

Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

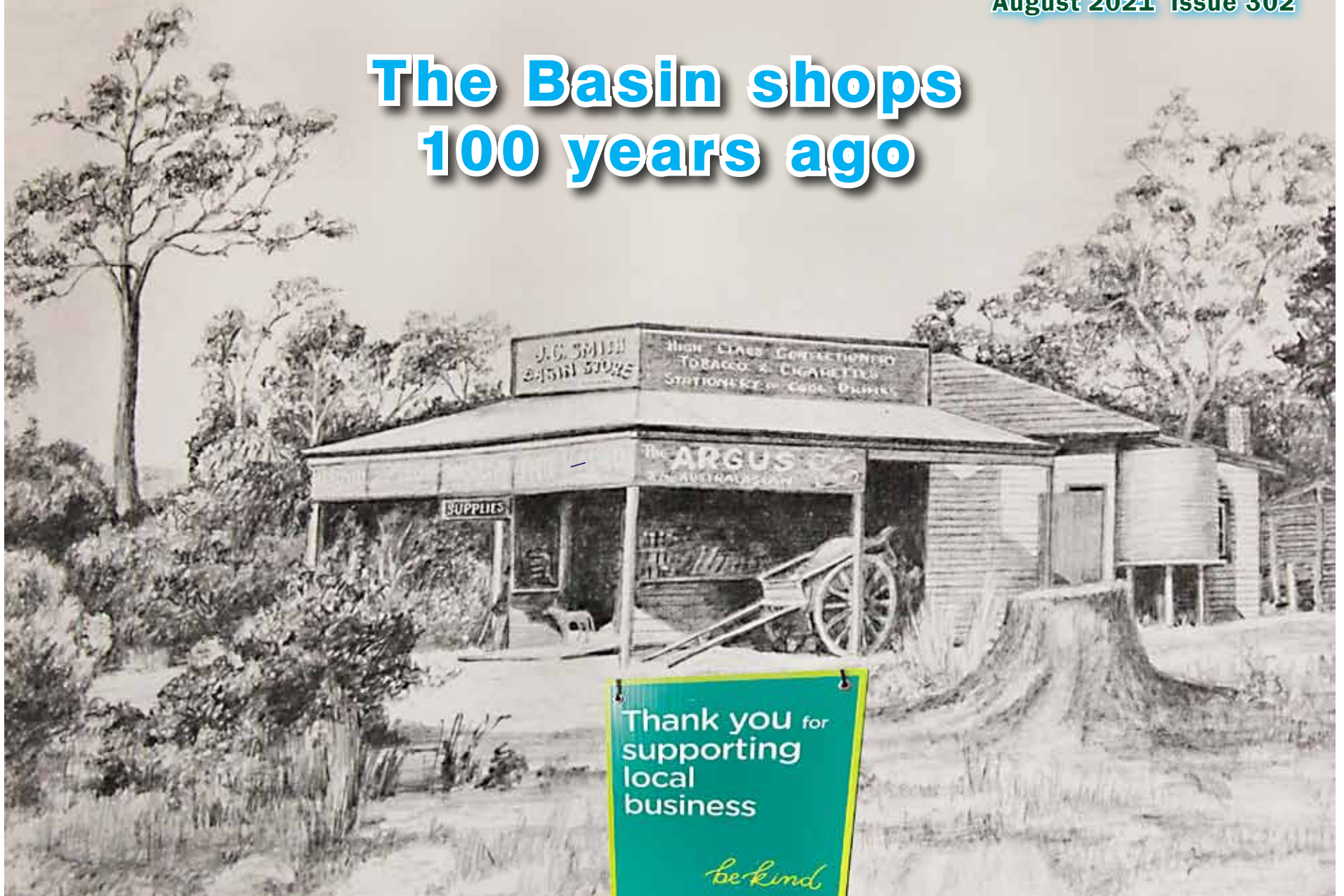
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August 2021 Issue 302

The Basin shops 100 years ago



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Editorial Holding Hands



About 25 years ago I desk-top-published a small book of personal stories by the residents of a special accommodation house near Selby. At the outdoor launch of the book, one lady in her late eighties took my hand to walk her back inside. That feeling of trust and respect has remained with me ever since.

Now they are saying that we shouldn't touch hands, that touching hands is just one more way to spread disease.

But against that risk there's the power of touch - what parent doesn't know the feeling of holding our child's hand, the warmth and connection - and the bitter sweet feeling that comes with the first time the child rejects your hand to cross the road without you.

We use our hands more than any other part of our body to communicate our needs and wants, especially when the matter is personal. When we talk of a human touch, it is almost entirely the touch of hands that we rely on to connect and resolve.

We are all familiar with a handshake and the sense of trust and security that comes with it. The probability that handshakes originated from a practical need to minimise risk in a meeting between armed and dangerous individuals. I grasp your weapon hand and you grasp mine. A stalemate in which we can commune in safety (unless one side is left-handed) hence a gesture of mistrust, hardly cools the warmth of the handshake.

Our language is riddled with hand analogies - "need a hand?" - "that's handy" - "had a hand in it" - "hand made" - and many more because we have a very "handy" appendage on the end of our arm.

My concern, however, has less to do with the practicalities of touch and much more to do with the emotional, even spiritual impact of hands.

We raise our hands in prayer or supplication, for illustration or directing attention. But more than all of this, at least for me, is the shared touch of friends and lovers, especially our life partners. This is the time of life coming full circle, from walking and holding a child's hand to holding our partner's hand for both comfort and support. For me, this was one of the finest times of my life, despite the inevitable end. Perhaps for you too...?

by John Mortimore, ed.

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**BBCN Deadlines &
Distribution 2021**

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
Sept	13 Aug	26 Aug

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**All copy and advertisements
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<https://bbc.org.au/>

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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the voice of the community

MEMBER 2021

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Enthusiastic, responsible people passionate about communication and their neighbourhood are needed to assist on the committee.

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Thank you for your warm heart.

Thank you to everyone who expressed their condolences over the death of my wife Rosamund; I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Whether it was a card from a friend or stranger, a phone call, a letter or email, a chance meeting in the street -those many expressions of shared grief are a source of comfort and respect that I will never forget.

She was an amazing woman who touched many lives and it's good to know that she is not forgotten.

Thanks and farewell Jill

Boronia & The Basin Community News is losing its Committee Secretary after a significant period of calm efficiency and management.

The BBCN Committee has reluctantly accepted Jill Walters' resignation as, due to changing personal circumstances, she believes that it would be unfair for her to continue serving when she no longer feels able to devote the necessary time or energy to properly fulfil the role of Committee Secretary.

In her role as Committee Secretary, Jill has introduced new efficiencies and financial management, joining in as a productive contributor to most management discussions. Her calm and considered responses and good humour have added much to the pleasure of involvement in a highly cooperative group.

Jill says she has enjoyed the many years that she has been involved with the paper and knows that it will continue to improve under current management.

She wishes all the members well for the future.

The Committee thanks Jill for her many years of devoted service.

(PS: Jill's resignation throws open the position of Committee Secretary. Interested...?)

Weebill

(*Smicrornis brevirostris*)

My rather philosophical opening last month about the fool on the hill brought howls of laughter from some people, saying my disposition and place of residence means I qualify unreservedly. Why are people so unkind, hey, I've got feelings too you know. From now on I'm strictly sticking to birds, if I come up with any pearls of wisdom, I'm keeping them to myself. Huh!

We (my wife Adrienne and I) recently spent a weekend with friends at Mansfield; boy, is that place going ahead in leaps and bounds. But the highlight for me was the cracking big River Redgums. They must be some of the best specimens of this Eucalypt I have ever seen. I believe you could run a tourist business driving around and checking out the best ones, it would be an all-day tour, believe me. Eucalypt 'nuts' like myself would pay big money to do it too. Every tree we saw would have germinated well before white man set foot on this continent, a truly remarkable thing, I think. I would estimate some may be 500-600 years old. If only they could talk!

Anyhow, on to the birds. The bird I would like to describe this month is the Weebill, Australia's smallest bird, between 8-9 cm from tip of the beak to the tip of the tail. My field guide says it is often heard before seen. I'll go one better than that, often heard and not seen at all. Up at our friend's place at Mansfield I heard them calling almost as soon as I got out of our vehicle. It wasn't until the following morning that I saw three flying between two of the above-mentioned River Redgums in their backyard. They are often invisible in the canopy, but can sometimes be seen fluttering outside the foliage chasing small insects.

The call of this little bird is described in my Pizzey and Knight field guide as 'robust, deep and far carrying'. That, believe me, is an understatement. For such a tiny bird it's call is a very distinctive and far carrying whistle, but oddly enough you wouldn't describe it as loud. Figure that out, because I can't. The main call of this fellow is his how he gets his name 'Wee-bill' but also a 'weebit-weebee'. I will not be doing imitations, thank you.

A thing I have neglected to mention much in these articles is nest shape and design. Like a lot of the smaller woodland birds, the nest of the Weebill is simply a work of art. Hooded and completely enclosed except for a small entrance, it is a masterpiece of carefully woven fine grass, bark and plant fibre and bound with webs (Pizzey and Knight) and suspended from a branch of



Photo courtesy of Kim Wormald

outer foliage of a tree. How does a bird weave such a masterpiece with a tiny beak its only tool? A human could not possibly imitate it, no matter how hard we may try.

A reasonably common bird of drier, open eucalypt woodland and mallee scrub, they are closely related to Thornbills and are a very similar bird to look at. To make things even more confusing they will occasionally be in mixed flocks in association with various Thornbill species, good luck with that one, you're going to need it. That takes skill, patience and a degree of luck to observe them out in the open. It has done my head in on numerous occasions!

My last article on the Blue-billed Duck drew a response from Brian, obviously a keen duck shooter and I believe would be a very responsible shooter, only taking the bag limit of the correct species. Brian also pointed out shooters must pass identification tests of the target species. Oddly enough, though I believe it should be banned (my opinion), I don't really have a problem with responsible shooters who behave properly. It led me to reflect that I am a keen amateur fisherman, so what is the difference between killing a fish and killing a duck if it is eaten and killed humanely. Conversely, the meat we consume, is that always slaughtered and handled in a humane manner? I don't think so, not always. However, the collateral damage seen each duck shooting season of Swans, Spoonbills, Pelicans etc is totally unacceptable. The sight of wounded birds needlessly suffering also is distressing for anyone who believes in the live and let live policy. Our actions, be it me driving my diesel 4wd drive ute to and from work, taking long hot showers, using clothes driers instead of putting them on the line, need to be examined and scrutinised. It is only when we see ourselves as part of the problem that we can see ourselves as being part a part of the solution.

Des Palmer



The Changing of the Guard...



Boronia Police Station has had a change of guard of its Station Commander as *Senior Sergeant Cliff Sunderland*, the Officer-In Charge at Boronia Police since 2007 has officially retired after a distinguished Police Service of 43 years.

Cliff first joined Victoria Police in March 1978 at the age of 24 years. Cliff had previously joined the Navy, aged 15, when he left his hometown in Wangaratta to the HMAS Leeuwin Navy Base, Fremantle. After seven years' service on various Navy ships, Cliff left the Navy in 1975, returning home where he worked for Australia Post awaiting his induction into Victoria Police.

After graduation in 1978, Cliff went on to serve at various eastern suburbs Police Stations. During his long and rewarding career, Cliff received an extensive list of service medals and commendations including; *The National Police Service Medal, The National Medal, The Australian Service Medal South-East 1945-1975, The Australian Defence Force Medal and The NSW Royal Humane Service Award for Bravery.*

Cliff is a well-respected and admired member of the Community, having collaborated and campaigned with local community leaders, including members of State, Federal and local government for many local initiatives and campaigns within the Boronia area. Cliff was the Principal Ambassador for every Anzac Day Commemorative Service and Dawn Service working closely with the local RSL President and other local representatives.

Cliff was recently farewelled from his role as the *Station Commander (Officer-In-Charge)* at Boronia Police Station following his 43 year career. This momentous occasion was celebrated with Cliff's wife Carolyn (who is a current serving Police member) his children, Jodi, Becki and Tim, alongside grandchildren, Ollie and Charlie by his side. A long list of lifelong friends, colleagues and local community members joined Cliff's family to celebrate his outstanding 43yrs service to Victoria Police and the community. The attendance on the night was indicative of the respect Cliff has gained throughout his career.

We wish Cliff all the best as he now turns his attention to a well-deserved retirement

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Gully Cricket Club at Dobson Park
 - Nearly \$20,000 in grants to support the Shree Swaminarayan and Sri Vkrathunda Vinayagar temples put on exciting community events
 - \$9,000 in grants to great local clubs like Fairpark Football, The Basin Football, Boronia Buffaloes Basketball and 1st The Basin Scout group.

The State Government also released our Climate Strategy which will support Victorians to make the changes we need to reduce the impacts of climate change and will create thousands of good jobs.

We've set ambitious targets (which we are well on track to meet) to reduce emissions by 28-33% by 2025 and 45-50% by 2030. These targets maintain Victoria's position as a climate leader in Australia and that's something we should be proud of as we make our clean energy transition and create jobs along the way. And of course, our 'Cash for Cans' scheme is set to start in 2023 and we continue to put over 700,000 solar panels on roofs across Victoria.

And recently the State Government provided nearly \$500,000 to local businesses like Electric Vehicles Pty Ltd, Gasco, SDI Limited and Branach Manufacturing to boost local jobs.

I wanted to also give a massive shout out in this edition to Police Officers keeping us safe. They're always there when we need them most and I want to say a massive thank you to them for their service to us always and in particular the tough work they've done during the pandemic.



I'm proud that the Andrews Government said we'd deliver the biggest ever number of new and extra Police and now we've delivered every single one, all 3135. And it was the biggest increase to numbers in VicPol's history and as a former Police Officer I know the difference this will make to keeping our community safe. Oh, and remember, next time you walk past a Police Officer, smile and say thanks. It's a tough job and I know they appreciate it. That's all for now, until next time - stay well. You can call my office on 9738 0577, email me at Jackson.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au or pop in to the office at Mountain High Centre, Bayswater. And for any further you can search 'Jackson Taylor MP' for more and to follow me on Facebook.

I would first like to pass on my condolences (as I've done privately) to the editor of this publication John Mortimore and his family at the loss of a kind soul in Rosamund Mortimore. I was very fortunate to have met and spent time with her, a lovely, kind and gentle woman who will be sorely missed. Vale Rosamund Mortimore.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank locals and emergency service workers who've gone above and beyond these past few weeks to help those who have been affected by the recent large storm event. Thank you all so much, always proud of our communities ability to help each other out.

A few things which have been happening locally I wanted to give you an update on:

- Boronia K-12 College have received \$30,000 under the Active Schools grants program
- Construction well underway on the Knox Regional Netball Facility with \$5 million from the State Government
- Opened the new facilities at Colchester Reserve where we invested \$500,000 to back in the Eastern Raptors!
- Announced \$90,000 for new nets for Ferntree

Plant of the Month Sari Cuce

Sweet Pepino (Solanum Muricatum)

Sweet Pepino originated from South America, it is a bush that can be planted in the garden

or in a pot, an ideal fruit growing bush suitable for small backyards or even balconies provided it is facing north/west, needs good sunlight for maximum fruit

growth.

The bush produces clusters of small purple flowers, from these flowers small pale green fruit grows, as the fruit mature it



grows larger and develops purple stripes. Wait until fruit is yellow before picking, its taste is similar to a rock melon/honeydew melon.

Sweet Pepino can tolerate Melbourne winters including frosts, they are shallow rooted so mulch well, bush may need support if in a windy area.

COOK'S CORNER

Coconut Rice Sari Cuce

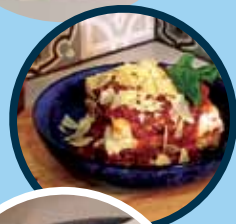
- 2 cups of jasmine or long grain white rice
- 400 ml full fat or light coconut milk
- 1/2 cup of water
- 1 tbsn of white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt

 1. Rinse rice in water three times
 2. Drain rice then soak in hot water for 15 minutes then drain
 3. Add rice, coconut milk, water, sugar and salt into a saucepan cook over medium to high heat
 4. Bring to a simmer so that entire surface of the liquid is rippling (not just the edges) give it one stir (not more) place lid on and immediately turn down heat to low
 5. Leave cooking for 14 minutes
 6. Remove from heat and rest, undisturbed for 10 minutes
 7. Fluff with a rubber spatula

Helpful hint you can buy from Indian grocery shops powdered coconut milk and the advantage of this is that you can make either light milk or full fat milk just by increasing coconut powder.



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From the SBS website

Australia Post launches parcels acknowledging traditional place names after public campaign

Australians will now be able to address parcels using Indigenous place names, with Australia Post rolling out new packaging to coincide with NAIDOC week.

Customers will now be able to buy parcels and satchels which include a dedicated space for the inclusion of traditional place names and a printed acknowledgment of country.

The move follows a campaign led by Gomeroi woman Rachael McPhail, who last year petitioned the organisation to compile a database of traditional place names.

“This is about paying respect to First Nations people and their continuing connection to country,” she said in a statement on Monday.

“If everyone adopts this small change, it will make a big difference.”

In November last year, the postal service publicly endorsed Ms McPhail’s campaign to include Indigenous place names on addresses, releasing guidelines on how to include traditional names on their letter and parcel postage.

“We not only listened to Rachael, but to the

overwhelming feedback from thousands of Australians who supported this fantastic concept to recognise traditional country on their mail,” Australia Post National Indigenous Manager Chris Heelan said.

“Including the traditional place name as part of the mailing address is a simple but meaningful way to promote and celebrate our Indigenous communities, which is something Australia Post has a long and proud history of doing.”

Traditional place names can already be used on letters, provided the name appears above the street address to ensure the item is properly sorted.

Ms McPhail has also called on Australian businesses and organisations to include traditional place names as part of their online address forms.



WALKING THE NEWS

Thank You

Our special thanks go these recently retired Volunteer Walkers of many years: Elanor and Neville Wain, and Kathy Richert.

The following walking rounds are available.

If you can assist or would like more information, just get in touch through contact@bbc.org.au

Permanent rounds available in Boronia:

- * Boronia Mall (125 papers)
- * Hilda Avenue area (155 papers)
- * Moroney, Owen, Bennett Sts. area (95 papers)

Permanent Rounds available in The Basin:

- * Stanley, Augusta, Conyers Sts (137 papers)
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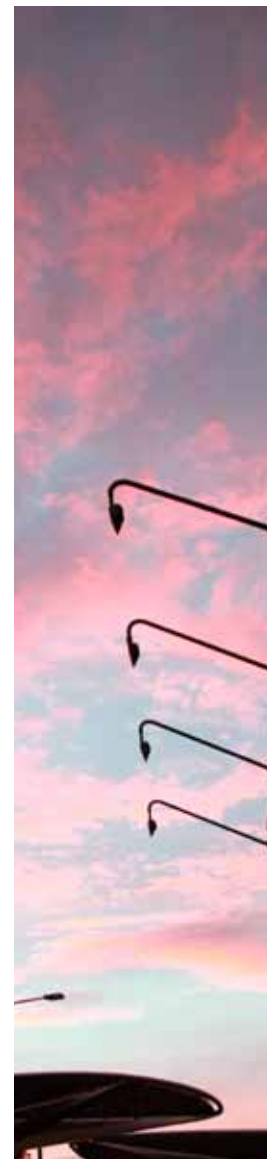
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Koolunga - the Other Side



- filtering harmful nutrients (eg. nitrogen and phosphorous), pollution and sediment that washes from roads and storm water before they can flow into the creek system and impact native animals and vegetation
- capturing larger rubbish so it doesn't end up in the ocean.

Stormwater and run-off captured around Koolunga has a long journey to the sea, flowing down to Blind Ck, Dandenong Ck, Mordialloc Ck, Patterson River and into Port Phillip Bay!

Location and design are important. The existing creek can't be converted to a wetland as it would destroy vegetation that is rare and threatened in Knox and Victoria. It would also shrink habitat for a long list of wildlife already using that space, like our endangered powerful owls.

The proposal stems from Melbourne Water's long term plans and Council's strategy to improve the water quality in Knox's creek systems. This links to the original Koolunga Management Plan from 1994 which was developed with considerable community input and agreement. That plan had great foresight by listing the Reserve's future role in reducing harmful nutrients flowing downstream through Knox's creeks, as well as expanding the native vegetation in the Reserve for both wildlife and people to enjoy.

Wetland designs are informed by studies from the CSIRO and Melbourne Water's experience. Importantly this includes providing fences and natural barriers from deeper water, minimising



It's rare seeing bigger environmental projects funded in our part of Knox. This makes a new wetland in Koolunga Native Reserve a great topic for discussion. Proposed and co-funded by Knox Council and Melbourne Water, a key aim is to filter stormwater runoff before joining Knox's creek systems. It will also provide our community a new high-quality asset that they can enjoy.

Here are many exciting and valuable environmental benefits from locating a wetland in Koolunga Native Reserve, including:

- attracting new bird species like Dusky Moorhens, Eurasian Coots, and Chestnut Teals
 - encouraging more aquatic animals like Brown Tree Frogs, Short Finned Eels and yabbies
 - supporting insects like Blue Skimmer and Australian Emerald dragonflies, and Fishing Spiders
- providing a new type of habitat that doesn't currently exist in Koolunga
- slowing the speed water rushes through the system. More consistent flows into our existing creek will reduce how often it dries in summer or becomes stagnant.

mosquitos, and being visually appealing. You can see great wetland examples in Wantirna at the Mint St wetland and Yarrabing wetland. They show how a well-considered and scientific design can result in assets loved by the community that also support positive environmental outcomes.

Due to the process Council took, understandably, they received a full spectrum of feedback, from people absolutely loving it to those not in favour. Council listened and put the project on hold until additional community consultation is completed. It's important Council hears all feedback and we don't assume they know how we feel, especially if we like an idea and haven't told them! As locals we feel the community's deep connection to the Reserve. Change can take some time to get used to but we're confident the Council's continued consultation process will result in sharing of important facts and information, resolve some early questions and concerns, and find the right balance for everyone and the environment.

A great number in the community are looking forward to a wetland in Koolunga. Common feedback we received includes wanting a peaceful place with water to sit next to, being able to teach their children more about nature with real examples, and having a new space the family visit and enjoy. The value of connecting to nature in local reserves has been really highlighted by covid and lockdowns.

Koolunga is instantly recognised by its four grassy paddocks used passively for recreation and the 85 pine trees planted as a wind break in the 1930s. The Radiata Pine is now a declared pest species but these old trees remain as a reflection of past activity. Unfortunately they have a short average lifespan of 80 - 90 years, meaning they're coming to the end of their lives. Rate payers will be interested to know the cost to remove large trees increases dramatically after they have died. So while there's no immediate plans for their removal, community should consider what the future will look like. Rows of grand eucalyptus trees lasting centuries and providing shade in summer and higher-quality wildlife habitat?

The Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve are locals aiming to make a difference. Our vision is a strong and healthy environment, providing essential habitat for a larger connected landscape. We're hands-on with the environment but also have a strong connection with local community. This includes sharing our experience with residents, running spotlight nights for local youth groups, running dog shows, helping the neighbourhood find lost pets, and much more.

For more factual information about the wetland and environmental outcomes, visit our facebook page and search 'wetland'

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A Lead on Dog Safety

In my neighbourhood, there are many dog owners who do not obey our local rules. They allow their dogs to run or walk off lead in the street. This has always been frustrating for our family, who consistently train and walk our two dogs on lead in the area.

Recently on our daily walk, we were rushed and attacked by a German Shepherd. Our family was given no choice in the interaction, as the dog was not contained by the owner, who also had great difficulty getting their dog under control.

My partner, who had our rescue dog at the time,



attempted to create enough distance to stop the German Shepherd from latching onto our dog, as they continued to lunge at them and fight. Both my partner and our rescue dog sustained minor injuries from this attempt to avoid the oncoming attacks.

I want to inform the community of the dangers that come with disobeying the lead laws. These lead laws are in place to protect all members of our community,

big and small, furry or not from the potential dangers of a dog attack.

Unfortunately, this incident was not the first time we have encountered unwanted meet and greets from other dogs, as I'm sure many of you in the community can also relate. We are often given the excuse that "my dog is friendly", but even if this is the case, the reality is the dog they are rushing to greet may not be.

Many people, ourselves included, have a rescue dog who has gone through rehabilitation in animal shelters and have continued training in their new forever homes to help them feel safe and comfortable in the world.

A common issue with rescue dogs is fear of other dogs. This is significantly increased by dogs that are not on a leash, running up to say hello or potentially attack. Some dogs may be fearful in reaction to this, and have the potential to injure your "friendly" dog.

The only way to avoid escalated situations that can result in severe injuries to both humans and their dogs, is to simply contain your dog. When you leave your home ALWAYS have them on the lead.

If your dog is friendly and enjoys off lead time, we are very fortunate to have many safe designated off lead areas you can utilise. Please don't take away the option for people and their dogs to feel safe in their own neighbourhood, and lead up your dog.

Sheridan and Dylan

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Aston Awards

The Aston Community Awards celebrate our local volunteers and community groups who give their time, skill and energy to helping others and making the Knox community a better place to live.

The awards were instigated in 2013 to recognise some of the amazing volunteers in our community that are too often not recognised.

The awards are named after Tilly Aston who did more than any other Australian in our history, for the welfare of blind Australians through her tireless work and service as a writer, teacher and administrator.

ELECTORATE OFFICE:
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COVID Vaccines – the facts

The recent lockdowns both here in Melbourne and in Sydney have demonstrated the absolute importance of getting people vaccinated against Covid. It is the only way for us to quickly open back up and end the lockdowns without risking the lives of those that are vulnerable to the disease.

The vaccines are the key.

Across Knox, vaccinations are continuing to ramp up bolstered by an increase in supplies of the Pfizer vaccine – there are now a million doses being made available in Australia of Pfizer every single week in addition to the millions of AstraZeneca also available.

As of mid-July, almost ten million doses of vaccines have been given and over seventy percent of over-70s have received at least one dose.

This being said, I understand that some in the community remain hesitant about getting vaccinated.

Some are concerned about the potential side effects and others don't see the need given the relatively low rate of Covid in Melbourne.

Each person will make up their own mind in relation to vaccination. I simply encourage you to carefully examine the facts before reaching a conclusion. Knowing them made me feel comfortable with having the AstraZeneca vaccine and I hope you

will choose to get vaccinated as well.

Were COVID-19 vaccines developed too quickly to be safe?

COVID-19 vaccines have been developed without compromising safety.

It may appear they have been developed very quickly, but researchers have been able to speed up development of vaccines thanks to the development and implementation planning phases being run side-by-side, instead of one after the other. This has been made possible because of unprecedented global funding.

In addition, research into how to respond to a pandemic has been occurring long before COVID-19. Previous coronaviruses such as SARS in 2002 and MERS in 2012, have given researchers a head start when it comes to building the COVID-19 vaccines.

In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or the TGA, has been rigorously assessing the potential COVID-19 vaccines for safety, quality, and effectiveness. They will continue to do this with each batch to make sure they meet the same quality standards. There have been no shortcuts.

What is the risk of AstraZeneca causing blood clots?

There are risks associated with every medicine and every medical procedure. There has been a link

established between the AstraZeneca vaccine and a side effect called thrombosis in combination with thrombocytopenia. It is a serious side effect, but it is extremely rare and may only occur in around 4-6 people in every million vaccinations. (Source Australian Department of Health)

The bottom line is that you are statistically as likely to die from a lightning strike as you are from the AstraZeneca vaccine. That's not hyperbole, that's a fact. The risk is that small.

You are far more likely to die from driving your car each year or from taking aspirin or the contraceptive pill.

In my view, the benefits of vaccination, with any approved vaccine including AstraZeneca, clearly outweigh the risks of blood clots, especially as Australia inevitably opens up and the possibility of infection increases. But as I said, each person needs to make up their own mind.

Where to get vaccinated.

Both Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines are available at around twenty GPs and respiratory clinics across Knox and at vaccination hubs across Melbourne. You can use www.hotdoc.com.au to easily book the next possible appointment at a GP or hub near you.

If you have any other concerns, I encourage you to visit www.health.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines or have a discussion with your GP.

The vaccines give us our best chance of getting back to normal. Let's get vaccinated Knox!





Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

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Real Action For Knox

Local volunteers recognised at 2021 Ferntree Gully & Rowville Victoria Day Awards

Each year, the Victoria Day Awards are an excellent opportunity for us to recognise the unsung heroes in our community who selflessly dedicate themselves to our schools, emergency services, local sporting clubs, local newspapers, churches, and other groups (the list truly goes on) to the benefit of us all.

After a year's hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was fantastic to be able to come together again to recognise outstanding volunteers in our community at this year's Ferntree Gully & Rowville Victoria Day Awards.

This year's Ferntree Gully Victoria Day Award recipients:

- Allie Ames (Glengollan Village)
- Ron Ashworth (Ferntree Gully Arts Society)
- Magdi Batty (Armenian Catholic Church in Melbourne)
- Beverley Campbell (Ferntree Gully Friends of Red Cross)
- Peter Chamberlain (Knox Environment Society)
- Wilma Chandler (Upper Ferntree Gully Angliss Hospital Aux)
- Kerry Davis (Knox Park Primary School)
- Alma Grahame (Glengollan Village)
- Elizabeth Habjan (The Knox School)



Photo of all recipients.

- Margaret Hawkes (Boronia Lions)
- Tanya Keeghan (Knox Little Athletics Centre)
- Fiona Long (Wantirna Tennis Club Inc)
- Sandor Madai (Hungarian Community Centre)
- Chris Markwick (St Vincent de Paul Society - Ferntree Gully)
- Beverley Mills (Ferntree Gully News)
- Tore Pannuzzo (Rotary Club of Knox)
- Kimberley Price (CFA – Boronia)
- Patricia Rivett (Glengollan Village)
- Jessica Rocca (Wantirna College Parents Association)
- Byron Rutgers (CFA - Ferntree Gully)
- Helen Sefton (CFA Auxiliary – Boronia)

- Shirley Smith (Knox Park Primary School)
- Tan Boon Kong (Knox Chinese Elderly Citizens')
- Paul Waters (Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club)
- Patrick Young (Outer Eastern Melbourne Vietnam Veterans Assoc (Vic))

I congratulate each recipient on their award and thank them for their important contribution to our community.

I also thank the Ferntree Gully and Rowville Community Bank branches for their ongoing support with the Victoria Day Awards (now at 14 years!), Etienne Clauw for his brilliant job as master of ceremonies, and Kim Wells MP.

Nick WAKELING MP

STATE MEMBER FOR FERNTREE GULLY

Unit 4, 91 Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully 3156

03 9758 6011

nick.wakeling@parliament.vic.gov.au

nickwakeling.com.au

[/NickWakeling](https://www.facebook.com/NickWakeling)

Letter to the Editor CAT CURFEW

(This letter was addressed to local Ward Councillor, Jude Dwight, with this paper included as a letter to the Editor of the BBCN. Ed.)

Cr Jude Dwight

Dear Jude

I am writing to express my concern for a recent decision by the City of Knox to impose a 24 hour curfew on domestic cats.

My concerns are based on three issues:

1. the decision making process including consultation, public opinion and research into the unintended impacts of this decision
2. the impact to residents who are already cat owners and will require modifications to their existing properties at a cost during a time that people are already struggling to make ends meet
3. the animal welfare issues this may bring about from abandoned cats where people cannot afford to make appropriate modifications

I understand that the council conducted a survey where 85% of the respondents supported the decision for a 24 hour cat curfew.

The council reports that 720 people responded to the survey.

According to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) there are 165,147 residents in the City of Knox, and that 104,606 of them are registered voters.

I would like to know how this survey was conducted.

- How were people invited to participate in the survey?
- Was there any qualification to ensure the respondents were residents of the City of Knox?
- Was there any qualification to ensure that the same resident could not respond more than once?
- What information was provided to the survey respondents to assist them to have an informed view prior to responding?

Giving the council the benefit of the doubt and assuming only residents of Knox of voting age responded and only unique responses were



counted, then 0.6%, just over half a percent of the constituents of the City of Knox participated and only 0.4%, less than half a percent of the constituents, actually supported the curfew.

The argument must be made that the survey was not appropriately distributed and therefore is not an appropriate sample size to support any change to Council laws. Alternatively, it must be conceded that there is insufficient support by the residents of Knox to support such a change. Whilst 99% of the city have not participated in the survey an inference must be drawn that those local residents do not want to change the law.

I have noticed that the City of Knox is seeking public submissions to the Domestic Animal Management Plan and that submissions close on 1 August. If this is a genuine call for public submission, then why has such a rule already been announced prior to public submission?

There is no dispute that people are doing it tough at the moment. The rising cost of energy and utilities is making it difficult for people to make ends meet. Especially during constant lockdowns where energy and water usage is increasing almost at the rate the cost per unit is going up. To comply with this new curfew I and no doubt other residents, will need to make significant changes to their backyards or make the decision to not allow their cats into the yard unless they are on a lead or other restraint.

Addressing the cost, what support does council propose to offer residents to retrofit their yards so that they may comply with the new laws? If residents cannot retrofit their yards and they are fined when their cat escapes, what consequences will exist for unpaid fines and what support will be provided to pay those fines?

Perhaps Council sees this as a money-making opportunity. People who can't afford to fix their yards will be hit with fines. It's a great way to increase revenue.

On the matter of cost, I assume we will no longer be required to register cats in the City of Knox. It only makes sense if these animals will now be confined to the home what service would

registration provide?

Has Council considered the cost to existing cat owners for possible increased veterinary bills? I assume Council has consulted an appropriate body with regard to the welfare of cats and the impact of a changed lifestyle on a cat, especially later in life. Animals can have severe side effects from stress.

What consideration and research has Council conducted on the impact this change may have on shelters, RSPCA and veterinary clinics? I would expect there would be instances of cats being surrendered by residents who do not have the means to make appropriate adjustments to their yards (or are in rented accommodation where they are unable to alter the property without landlord permission} which will no doubt lead to a higher rate of cats being euthanized as a result.

Animal Welfare and its impact on the health of people

This new law is an ersatz ban on cats in the City of Knox, and if moving to the City of Knox it is fair and reasonable to warn new residents of this law so that they may make an informed decision about whether or not to bring a cat with them. However, I and many other residents owned a cat prior to this law coming in, and it is not fair and reasonable to impose such a new rule on people with an existing cat.

I also find it odd that any council would impose such a restriction and a deterrent to owning a pet given our current global pandemic. Research has proven that pet ownership can assist people in times of loneliness, when battling depression and anxiety and can even assist in relaxation and can lead to lowering of blood pressure. There are countless health benefits. Many people such as myself cannot manage owning a dog and a cat is a perfect match in these situations.

Please consider the companionship of a pet during current times when friends and family are often unable to visit due to lockdowns and other restrictions.

I urge you to reconsider this change to local laws and I do seek a response to the questions I have raised above. I believe it is unfair and poorly thought out with lack of consideration to the points I have raised above and especially so during our current times. I do support a curfew from sunset to sunrise. I believe this is a key to responsible pet ownership. However, at the least there should be an exemption to current cat owners of the new regulation.

Please bring my concerns to the attention of the Mayor and all councillors.

Sincerely, *Anne Francis*



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My Hobbit hole Part 3

Danny Nolan

Every now and again I like to build something or do home repairs. What else is a shed full of tools for? We have a small dog, a cavoodle named *Gracie*, who I jokingly refer to as my favourite child.

Gracie has a big heart and since we live on a corner there is a lot of property to protect. There is nothing Gracie likes to do more than anything (besides tummy tickles) is to bark angrily at passers-by who dare walk on the other side of the fence. One of Gracie's problems is that, unfortunately for her, we have a high fence surrounding the property and she is so small she can't see what or who it is, not that that matters, she's happy to tell them that she's on her side and they better not come over and try anything.

This can be annoying, but it's part of her personality and over time you get used to it and in my case, I started to feel a bit sorry for my poor pooch.

So I thought I would remedy the situation. Using a door from an old clothes dryer I found on hard rubbish, I cut a hole in the fence approximately at Gracie's height. I thought the domed glass would help her look beyond the fence and protect her from larger dogs. This didn't work as the glass gave a distorted view to the sides and Gracie wouldn't use it.

So, I resorted to my default position when making things in the garden, I made a Hobbit hole.

I removed the dryer domed door and replaced it with some steel mesh and then spruced up the surrounds to recreate Bilbo's hangout. I added a lamp and some flowers and made it all pretty.

Gracie still won't use it.



Good Read

Good Indian Daughter

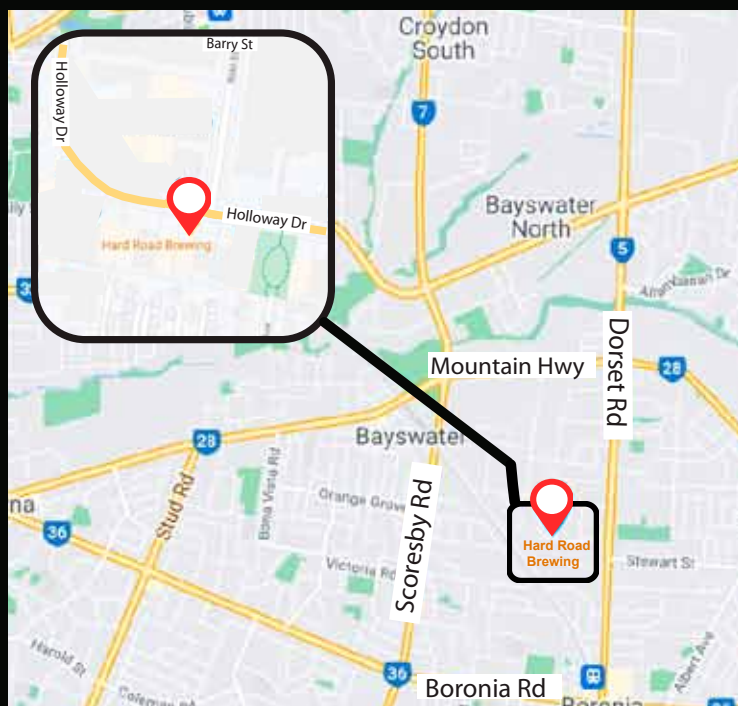
by Ruhi Lee

Having never been an Indian woman or ever felt particularly overwhelmed by my parents' expectations, I wasn't sure what I'd make of *Good Indian Daughter* by Ruhi Lee. It's a time-jumping memoir of her relationship with her parents and her battles against cultural prejudice, racism, sexism and finding her place in the world.

Lee was a very engaging author with a funny and charming voice that had me captivated throughout. I found myself a little disoriented by the way we'd skip back and forth through her life, often I'd have to do a little mental arithmetic to work out how old she was or try to infer it by where she was living at the time.

I really appreciated how open and vulnerable she was able to be and how well she allowed the reader to join in her thought process and decision making. By the end, I felt quite honored to have shared this journey with Ruhi. I may not be a woman or Indian and I'm the parent of two boys but I understand her world better and I understand the kinds of things I need to teach my boys to make them better, too.

Richard Harrison



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MUSIC TOGETHER

'Music Together' is a program for children aged 0 to 5 and their parents or care givers. The program is facilitated by a Music Therapist and includes singing, dancing, instrument playing and relaxation. It is held on Friday between 9.30-10.15am at the church with morning tea and a chat. Cost :\$10 -



Contact: Sue – 0402 079 432.

OPEN OFFICE

At the open office, you will find a group of friendly caring community and church volunteers willing to provide emergency non-perishable foods every fortnight, to those who live in the Knox City Council area who hold a Health Care or Pension card. The Open Office is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10 am and midday, except Public Holidays. Please drop in for a chat with these friendly people anyway! See above for contact information.

THE CHAIR

Grandfather Joe grew up in a furniture-making workshop with his father. They made the most ornate armchairs among other things. Joe's grandson, Peter, loved to visit his grandfather in that workshop and watch him at work, admiring all those magnificent chairs! His dream was to one day own one of those chairs, so he saved his money. As Peter neared the age of 18, Joe could see Peter's love for his chairs, and determined to



make a special one for him. Now in retirement, he worked every spare moment he had. But the problem was that Joe's eye-sight was deteriorating and his workmanship wasn't as sharp as it once was. He became frustrated, therefore, with the fact that the chair wobbled. He knew that was due to the legs being a difference length. Try as he might, he couldn't get the chair to stand perfectly. As Peter's birthday drew near, Joe became dejected and decided to forget the whole idea! However, much later, Peter found the chair at the back of the workshop, and fell in love with it and asked Joe if he could buy it. Joe was elated! Joe was long dead when Peter married, and the one possession he insisted on keeping was Joe's hand-made chair! *Doesn't this story say something to us about life? Just as Joe did, we can try all we can to live an ideal and perfect life. What happens when we fail? Are we any less loved? Peter loved the chair anyway, didn't he, and he loved his grandfather anyway! Whatever our efforts at perfection – God created us and through Jesus, showed us how to love warts and all!*

Beth Butler



Kilsyth South Baptist Church

Liverpool Road, Kilsyth South

Weekly Walk

The Kilsyth South Baptist Church in conjunction with the Heart Foundation has commenced a weekly walking group from 22 July 2021.

The walks will start in the Church car park and will be approx 5 kms and about 1 hour coming back to the Church for a cup of tea or coffee.

There is no cost to joining the group it is about health and fitness, those interested can contact:

Keith Richardson on 0411 466 390

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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.



Knox & District Over 50s

At Knox Over50s we are a very friendly and sociable group who normally meet monthly from January to November and provide guest speakers, day and overnight trips, a book club, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies.

Subject to Covid rules, we hope to hold our

next monthly General Meeting at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 24th August, 2021, at Club Kilsyth. If you will be attending the meeting and would like to stay for lunch in the Club's Bistro, please telephone Bronwyn King on 9762 2015 to book. (Bookings are not required for the meeting.)

Following the ups and downs of recent months, we hope to return to our regular activities as listed above. Weather permitting, we may also be able to continue with walks around Lewis Park on the third Monday of each month.

We have a monthly newsletter (*Knox Natters Matter*) which will keep you up to date with the many fun social activities available.

If you feel you may be interested in joining our group, please contact Jill (on 9801 4363) for further information.

We look forward to hearing from you or, more importantly, seeing you in the near future.

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David Triolo



5 stars Seller of a house in Boronia.

Craig did a fantastic job selling our property in Boronia, going over and beyond my expectations of what real estate agents would do for their clients. He was always honest and forthright, providing appropriate guidance as required, and an excellent communicator. His knowledge and experience is unsurpassed and he remained closely in touch with how the market was performing, picking up on the smallest nuances in market sentiment.

Craig was a pleasure to deal with; I highly recommend him.

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Kate and Ash Henderson

