in our world is loneliness. There is no vaccine but it is healed, and prevented, with love, kindness and social interaction – that smile, kind word, eye contact and inclusion.

It was at that early age I realised that the actions of one person can change the world. It was a steep learning curve but I always knew that I was in the right place at the right time. The right place was always the most difficult – often heart breaking – but these experiences achieved change.

I am very much a hands on person, at a grass roots level but twenty years ago, my journey changed – for which I am forever grateful.

I acquired a permanent disability which profoundly affected many actions that we all take for granted. I needed to find the positives in this situation – and there were many. I reinvented myself to be the person I now was – I had acceptance and found that my capacity to be the best me I could be, had also expanded.

I truly understood the needs that were unspoken and often hidden away. I sought to work with the highest level of decisions makers to teach them to "hear the unspoken" and by my example, show them that every person, every soul, is beautiful.

I have never sought recognition, title or even payment for work I am privileged to do. I don't even use my name – only Norma, as it is not about me and my only concern is the outcome.

Strangely, all my life many people, often strangers, have called me Angel Norma. I figure that "some angels choose cleverly disguised lives in time and space, just to help folks get past judging by appearances" –Mike Dooley.

Thank you all for your kind words of congratulations and let's all keep "Painting the Clouds with Sunshine" and make every day beautiful." Norma Seip

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### **BBCN Deadlines & Distribution 2021**

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<b>JULY</b>	<b>11 June</b>	<b>24 June</b>

### **SUPPORT YOUR PAPER**

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.

This is a community newspaper run by volunteers. If you would like to help in any way 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.

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# Laughing Kookaburra

*Dacelo novaeguineae*



Through the eyes of a white person there is nothing more ironically Australian than an Aboriginal hunter holding a boomerang, an outback setting with a Ghost gum or Coolabah, a Kangaroo or Emu or perhaps this month's bird, the Laughing Kookaburra. Common in Victoria and particularly abundant in the Dandenongs, they have international notoriety for their call, a sound which everyone reading this article knows resembles the laughter of humans.

It may come as a surprise to non-birdos (are there really people out there who aren't into birds?) that in Northern Australia another species of Kookaburra exists, the Blue-winged Kookaburra

who is superficially very similar to our Laughing Kookaburra but has much more prominent blue on the wings and a very odd looking 'fishy' white eye (Pizzey and Knight). And the call of the Blue-winged is sort of similar to the Laughing but not with the raucous, guttural belly laugh of our Laughing, no where near as comical. Quite boring in comparison really.

If one looks at the use of biological control which has gone awry, Cane Toads for one glaring example, it really shows that nature can't be interfered with without some sort of negative backlash. Any example of an introduced species into a new environment will always mean disaster. Feral cats and European foxes are two examples which have had catastrophic consequences for our native mammals. But many more less obvious examples abound, Sugar Gliders introduced to Tasmania who prey upon nestlings of the Swift Parrot, a species heading to extinction at breakneck speed, perhaps even faster than Orange-bellied Parrots or Regent Honeyeaters. And such it is for our Laughing Kookaburra, introduced to Tasmania in 1905. This is purely an anecdotal conclusion, not being backed up by science but I know two people in Tasmania who have noted that in that state Kookaburras cause the decline of many small bird species, and one, even though he is an avid birdwatcher and nature lover, is considering the use of a firearm to cull Kookaburras on his property near Cradle Mountain. Introduced to SW WA in 1897, I would be interested to know if similar scenarios are occurring there as well.

Has anyone reading this article ever read Norman Lindsay's children's book called 'The Magic Pudding'? One of the characters in this classic story is a larrikin Kookaburra who is down right offensive to everyone he meets and is pretty keen to bounce a gibber (rock) off one of the main characters, Sam Sawnoff's, scone (head). What a grouch! Absolutely hilarious though.

On a family holiday some years ago to Cumberland River in the Otways, my daughter Freya expressed a desire to pat one of the very tame Kookaburras who could be hand fed. I said to her she had Buckley's chance, but was stunned when she fed one then gently patted him several times on the head before he flew away, a young bird with a particularly soft fluffy noggin. And talk about opportunists, up at the Alpine Hotel at Warburton, many a diner in the alfresco area has lost a \$35 prime fillet steak to a marauding Kookaburra, silently sitting in a nearby Eucalypt, pouncing when the unsuspecting patron is engrossed in conversation or distracted by a small child, split second timing! We now sit inside when we go for a meal there, regardless of the weather!

In my experience in the Australian bush I can give no explanation as to why this happens but the very last bird to call as day turns into night is the Laughing Kookaburra. Why, I don't know, maybe they are would-be could-be wannabe Owls. It's only my theory, but they are always the last sound of the diurnal birds. Possibly they just want to have the last word, one of those types. Up at Warburton caravan



Photo by Danylo Dvernyskyi

park the same thing happens every night, all the bush birds go quiet, the Eastern -yellow Robin gives his monotonous piping call to the very end, then when they stop a Kookaburra somewhere will chime in for the last sound before the nocturnal birds and mammals take over.

Well there you have it, that's done and dusted. I mean there is no need for me to describe a Kookaburra or give a description of his call. Unless you hail from Outer Mongolia or maybe Saturn, you'd be across it. And there's no need for me to bang on about our field trips, though I easily could, you know if you want to get involved just email me.

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

## 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. Email Margaret Comport, contact@bbc.n.org.au



# Building Better Intersections in Boronia



Pedestrians and cyclists will soon have safer ways to cross a key intersection in Boronia, with the Victorian Government investing \$7.7 million to upgrade the Albert Avenue and Mountain Highway intersection. The project is now moving into the design phase, which will help determine the full scope and likely completion date.

When finished, the project will improve safety and connectivity to nearby paths for those crossing at the busy site. The upgrades will allow vulnerable road users safer access to Alchester Shopping Village and other nearby paths. The project is part of the Local Road and Intersection Upgrade program, which is boosting the economy by creating more than 350 jobs around the state. The program is targeting suburban roads across Melbourne, reducing bottlenecks for drivers and improving safety for other road users. The \$117 million program is funded thanks to investment in the Victorian Budget 2020/21, continuing the Government's unprecedented state-wide investment in vital infrastructure and service.

The design phase of the program is beginning in this year, with further updates on completion dates once the scopes of the projects are complete. Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor said "These upgrades will improve safety for all the locals who cross at this busy intersection, including students walking or cycling to school and residents accessing the nearby shopping village. It will provide an easier link to other nearby paths and it'll give peace of mind to vulnerable road users who go through this intersection every day."



## SPORT - NOT JUST A GAME

**COVID-19. The words that hit us in the face like a Brett Lee bouncer and changed our lives without warning.**

2020 has been a year like no other and for many, routines have changed and what was once normal is now very different.

As someone heavily involved in a local sporting club, 2020 has emphasised just how important local sporting organisations are to many people. For some, it is a 12 month routine; cricket in the summer, football in the winter. Others, six months of the year and for some, one day a week but a very important day of the week. It may be watching friends or family play, catching up with old teammates or just having a chat about past glories.

The one demographic that has been hardest hit by COVID-19 are junior athletes. If I remember when I was 10 years old, it was sport all week long;

basketball, cricket, football and athletics. That doesn't include lunchtimes at school and after school in the park.

As the junior coordinator of The Basin Cricket Club, I have been lucky enough to see the positive impact sport has on children of all ages and the impact it has had it not being able to participate in sport over winter. The pure joy of being able to get back to batting and bowling and seeing friends was just as enjoyable as hitting a four or taking a wicket to win a match.

Children's sport is important for many reasons. It is the first step for many athletes on their chosen path and the breeding ground for the next generation. It is where we form some of our longest lasting friendships. It is where Mum and Dad go to watch their son or daughter do something they love. It is where children learn the harsh reality of winning and losing.

For much of the year, this was taken from us all. However there is now light at the end of the tunnel and sporting clubs are starting to feel like they were pre COVID-19. There are still unique challenges and routines like checking into grounds and sanitising on a regular basis, but what has been regained are the friendships, mateships, competition between two teams wanting to win and the chance to give people a bit of normality in what has been a very un-normal year. We even get to hear about past glories once again despite it being the 100th time.

Despite the challenges that we have faced, we have come out of it with a better skill set. We have learnt to be adaptable and go along with the challenges that are presented to us without warning. Children have learnt new skills that can be transferred to the sporting field or their chosen careers and Mum and Dad have had to master the art of coaching.

Sporting clubs are the best place to be and will continue to play an active role in the mental health of many during the COVID-19 recovery. If you are not involved in a sporting club, then I encourage you to be. It is the best thing you will ever do and may just save your life.

Joel Clarke

## Jackson Taylor MP

We are now well and truly in to 2021 and what a big year it has been already. I wanted to jump straight in and talk about something really important, mental health. Mental health impacts all of us. If it's not our own direct experience, it's people we know – people we love. And when someone we love is in pain, we suffer with them.

Recently, the final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System was handed down and sets the path for the complete transformation of our system from the ground up.

The report told us what we admitted back in 2018 when we committed to this Royal Commission - that the current system is broken, and it is failing Victorians. We must do more. So much more.

Out of it were over 60 recommendations and we will implement every recommendation. Every single one. Because it is the right thing to do. It won't be easy, but we will get on with this critical work. Because lives are counting on it. I look forward to bringing you updates on it over the coming weeks, months and years. To read the final report go here – [rcvmhs.vic.gov.au](http://rcvmhs.vic.gov.au)

2021 also brings my third year in proudly representing you in State Parliament as part of the Victorian Government. Over the last two years, I'm proud to say we've gotten on with delivering nearly \$300 million in local projects and creating local jobs. And, importantly, I've heard from thousands of you on your doorsteps, the phone, at the shops and via my office about what matters to you and helping you with queries – because as your MP, I don't take that responsibility lightly.

Excitingly, I'm also keen to report back on what last year's State Budget handed down in November is delivering for locals:

- Free kinder for families in 2021 saving around

## Your Local MP Report

Sponsored by Jackson Taylor MP



# Funding Boost to Keep More Women and Children Safe

More women living with or at risk of family violence in Melbourne's east will be able to access the support and legal advice they need thanks to funding from the Victorian Government. Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes announced that the Eastern Community Legal Centre would receive \$464,000 for a pilot to expand the crucial early intervention services for women and children in the Knox Local Government Area. The program is currently only available in the Maroondah and Yarra Ranges Local Government areas.

Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes stated, "Seeking help for family violence can be incredibly intimidating – this program gives women a safe, comfortable and non-judgemental environment to take those first steps and get the support they need."

A unique partnership between family violence lawyers and health services, the program provides a safe and confidential environment for mothers to seek help with family violence issues. Research shows that women who are pregnant or who have

babies are at an increased risk of experiencing family violence. The program supports women at this highly vulnerable time, arming them with information and linking them to specialist legal assistance and other family violence services. This unique model – combining health services and family violence legal assistance – means that women were able to continue accessing the program while public health restrictions were in place last year through their regular health appointments.

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor "This program has helped many women in our community experiencing family violence, particularly during the challenges arising from the pandemic – and it's fantastic to see this support extended to the Knox community."

Demand for the program increased by up to 30 per cent on the previous year during this time, mirroring the increased demand for family violence services seen across the state. The program is delivered in partnership with the Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service. Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence Gabrielle Williams said, "This vital program ensures women can understand their options and access the advice and assistance they need – as early as possible."

CEO of Eastern Community Legal Centre Michael Smith "We're proud to be providing vital support to women at a particularly vulnerable time – empowering them to seek help. We're looking forward to expanding the program to benefit even more families."



\$2,000 per child

- Nearly \$30 million to upgrade local schools including \$4.33 million for a major upgrade to Boronia West Primary and \$8.07 million to modernise and upgrade Fairhills High
- Delivering a major upgrade to the intersection at Alchester Village to improve safety and access for locals
- Delivering around \$2.5 million to revitalise Boronia's CBD and bring it back to life
- A one-off \$250 payment towards the energy bill of around 950,000 households – to check your

eligibility visit [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au)

- \$5.3 billion for over 12,000 new social and affordable homes, creating tens of thousands of jobs
- A Jobs Plan with a plan to create 400,000 new jobs, with half by 2022

This was the biggest jobs creating budget in Victoria's history and will help get us back on our feet and I'm stoked at the record investment coming into our part of the world in the outer east – you deserve nothing less.

On top of the budget, here's a few other things you may have missed

- Nearly \$600,000 to support our multicultural communities with an upgrade at the Chinese Association of Victoria to expand their community facility and The Basin Temple to allow them to provide more meals for those who need a hand
  - \$12,000 in local grants to back in Boronia Cricket, The Basin Cricket Club and Eastwood Bowls Club
  - Held a clean up Australia Day Event with 1st The Basin Scout Group and other locals recently
  - Work underway at Boronia K-12 on their outdoor sensory space
- That's all for now, until next time – stay well.



# Jackson Taylor MP

## State Member for Bayswater

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Proudly Local

## A Persian flavour adding to our caring local Community

Matin Ahooghalandari is a name and a person I will not forget for a very good reason as I will explain.

I came across Matin during the latter part of our lengthy 101 days of Covid-19 lockdown when I was walking in The Basin. She was using some long device to pick up rubbish and put it in bag she had with her. I stopped her and asked what she was doing and with a warm smile and a lovely Persian accent she tells me that she likes to help keep the place clean.

Matin explained that during the lockdown she would do this every day, but since she's back to work it is once a week. Originally she came from Persia about 10 years ago and works here as a storm water engineer with her fiancé Robert Safari



who is an IT expert.

Another wonderful example of locals who love their community and want to contribute whenever an opportunity or need arises. Well done and thank you Matin.

*Lynette Hayhurst*

## Milki & Miller

### The newest coffee shop in Alchester Village

Their coffee is good, as is their attitude to their local community, especially to those down on their

luck and unable to afford a coffee.

"Milki and Miller is all about community, by offering our caffè 'sospeso' (suspended coffee) to any of the locals down on their luck or even by creating a safe space for LGBTQI folk in the neighbourhood," said owner Niall. "A caffè sospeso or pending coffee is a cup of coffee paid for in advance as an anonymous act of charity.

The tradition began in the working-class cafés of Naples, where someone who had experienced good luck would order a sospeso, paying the price of two coffees but receiving and consuming only one. The other one goes to someone who can't afford to buy their own.

What a great idea for a friendly neighbourhood!



Niall from Milki & Miller



## May issue Distribution

Our sincere thanks go to Srinivasa Brundavanam, a Volunteer of many years, who has now retired.

The following walking rounds are available, if you can assist or would like more information, please contact us at [contact@bbcn.org.au](mailto:contact@bbcn.org.au)

Permanent Walking rounds currently available are:

### The Basin:

1) Doongalla Rd, Simpsons Rd, Milleara Rd & part Sheffield Rd (inc) Salvation Army Farm: 60 papers

### Boronia:

1) Boronia Mall: Approx. 125 papers

2) Lorraine Street, Dawn Street, Lynette Street, Stewart Street (small part), Albert Avenue (small part) 180 papers

### Temporary rounds currently available:

### Boronia:

1) Rathmullen Road, Dixon Ct, Gertonia Rd (part): 118 papers (this one is for 6 months)

2) Genista Avenue, Sundew Avenue, Iris Court, Herbert Street, Cardiff Street, Devenish Street (part), Rowson Street (small part) 175 papers (this one is for a few months)

### Temporary / Casual walkers or drivers:

If you can assist with any deliveries on a casual or temporary basis, we would love to hear from you through [contact@bbcn.org.au](mailto:contact@bbcn.org.au).

Please note these are voluntary positions.



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# RECONNECT

## YOUR LIBRARY MONTH FESTIVAL

### REKINDLE

**Reconnect and rekindle** a love affair with Your Library. The Reconnect Festival is about bringing our community back together. Through engaging talks, practical workshops, and exciting new initiatives, we will explore the themes of community, literacy and sustainability, to reconnect our members with our services, with their Councils, and with each other.

The festival boasts a stellar cast of presenters! Writer, actor, radio host, television producer and comedian, Brian Nankervis, in the role of official ambassador, is set to launch the festival at Realm Library on Tuesday 27 April, 6:30pm Author, activist and presenter Craig Reucassel, star of War on Waste, Fight for Planet A, and most recently Big Weather (and how to survive it), will present a virtual talk on sustainable communities on Thursday 27 May, 7pm. During the month of May, all libraries will be offering a feast of FREE activities for all ages.

The Writing the Rainbow Festival – celebrating LGBTQIA+ writers and readers – is back in 2021! This year’s festival within a festival features an exciting line-up of presenters: • Sandra Pankhurst, subject of Sarah Krasnostein’s best-seller *The Trauma Cleaner* • Author Michael Earp on the importance of queer representation in young adult literature • Author Narrelle M Harris will present the ‘Find Your Voice, Tell Your Story’ writing workshop • Activist Jax Jacki Brown will present a rainbow families storytime • The fabulous Dolly Diamond will present a rainbow families storytime

We will also be celebrating Library and Information Week, under the theme ‘Adventures in Space and Time’ from 17-23 May. Children can engage with a live-streamed reading of this year’s National Simultaneous Storytime book *Give me some space!* by Philip Bunting, as well as space-themed activities at the library. Astronomy lovers of all ages can take part in a family



stargazing session at Monbulk Recreation Reserve on Saturday 22 May, facilitated by expert volunteers from Mount Burnett Observatory.

“We would like our campaign to re-engage with our existing library members and engage with potential members. At the same time, raising the profile of public libraries and what they can offer for all ages.”

*Joseph Cullen*, Chief Executive, Eastern Regional Libraries.

The Reconnect Festival will run from 1-31 May 2021. A full program will be available from 16 April with bookings required for all events.



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# Local Comic Creator Day April 2021

Danny Nolan

You know when things are getting back to pre-COVID normal when people can come together to celebrate their hobbies and interests that are not related to a church or a sporting event.

Before the pandemic, Melbourne was awash with exhibitions, conventions and "swap meets". There wasn't a weekend that went by that didn't have some event scheduled: antiques, quilting, cars, toys, records, cards, many bundled together as collectables fairs. Some of the biggest of these events (along with the quilting and home shows) were the pop culture conventions. Events like Supanova, Pax and Oz ComiCon are annual shows that ran the whole weekend including Friday and attracted 20000 people a day. Ironically, the venues where these shows are usually held, the Exhibition Building and Centre-are now the venues for the mass COVID vaccinations.

As well as these 3 massive pop culture conventions were several smaller lowkey versions, but as the big ones became larger and more expensive to be part of, or enter, the smaller ones became dominated by Identity Politics and became somewhat exclusive.

So, after everything shut down *Alternative Worlds* co-owner Joe Italiano entertained the idea of running his own comic convention when things began to return to some semblance of normal. Joe had had experiences with such a task as he and a group of friends were responsible for one of the first comic conventions in Australia in the late 1970s. His idea was simple, a small comic creator convention where local artist and publishers could present to the public, similar to his original concept. The larger conventions like those mentioned earlier had become bloated circuses full of merchandise, cosplay (where fans dress as their favourite characters) and last chance arenas for near-forgotten actors from once popular shows that were cancelled decades ago. It had got to the point where comic creators were allocated an area in the corner, sometimes in a separate building from the main event. Joe wanted to get back to basics. COVID set the scene for this to happen.

On April 17, Melbourne had its first comic convention in nearly 18 months at *Alternative Worlds* in Bayswater. Under the more accurate title Local Comic Creator Day.

So, like the fanboy I am, I strolled down the road



to pay it a visit.

It goes a lot towards a show's credibility when the calibre of the talent attending is bordering on legendary. Foremost was veteran cartoonist Gerald Carr, winner of *The Jim Russell Award* given by the Australian Cartoonists Association for significant contribution to Australian Cartooning and the 2019 *Ledger of Honour* recipient - the Ledgers being the OZ Comic Industry's equivalent of the Oscars. With him, he had samples of his work that spanned nearly 60 years.

Coming all the way from Sunbury was Gary Dellar, publisher of *Reverie Comics* whose first publications came out in the early 1980s; Gary had recently revived the publishing house after a long hiatus and is now producing a high volume of titles that include some of Australia's greatest and newest talent. Some which he shared the table with artist and writers like *Rob Lisle, Peter Lawson, Haydn Spurrell and George Hall*. Also among the older crew were bona fide underground comic royalty Steve Carter and Antoinette Ryder, collectively known as *SCAR* who appeared in just about every major publication in Australia, as well as several international titles, and have the dubious honour of being banned by the Bjelke-Petersen Government in the 1980s. Amongst this lot was Darren Close, whose creation *Killer Roo* is one of the more popular and best-selling titles in Australian comics for the last 10 years. These and many other up and coming creators were more than generous with their time.

As the show was being held in the warehouse

adjacent to the *Alternative Worlds* shop, space was at a premium, but it added to the cosy atmosphere and the shop still managed to set up a display of classic Australian comics and magazines, some worth several hundred dollars and important parts of this country's publishing history. I will admit it was a nice change not being surrounded by 50 stalls selling Pop Vinyl figures and dodging people dressed up as the *Hulk, Thor and Spiderman* or 25 different girls dressed as *Sailor Moon* in every aisle.

It was pleasant to go back to the roots of the comic convention scene, to meet the creators and check out their work, because I know in a year or two it will be back to full bore circus mode.



## SCAMWATCH

Here are some reminders to help you avoid getting scammed.

### Common scam telephone calls:

- • Technical support scam -- If somebody you don't know calls you and tells you that your computer has a virus, it's a scam. Hang up.
- • Service interruption scam -- If somebody you don't know calls you and tells you that your internet service is about to be cut off, it's a scam. This often starts with a recorded voice (a "robo-call") telling you to press 1 to be connected to a technician. Don't press 1; just hang up. If you have any doubts, contact your service provider

directly.

- • Criminal investigation scam -- If somebody you don't know calls you and tells you that you are under investigation by a government agency (ATO, AFP, etc.), it's probably a scam. Hang up. If you have any doubts, contact that agency directly.

- • Vaccine scam -- If you receive an unexpected phone call about the COVID vaccine, offering early access or registration, or doing a survey, it's a scam. Hang up.

- • Parcel delivery notification scam -- If you receive a text message telling you that a parcel delivery is pending your authorisation, or there are unpaid customs fees, it's a scam. Don't tap on any links in the message. If you are expecting a parcel and you are unsure, you could contact your supplier directly to enquire.

- • Account restriction scam -- If you receive a text message telling you that access to your account has been restricted or locked, it's a scam. Don't follow any links in the message. If you are unsure, you can check your account directly.

- • For more information, go to [scamwatch.gov.au](https://scamwatch.gov.au)

Dan Goldfarb





## “Truth-Telling”, Henry Reynolds, New South Publishing, 2021

Another remarkable book from Henry Reynolds - following are responses from some of the people whose lives are inextricably enmeshed with Reynolds' long time field of study and expertise.

“Our goal of an honorable place in the nation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people owes much to Henry Reynolds. He contributed his profound historical scholarship on the denial of sovereignty to Indigenous people in Australia when we were still trying to get a seat at the table in the United Nations. He has been cited in key documents since and his work informed the outcomes in Koiki Mabo’s challenge to the High Court in *Mabo (No 2)*. His imprint is also evident in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This book is essential reading for everyone involved in recognising our place in the nation.” *Marcia Langton*

”Henry Reynolds once again exposes some of the horrible truths regarding our shared past. Laying an important foundation for truth-telling and treaty-making, *Truth-Telling* casts aside the lie of *terra nullius* that continues to have disastrous and ongoing consequences for Aboriginal peoples, and for the contemporary Australian nation. This book will allow Australians to build a better, more truthful, Australia.” *Mick Dodson*

I found this book extremely penetrating and challenging, just like other books from Reynolds. With such scholarly resources so readily available, none of us need to remain ignorant of the disturbing history of the last 230 or so years of our country.

Get on the waiting list at our local library.

*John Pernu*

## Special Olympics Melbourne Eastern Ranges

Starting 10 May 2021, come on and join us for a great sporting time! **Operation Play and Stay**

MER offers a year-round multi-sport program for people with an intellectual disability - of all capabilities.

If you are under 25 years of age this gives you a chance to try out at FOUR sports!!! Bowling, Bocce, Basketball, and Swimming.

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E: melbourneeasterranges.sport@specialolympics.com.au

## Primary School Ramble

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 192 children from Grade 1 & 2 at The Basin Primary School headed off on a walking excursion to visit their local community. Throughout Term 1 the children have been learning about ‘Identity – A Sense of Belonging’ as part of the schools Challenge Based Learning. Focusing on how they are a very important part of their own family, their school and their wider community, the children have been learning about the different parts to their community and the excursion was a lovely way to finish off the topic.

Many children belong to different sporting groups, they often visit the park and the local shops but some parts remained a mystery! We were lucky enough to have volunteers from The Basin CFA, The Basin Scout Hall and The Hindu Temple take time out of their day to talk to the children about the important role they play in our community.

At the CFA, April was joined by Alan and Denae and they talked about the types of incidents they attend, they identified parts of the fire trucks, they modelled the firefighting outfits and explained about the tall tower behind the station that is used to dry the long hoses.

At the Scout Hall, Nicole and her many helpers sang songs with the children and played team games that were educational. The kids thoroughly enjoyed sorting the rubbish and constructing a puzzle of a Leadbeater’s possum.

At the Hindu Temple the children were welcomed inside by Dr Sundaralingam and were able to listen to some music, they were given the opportunity to

wander around and view the beautiful sculptures and artefacts. Many children commented on all of the ‘golden’ treasure!!!

At the Triangle Park the kids ran free, enjoying all the park has to offer! It was a beautiful autumn day and there was a great deal of laughter to be heard.

All the children have returned to school with a greater sense of belonging after learning so much more about the beautiful community that they live in:

*I learnt that the tower was for hanging the hoses. I didn't know that! – Dusty*

*At the temple they play music - Emma*

*The music at the temple was really loud! – Matilda*

*At the Scout Hall we played fun games and we learnt about rubbish- Ethan*

*When we walk we have to walk safely because there are roads – Abby*

*I learnt that the Firey's put out fires and they also protect us – Ethan*

*Lynette Hayhurst*

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## Edna Walling (and my "sort of" 6 degrees of separation)

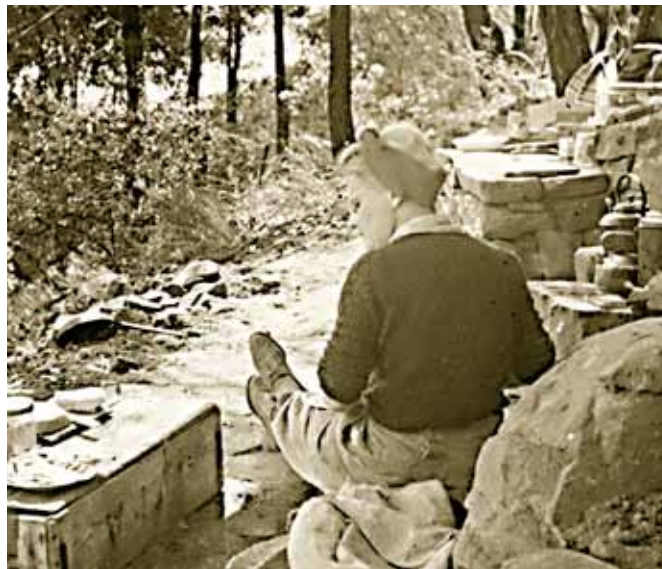
Danny Nolan

This year, early as it is, one person has been constantly appearing as a footnote to events that have happened to me or I have been involved in. That person is a legendary garden design/landscaper, writer, photographer, conservationist and godmother of the girl power movement - the late Edna Walling.

It's like some weird six degrees of separation that involves Miss Walling and me.

I recently found out from a Facebook group dedicated to the suburb where I grew up, that within 200 metres of my family home in Jordanville (now Chadstone) were two Edna Walling gardens.

Our house was on the very eastern edge of the Housing Commission estate and up the hill on the aptly named Grandview Road was a very fine property called Robin Hill that was so out of place it resembled the mansion above the suburbs in Edward Scissorhands. The home belonged to Lewis B Milne an executive for the company that owned Skipping Girl Vinegar. The house was built in 1946



Edna Working

during the height of Walling's popularity. In its position, it commanded views almost equal to that from the top of Mt Dandenong. The original owners had long sold it and moved on before we arrived. The Commission estate began construction in 1949 and the view from the front yard was rapidly changing,

instead of empty paddocks there were now rows of concrete houses.

I'd move too.

The high walls and steel gates only offered a glimpse through the bars but I always remember the gardens were so lush and well maintained, whoever the owner was at the time. The other was supposedly on the other side of the railway tracks on Salisbury road but I don't recall any house even remotely impressive as Robin Hill on that street.

But it was there, I've seen the plans.

Edna Walling was born in England in 1895 and came to Australia with her parents and sister via New Zealand in 1914. Settling in Melbourne Edna enrolled at the Burnley School of Horticulture; graduating when she was 22. (An institute many would be aware of, I, myself have three close relatives I can name who have been there.) She first started working as a gardener when a chance encounter to plan a garden by an architect began a whole new career. More commissions followed and within five years she had built a flourishing practice in garden design. Walling developed a unique style and attracted many rich, influential and famous clients. These included many

## Construction begins on bigger and better Knox Netball Centre

The much-awaited improvements to the Knox Regional Netball Centre are now underway!

The centre in Ferntree Gully, home to netball clubs from across Knox, will undergo a massive transformation over the next year with improvements including two additional indoor courts, 180 extra car parks, seating for up to an extra 300 spectators and a facelift for the whole centre.

During the season, the centre hosts over 6,000 people every week and is a huge part of our community's life.

As many of you would be aware, this was an election commitment of mine and it's great to see



construction start.

I helped secure \$4 million of federal funding to help kickstart these much-needed upgrades and Knox Council and the state government have agreed

to provide the rest with the Council managing the construction which I expect to be complete in early-2022.

This project was possible, in no small part, to the many people that signed my petition, wrote letters, made phone calls, and sent emails in support of this project. Thank you to each and every one of you.

This is just one of many projects I am working to deliver in Knox. I will always fight for better local sports facilities because I believe they benefit the entire community.

Community sport is truly the lifeblood of our community. Our clubs provide their members with more than just sport. They are places of belonging, purpose, and friendship. They help keep people active and engaged and keep kids off the street and mentored by older people.

2020 was particularly hard for the many in our community who couldn't play sport and engage with their sporting communities. After such a difficult year, it's sensational to see our clubs running again.

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





# Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

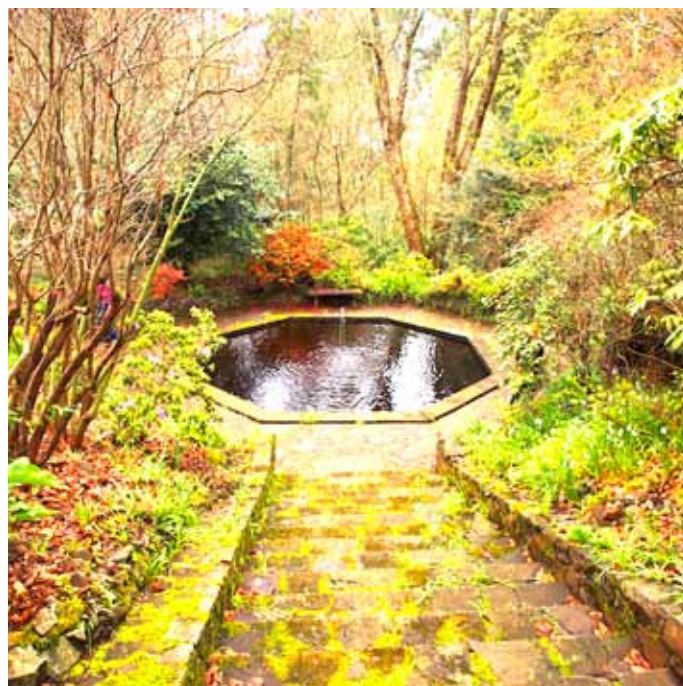
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Real Action For Knox

industry leaders, professionals, and exclusive clubs. Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, Dame Nellie Melba and Frank Packer were among her clients. Soon her reputation spread to other States. Her regular gardening columns (1926-46) in Australian Home Beautiful enhanced her reputation and extended her influence. She was also a regular contributor of articles to many other magazines.

By the 1940s Walling's was a household name and she capitalised on her popularity by publishing a string of successful books, as well as this she was a keen photographer with well above-average skills. She obviously liked taking photos more than being in them, for finding multiple images of her is difficult.



**Jamin Swaneveld**

In early March a rather influential gentleman and talented artist was taken from us before his time. Jamin Swaneveld. He had a remarkable memorial service in Lake Emerald Park the same month and it stirred up some long dormant memories. About 15 years ago Jamin and I often chatted in his little shop in Belgrave. One of our conversations was how he and his family were temporarily lodging in a bungalow that was part of an estate next to Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenongs. This particular estate had a garden that was designed by Edna Walling and it was still in pristine condition. He said he was going to make a Tudor Village that would fit perfectly with the aesthetic of the garden. I remember saying how that would be a novel idea and that was the last I thought of it. After Jamin's death, I was looking through old photos and found a picture of him in his shed working on the

almost complete village. Then, whilst researching Miss Walling a bit more discovered the estate he was referring to was Mawarra, a famous example of Edna Walling's design work and incidentally one of her own personal favourites. To add sugar to the dessert I found an old video from a mid-2000s episode of channel 9's Postcards, and right at the end, we have the presenter Lauren Phillips tiptoeing through the miniature village that Jamin constructed.

It was a glorious find.

There are a few local connections to Miss Walling. When she was in her mid-20s she established a residence in Mooroolbark and named it Sonning. This became her base for almost 40 years establishing her nursery and gathering around her a group of like-minded people for whom she designed picturesque



'English' cottages and gardens. She named the area Bickleigh Vale village in honour of the town she grew up in England. It became a sanctuary of sorts and its residents were predominantly female. The village still remains, and its roads are still unpaved, it was and remains an extraordinary experiment in urban development.

I was looking through the excellent collection of Walling designs at the State Library online, and discovered a plan for a Mrs Jessie Cook of Boronia but as yet haven't been able to locate the address or if it was a commission piece.

Edna Walling's style was influenced by her memories of the English gardens of her childhood, the stonework of the aptly named Ellis Stones and her love of Australian flora. Her designs were often water coloured to give clients a more intimate feel of how the finished garden would appear.

Walling left Melbourne in 1967- though she travelled far and wide during her career for her work- to the warmer climes of Queensland and died in 1973.

Edna Walling was truly a great Australian who left a massive legacy and I recommend researching or even visiting her existing gardens in the area if the chance arises just like I have, thanks to a few chance events and some great memories.

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# Letter to the Editor - Squatters

*I agree with the letter published in the Boronia and The Basin Community News in relation to vacant houses on properties which are waiting for redevelopment. This issue is becoming a major concern directly affecting the welfare of some of our older persons who are choosing to stay in their*

*own home and as a result are not feeling safe and secure. As Knox Council is now part of The Global Network for Age - friendly Cities and Communities I believe it now time for us as a community to lobby council to address the seriousness of this issue.*

*Marilyn*



## Editor's Reply

Dear Marilyn

Thank you for your email about the unfortunate situation you are caught up in. I'm sure it is little consolation that you are not alone. From my own experience and my contact with the relevant Director at Knox City Council, it is clear that Council has very little power to act against squatters beyond insisting that an owner of a derelict building must secure the premises and the recently acquired power to enforce the requirement that the building must not be 'unsightly'. Unfortunately, for a property awaiting major development any fine used to enforce this

requirement may be seen by the developer to be a cost of doing business for an owner not willing to accept responsibility.

It is also important to recognise that many people are homeless through no fault of their own and many of them end up sleeping rough, including squatting in vacant homes.

We put this issue to local lawyer, David Heasley and his response is below.

As you will see, the law does little to protect individual home owners against this unwelcome intrusion. He does, however, spell out the legal intricacies of the problem and the actions that can be taken to gain some deserved relief. Beyond these legal actions, any meaningful change would

require action by the State Government, I suggest you contact your local MP, Jackson Taylor to seek a solution.

Meanwhile, the BBCN will continue canvassing for opinion and action.

Best Regards

John Mortimore

Editor

## Squatters, Vacant Houses (and how to get rid of them)

### What is 'Squatting'

Squatting is the act of making use of empty, disused and abandoned property to provide yourself (or others) with free accommodation. Of course, this happens at the expense of others and can have a severe effect on the amenity of surrounding properties.

While squatting itself isn't technically illegal, it is considered trespassing and opens squatters up to liability for criminal offences.

### So, How do I evict a Squatter who is NOT a Tenant?

If a trespasser or squatter is in occupation, the legal owner is allowed to use self-help measures to get their property back. The issue may be in firstly identifying the owner, and then convincing them to somehow get into the property and change the locks

and secure it. The catch is whilst they can legally do this, they cannot use violent entry if one of the squatters is actually in the property at the time and opposes them.

Once identified, the ideal course of action is for the owner to call the police and have them evict the occupants as (subject to the exceptions around people such as tenants and previous tenants) they have no legal right to be there and are potentially in breach of Section 9 of the Summary Offences Act 1996.

Section 9 contains offences relating to trespass, such as entering a private place without authority, and neglecting or refusing to leave a private place when instructed to do so by the owner, occupier or a person authorised to give that warning on behalf of the owner or occupier. An 'authorised person' would of course include a police officer.

A person who fails to obey an instruction (to leave) may commit an offence and be subject to a monetary fine and 6 months imprisonment.

It is also worth remembering the police can pursue charges of wilful damage to property without identifying the owner.

### What if a Tenant allowed the Squatter in?

If a tenant let squatters in (and assuming the landlord did not allow the tenant to sublet), it gets more complicated. In this case it's probably best for the landlord to be safe and pursue the normal court possession options.

This is because if the landlord uses any 'self-help measures' (such as changing locks) and the tenant comes back, the landlord is in the wrong. In the absence of a court ordering possession in the landlords favour, they will have to let the tenant back in again, even if they owe rent.

Possession orders are in effect made "against the world", meaning an order is valid against anyone who happens to be in the property, irrespective of whether they are named in court papers or not, so everyone who is in the property (including any squatters) must leave.

In order to find the owner it may be necessary to request the council contact them on your behalf, or alternatively a title search can be done.

For advice or assistance on this or any other matters contact David Heasley at [www.heasleylawyers.com.au](http://www.heasleylawyers.com.au)



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# Life Activities Club Knox

## BUSH WALKING

Sounds ominous!! BUT, we all know that we need to walk, to keep ourselves mobile. It is so much more enjoyable, walking with a group, and who knows where the conversations will lead? Then finding a shady spot to sit together to eat lunch. Discovering wild flowers along the way. Smells of native trees. As we are **Seniors**, and older than some, the walks are not steep, arduous, or heavy going. Give it a try. Rhoda invites your phone call to familiarise yourself with terrain, and meeting place. Ring between 6-7pm any night except Tuesdays 0438 807 770.

Another lovely outing for a walk is **Wilson's**

**Botanical Park** in Berwick, this was once a quarry, and with time and devotion, has become a very pretty walk, and the Friday Walkers will be there on May 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join them, we will be carpooling from Bayswater, ring Judy on 9758 3114, to learn more about this.

Something from years gone by, the **Old Berwick Cheese Factory**, built in the 1860s and features the **Historic Springfield Homestead**, cheese factory, and kitchen wash house. Set



Historic Springfield Homestead site.

# Boronia Ladies Probus Club



Our first outing for 2021 was a trip to Ballarat, where the main purpose was to visit the Begonia Festival. Fellow members and guests who went enjoyed the beautiful gardens and surrounds along with the regional hospitality. It was a fabulous trip, BIG thanks to Nancy Closter for organising it all at such short notice. Our Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, contact 9764 5233  
Judy Bourke

on beautifully landscaped gardens, and with a full-time gardener employed. Carpooling again, on May 12<sup>th</sup>. And entry is \$5:00.

More about the visit to the **Kerrisdale Railway and Museum**, it is privately owned and built by a very keen Railway enthusiast. We were treated to a 35-minute train ride, followed by a BBQ lunch. Another special day, for 39 members.

Feel free to come to our quarterly meeting on

May 24<sup>th</sup>. 7:30 at the Boronia Bellbird Senior Citizens Hall, near Boronia Station. Plenty of Parking.

Hope to meet you soon. We would like to welcome you to any of our activities, and for more information, please ring **Carol** on **0419 870 639** for a copy of our newsletter.

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

## Naturopathic Case Study

### 10 months old baby with eczema

To date the baby has been vaccinated according to the schedule of the Australian Immunisation Program and has not experienced any adverse affects from past immunisations. The 12-month vaccine is scheduled for 2 months' time.

In the last month, the baby has developed eczema in the flexures of both elbows, behind the knees, on the cheeks as well as patches on his torso. There is a strong family history of asthma, eczema and food allergies in the patient's siblings and mother. The baby was born via C-section after an induced labor and has been exclusively breastfed from birth and still currently breastfed. The baby has had recurrent upper respiratory infections during the winter months and was prescribed antibiotics on two of those occasions. His mum reports that his stools have not been the same since and fluctuate between diarrhea and constipation. Maternal vitamin D was also low on postnatal testing.

Supplementation: The baby is very young which limits the interventions that can be considered. He is still breastfeeding so the opportunity to supplement his mother is available. Nutritional support should start at least 3-4 weeks prior to scheduled vaccination and continue for at least one week after vaccination.

- Breastfeeding (if possible) can help calm the baby and reduce the stress and pain experienced during injections. Therapeutic nutrients may also pass through the breastmilk and augment the direct support given to the child.

#### Diet & lifestyle:

- Keep the diet gluten and dairy free and continue to provide foods high in antioxidants. Continue to eliminate any refined sugar or processed foods which can contribute to inflammation and nutrient imbalances in the body. Choose organic foods as much as possible.
- Choose natural clothes and washing detergents suitable for sensitive skin with no perfumes added.
- The baby was well for 4 weeks and able to receive the vaccination. He did not develop a fever following the injection and the injection site was only slightly red and raised for 1/2 day. 12 weeks later the patient's eczema was almost fully resolved. Contact **Christine Gozlan** Naturopath at Essential Health Foods- 246 Dorset Road – Boronia –

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# Boronia Church of Christ turns 100!

This 'Church on the Hill' has just celebrated its Centenary Birthday with a service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March, incorporating its sister church in Bayswater (who will soon turn 150!) 'From little things, big things grow' - this faithful group of people have grown and evolved as they have continued to meet the challenges and blessings that 100 years of representing the "Good News" in their local community can bring.

Officially opened in 1921, this thriving church



has seen its fair share of ups and downs. Beginning its journey post World War I and heading into the depression and another World War, the congregation of this church has learned to stay together and reach out to its community through thick and thin. A fire destroyed the original building in March of 1991 and they rebuilt and forged ahead with faith in God and a belief in their place in this town, reopening in September of that same year.

Fast forward to 2020 when the pandemic halted all its services, this caring community reached out to its neighbours and members alike with bags of goodies, care, comfort and meals, to make sure people did not feel alone or go without.

The world has changed a great deal since 1921 but the faith of this church's members and leaders has continued to create strong bonds within its congregation and the community at large.



Its current members and guests were encouraged on their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday by speaker Paul Cameron, to abide by some simple bible principles of 'all work and labour coming from faith and love with endurance, inspired by hope in Jesus'. An apt message for the last 100 years and into the next 100!

Boronia Church of Christ continues to have a faithful and caring presence in this community-helping, feeding and offering friendship and belonging to all, building on the caring and courageous legacy of those who came before them.

Come and check out its services on Sunday at 9.30am (for a more seniors gathering) and 11am for a more family and kid-friendly service, each with music and great messages of hope. During the week it has a lunch and dinner meals program and a warm and welcoming Hub Café where you can meet up with a friend or make new ones.

For more information contact the office on 9762 1277 or the website <https://www.bccoc.org.au/>

*Analy Alfonso*

Congratulations to the "Church on the Hill" for 100 years of dedicated service to our community. In these days of instant everything you have maintained a steady source of inspiration and comfort. BBCN



## Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

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

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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.



## Kilsyth South Baptist Church

Liverpool Road, Kilsyth South

## Create & Chat Group

The Kilsyth South Baptist Church ladies have a Create and Chat group on a Thursday afternoon.

They meet at 1pm to 3.30pm or people can leave when they want to and they do craft work and have a chat and time for fellowship, there is a small devotion at the end of the session followed by afternoon tea

Anyone who would like to join can contact Jeanette Richardson on 9725 2868

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## Boronia Sports Rapt At Female Friendly Pavilion

The Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club, Boronia Churches and Lysterfield Cricket Clubs welcome the completion of female friendly pavilion upgrades at Colchester Reserve. Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor officially opened the new pavilion.

Until recently the players, especially women and girls, have been limited by ageing clubrooms. The transformation of the pavilion featured the construction of four female-friendly and accessible change rooms with

amenities, a female-friendly umpire's change room, two first aid rooms, office, storeroom, and new accessible decking.

The upgrades create the perfect venue for local rugby league and cricket to stage more training, competition games, development programs and local celebrations. As Jackson Taylor said, "Better facilities make it easier for Victorians to get back into local sport and recreation and live active and healthy lifestyles"