

THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation from First Nations to "walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future".

Delegates to the First Nations Constitutional Convention, 26 May 2017

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot

be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

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Standing Down - Not Out



After a quarter century of editing and laying out the Boronia & The Basin Community News, along came 2021 to be what has been, personally, the worst year of my life.

Covid 19 is what we all have in common as it ravages our lives, forcing us away from our friends and colleagues. However, Zoom went from half a Mazda slogan or a child's sound effect for their toy car to being the ubiquitous purveyor of communication at a distance. What started out as a surprising gadget for talking to individuals or groups at a distance came to dominate the make-up of planning groups, consultations and committees etc. In my case, Zoom made it possible for me, despite being the full time carer of my wife, to continue attending the meetings and discussions that were essential to participation in the management of the various community organisations I belonged to – including the management committee of this paper.

But then medical issues and personal over-confidence began to unravel the production of the BBCN.

Two hospital admissions, one planned, one not, should have sounded an alarm in my head, warning me that without some emergency intervention in the printing process at our end, we were heading for disaster as a publication. Sleep deprivation had become the standard for me. We did not yet have an emergency procedure in place other than to have some committee members step in without the necessary inputs and access to do a nearly impossible rescue. To their credit, they pulled it off.

In the aftermath of those desperately chaotic efforts to keep the paper being printed and distributed, my personal situation deteriorated dramatically and my attempt to combine grieving with print production foundered on a technical problem. Again, committee members stepped up, and the paper hit the street successfully.

To deal with my situation, after some discussion it was agreed that I should step down for three issues after which we review the situation. In the meantime I continue contributing editorials, articles and images as well as joining in on our regular production meetings.

Thank you to the friends and colleagues who have given such unwavering support in these difficult times. **John Mortimore**

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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.

This community newspaper is run by volunteers. 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.

If you would like to help, do get in touch, we will be very pleased to hear from you.

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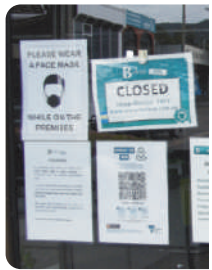
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DON'T FORGET ABOUT US



Hi I'm one of your local small business traders, and present in many different ways. I'm tall, short, heavy, slim, and may speak with an accent, but I'm one of you, just dealing with the Covid situation the same as you are.



When I made a decision to go into business all I wanted to do was work and support my family. I now find myself in a situation that I share with many other traders and citizens, where it looks like all may be lost.

One way to help prevent this shattering outcome is to stick together and support each other. We, as traders, are here to serve you and support you in every way a good local business does, we only need your support to see this through.



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 – the annual subscription, to cover postage, is \$26 for anywhere in Australia. Just send us a message at contact@bbcn.org.au. The paper can also be accessed online at bbcn.org.au.

"Page 3 BIRD" surprise, surprise - it's a Quoll !

Photo credit - David Burren



Hope you don't mind if I give the birds away for this month and write about a mammal instead. If you do mind it's sort of too late for me to do anything about it. Sorry about that Chief. Get someone older to explain that bit. So off we go, into the world of the Spot-tailed Quoll one of our unique Australian mammals.

Australia has 4 species of Quoll, the Eastern Quoll, of which I saw one at Mt Field National Park in Tasmania, near Hobart. This is easily the most beautiful place on earth I have ever been to. The Western Quoll or Chuditch which, while invited to go mammal trapping with scientists at Dryandra in WA, I also got to see one. The Northern Quoll which I have not seen, and the Spot-tailed Quoll, which I also have never seen. One day, I'm hoping!

A field guide to the Mammals of Australia (Peter Menkhorst and Frank Knight) describes their distribution as such: 'Formerly widespread in SE Australia, now sparse from Fraser Island in Qld to SW Victoria. Widespread in Tasmania.' They are listed as vulnerable. In Victoria they pop up in random places, for example several years ago one was seen in the southern part of the Grampians (Gariwerd), the last record being over 100 years prior. The Otways near Lorne similarly, one recorded there after not being sighted for many years. Other sightings I'm aware of in recent years are Christmas Hills, Kinglake and Mt Baw-Baw. I am aware of their presence at Mt Samaria State Park near Benalla, and also Chiltern - Mt Pilot National Park, but obviously occur in many other places too. In the early 90's one made an appearance in Ringwood!

Spot-tailed Quolls are in the upper mid weight range so are not susceptible to predation by foxes and feral cats but would compete for the same prey. They are the only species of Quoll with spots on their tail this being a diagnostic feature for identification. They are the only species of Quoll in SE Australia, the Eastern Quoll became extinct on the mainland in the mid 1960's, but are quite common in Tasmania.

The spotted appearance of all Quolls is an incredible camouflage adaptation which aids it to become invisible in darkness, the spots breaking up the outline and shape of its body as it stealthily hunts its prey, this trait especially helpful on moonlit nights as it searches for food amongst leaf litter.

Unconfirmed sightings have occurred in the Dandenongs, according to a Park Ranger I

spoke to, so if any readers who may have seen an animal of this description, do drop me a line through this paper. I have some anecdotal stories to share with you on this subject. Some years ago my daughter Freya and I were spotlighting at Doongalla when we heard a guttural screech which sounded very similar to a Quoll, though we couldn't confirm with a sighting, and several weeks ago we found some scats (poo) on the Stony rises walking track in FTG which looked very similar to Quoll scats.

Another anecdotal story comes from my friend Ian who lives adjacent to the National Park near Doongalla. Ian is a Pigeon and Chicken breeder and some years ago now told me of a strange thing that happened where he lost about a dozen chickens from his chook pen, each bird having a bite mark on the neck. Knowing foxes will 'thrill kill' in a situation where prey is plentiful ie a chook pen, I suggested this as a possibility. Ian said he had seen foxes kill chickens in a pen before and it was definitely not a fox. I told him I would do some research and was stunned to find out Quolls also will undertake a 'thrill kill' where prey is vulnerable and plentiful (Researchers are stumped as to why this happens). A characteristic feature of these kills by Quolls are a single bite mark to the neck, the very same thing which happened to Ian's birds.

Being carnivorous, Quolls feed mainly on small to medium sized mammals, and will take prey up to the size of Possums and Bandicoots. They are mainly nocturnal and are adept at climbing. Another odd trait of this species is the use of latrine sites, whereby they go to the toilet in the same spot, this especially happens in rocky outcrops, which is a handy feature to establish their presence. Good luck in your endeavours to find one though.

Des Palmer

IMPORTANT COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS

Dr. Mariam Hassan - LOCAL GP and resident of The Basin

I work at a local GP clinic that has reached the exciting milestone of delivering over 7000 vaccines over the last few months. Our community should be congratulated for this monumental effort.

Working as a local GP, I have dozens of conversations about COVID vaccines every day. While most people have already been vaccinated or are awaiting an appointment, some are still unsure. I understand the concerns people may have. In this 'Information Age', it can be so difficult to sift through the onslaught of information and know what to believe. There is nothing wrong with asking questions, wanting to choose the safest option for yourself and your family and wanting to make an informed decision. In fact, we encourage this. But it is important to make sure your decision is based on accurate information from reputable sources.

Here are some of the common concerns I hear regarding the vaccines:

Are they safe? How do we know they won't have long term side effects?

Both COVID vaccines available in Australia, Pfizer and AstraZeneca are extremely safe. There have been almost 10 million doses of each administered across Australia, with over 5 billion COVID-19 vaccines administered worldwide.

They have been through all the regular, rigorous testing protocols and passed all

necessary phases of clinical trials. With over 5 billion doses administered worldwide, we have huge pools of data spanning over one year that attest to their safety - much greater than most other vaccines.

Our immune system works very quickly. As such, any side effects that you would expect from a vaccine, you would expect to happen quickly, mostly within the first few days, and at least within the first 2-3 months. It is not only implausible for there to be unknown long term side effects, it would be highly unprecedented. Long term safety data from other vaccines that have been around for decades have shown that all significant side effects occur within the first 2-3 months of vaccine administration.

mRNA vaccines are a new technology

There are some concerns about mRNA vaccines (Pfizer) being a new technology. mRNA is naturally found in every cell in our body. mRNA from the vaccine actually degrades within 10-48 hours of being administered into our bodies, after it's done its job of telling our bodies to create the COVID-19 spike protein. Our bodies then mount an immune response to that protein. It does not alter our DNA. In fact, mRNA does not even enter the nucleus where DNA is stored. It is safe, effective and researchers have been studying mRNA vaccines for decades for other viruses including influenza, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus (CMV).


What about the side effects?

While there are some extremely rare side effects with the vaccines, it is important to remember that those reactions are actually significantly more likely if you contracted COVID. The rate of myocarditis is four times higher in people who have COVID compared to the Pfizer vaccine. The rate of serious blood clots are almost 200 times more likely in people who have COVID compared with the AstraZeneca vaccine. In fact, it's highly likely that those who unfortunately suffered extremely rare side effects from the vaccine would have had a similar reaction to COVID, as their immune system would have responded in a similar way. Nothing in life is completely risk free. We might get anaphylaxis from eating an egg or peanut butter sandwich. That doesn't mean those things are inherently unsafe, it just means our bodies had a rare, exaggerated response to a safe substance.

Are they safe in pregnancy?

Yes, the Pfizer vaccine is safe and strongly encouraged during pregnancy. Pregnant women who contract COVID are much more likely to have severe disease and significant complications. Pregnant women with COVID are 5 times more likely to need admission to hospital, 2-3 times more likely to end up in ICU, 1.5 times more likely to have a preterm delivery, twice as likely to have a stillborn, and 3 times more likely to have their baby admitted to the special care nursery.

The vaccines are safe and protect against
contd. next page


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contd. from previous page: **IMPORTANT !**

these risks. There have been over 200,000 pregnant women internationally who have been vaccinated with no safety concerns for mum or baby. In fact, pregnant women are less likely to get common side effects (like fever) compared to non-pregnant women. Vaccination during pregnancy has the added benefit of antibodies crossing the placenta, protecting the baby. Vaccines do not increase pregnancy complications. COVID infection does – significantly. And getting vaccinated is the best thing pregnant women can do to reduce this risk and protect themselves and their babies.

Do they cause infertility?

I've also had some young women quite concerned about the risk of infertility. COVID-19 vaccines do not cause infertility. This myth originated by someone who postulated that the COVID spike protein and a protein involved in placenta development (Syncytin-1 protein) are the same. They are not the same protein. This theory is false, completely unfounded and has no basis or evidence whatsoever. As we mentioned, our immune system acts fast, so any side effects should become apparent within the first 6 minutes to 6 weeks. Infertility is not a side

effect of ANY vaccine.

Long COVID

Instead of being concerned about a theoretical risk of long term side effects from the COVID vaccine, we should all be concerned about the real and documented long term risks of contracting COVID. 'Long COVID' affects 10-20% of those who have had COVID and can cause chronic fatigue, long term respiratory damage and 'brain fog'. It is estimated that nearly one million people are currently living with long COVID in the UK, and 40% of them have been dealing with the condition for over one year, many battling chronic fatigue, poor concentration and laboured breathing that is significantly impacting their quality of life.

Ultimately, everyone should weigh up the risk vs benefits for themselves. But with the Delta variant sweeping through Victoria rapidly, please know that the risks of COVID are real, long lasting and potentially deadly.

Are they effective?

Yes, the COVID vaccines are extremely effective. Both the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines reduce the risk of serious illness causing hospitalisation and death by 90-95%.

In Victoria currently (at the time of writing) there are 111 people in hospital and none of them have been double vaccinated. The vaccines are also effective at reducing transmission by 40-60%. While it is not perfect, it still significantly reduces your chances of catching COVID and spreading it to your loved ones.

At the end of the day, once restrictions ease and things open up, it's likely that we all will be exposed to COVID. Ultimately, our choice is if we want to be exposed to COVID vaccinated, with a 90-95% reduced rate of severe illness causing hospitalisation or death. Or unvaccinated, with a death rate of 1 in 70 in Australia, 10-15% chance of hospitalisation, risk of severe disease with rapid deterioration (even in young people) and risk of long COVID.

The vaccines are safe and highly effective. If you are unsure about the vaccine, I strongly encourage you to speak to your GP. We understand that you have questions and encourage you to seek out the answers from the right sources. We hear your concerns. We are here to listen.

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ANDREW HARRISON OUR LOCAL WHEELCHAIR RUGBY PARALYMPIAN

Through the computer screen the lighting is dim and the wall behind is dreary; like a visual representation of quarantine. It's a bit different to the activity in the Olympic Village that Andrew Harrison and his teammates from the Steelers, Australia's Wheelchair Rugby team, have just left. After coming fourth at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games they are now in hotel quarantine and we are chatting over Zoom about this local's experiences.

Andrew and his family moved to Bayswater North when he was seven years old. At seventeen he was involved in a diving accident and "basically had to learn how to be independent again". One day after a physio session, he passed by a group of people in heavy duty wheelchairs ramming into each other and making daunting crashing sounds. Categorising them as 'mad', it wasn't until weeks later when Bryce Alman, himself a three-time Paralympian, invited him to join, saying that they were



looking for players, that Andrew took any interest. After that first game of Wheelchair

Rugby he was hooked, enjoying the way players move around the court and the experience of being part of the close-knit team.

After seventeen years playing the sport, Andrew has racked up an impressive list of achievements. He was named Rookie of the Year in 2006 and began representing Australia internationally in 2007. In 2009 he was named as part of the Wheelchair Rugby League's All-Star Four and has held a Victorian Institute of Sport scholarship since 2012. All of this led to him representing Australia at three Paralympic Games and winning two gold medals with the Steelers. In 2014 he received a medal in the Order of Australia for services to sport. On top of all that, he trains full time, studies full time (an Advanced Diploma of Building and Construction) and is a husband and father.

When asked about these achievements, Andrew describes the Paralympics as "such a



UNSURE ABOUT ALL THE COVID-19 VACCINE TALK? TALK TO A PHARMACIST

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WHEEL CHAIR RUGBY



special moment". He was proud to "pull on the green and gold" in London 2012, winning the team's first gold medal in front of 12 000 people. The second gold came against the US in front of a 16 000 strong crowd at the Rio Paralympics in 2016. Tokyo makes the third time he has worn the Australian Paralympic Uniform. Usually Wheelchair Rugby matches are played in front of 50 – 100 people so the energy of the crowd at those gold medal matches and memories of being asked for photos and autographs will "be with (him) forever".

With the world upside down as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Tokyo 2020 was a different experience. The team still achieved a good result making it to the Bronze Medal match before going down to Japan. But the understandable lack of spectators was disappointing, even though it couldn't be helped. "You can take a lot out of the crowd. A bit of energy, it makes you want to play better."

Restrictions in the Athlete's Village meant athletes had to stay within their own country's allotment. Normally there are chances to meet other like-minded people from around the world. "You can be wheeling past someone who is from a country you've never heard of but you say 'hi' or give a head nod." However, this year it this meant that time was spent meeting Australian athletes from other events, people they wouldn't have met in other circumstances. "The village is its own world. There are no distractions ... everyone is there to play sport."

When I asked what he appreciates about

living in Bayswater, Andrew says it's the views of the Dandenongs, the walking tracks and parks that come to mind. "We're so close to the bush, it's just an amazing place." He also recognises the support of the tight-knit community, the acceptance in the area and the accessibility of the facilities. "For someone who has a disability, to know that I can go out into the community and be welcomed by the general public is awesome."

During our chat, I was quite inspired by Andrew's outlook on life and hope for the future. He recommends that people get involved in disabled sport and that they particularly encourage young kids. He suggests "getting behind them and giving them the confidence to try these different things so that they want to contribute to the community. In Australia we are coming leaps and bounds with disabled sport. For almost every able-bodied sport you can think of, we have a part where people with disabilities can get involve. If people feel accepted, they feel more confident and they're going to enjoy life more. If someone needs a hand, help 'em out, even if it's just a phone call to say: 'Hey, how are you going?'"

I believe what best encapsulates what I discovered about Andrew Harrison is this quote: "For me, I don't look at myself as having a disability. I look at

it as having a challenge that I need to overcome. If someone says 'you can't do that', I'll do it just to prove them wrong."

After the 2016 Games in Rio, Andrew was considering retirement from the sport but these days things have changed. He is planning to be a part of the team in 2024 for the Paris Paralympic Games and wants to represent Australia again. "(He wants to play) in Paris, in front of a packed crowd with my son and wife watching, just for my son to have the memory of his dad playing in front of (that) many people."

As for 2032 and the Brisbane Paralympic Games? Andrew will be there. On the court might be a bit of a stretch but he assures me that he will be there supporting the team in whatever way he can.

This interview between Andrew Harrison and Kimberley Hanson was conducted on Monday 13th of September 2021 on land owned by Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.

For more information about Andrew Harrison and Wheelchair Rugby please visit

<https://www.paralympic.org.au/sports/wheelchair-rugby/>



Boronia's Warm Fuzzy Street

In 2020 at the height of the first lockdown all residents of Army Road, received a note in their letter box, inviting them to join the Army Road Warm Fuzzies. The name, as we found out sometime later, comes from an old parable. "There once was a village where each person had a pocketful of warm fuzzies which they gave away whenever anyone was sad or lonely. The people never ran out because whenever they gave one away another one appeared in their pocket."

Before the pandemic made exercise our only source of outside entertainment, many people had not even walked the 1.3km length of the street. Some had not even walked into Old Joes retarding basin and seen the ducklings which arrive in spring. Most people knew their immediate neighbours but not many others in the street. Now we have a sense of community provided by people we still may not have met, but now feel connected to.

During the last 18 months we have shared things, given things away and found things for each other. One person made masks for people, whilst another made a street library box. Marmalade jam was given away at one



end of the street, made from fruit given away at the other end. Last Halloween we organised contactless trick or treat, so the kids knew which houses to collect from.

Sticker collections, fruit, plants, preloved toys and furniture all transferred to new owners via the letterbox or nature strip delivery notification system. Then there was the lost and found. Escaped dogs and missing mobile phones were reunited with grateful owners. Residents also shared stories of unwelcome intruders lurking in the area, including a person, a fox and a snake.

My favourite story is still one of the first,

where we were asked to give some happiness to a little boy who had been super excited about his birthday party, only to be told it was not possible due to Covid. Residents were asked to help by putting a card in the letterbox to celebrate his day. Many residents did this and some even gave him little presents as well. Most have never met him.

It is truly heartwarming to see that 18 months later this group is still going strong and looking forward to the day when we can have a street party and finally get to meet.

Joy Shelley

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Jackson Taylor Local State MP Report



I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for everything you're doing to keep us safe. I know everyone is over it, I am too. It isn't easy on kids; it isn't easy on communities and it isn't easy when we have to continue to do this longer.

As you may know National Cabinet has set national targets of 70% and 80% of eligible people fully vaccinated and what it means when we hit those targets based on modelling from the Doherty Institute. This National Plan is our ticket out of this pandemic. That's not to say there won't be challenges across our community as this virus will be with us for some time, but it will help us move back to some sense of normalcy.

So, I want you to know there is an end in sight. As difficult as it seems to be now - we are getting there thanks to all of your efforts. Please remember to be kind to one another, stay safe, get tested and if you can, please go and get vaccinated - that's how we protect our community and help out our healthcare workers and hospitals who continue to do the hard yards and will for some time.

Earlier this year I announced that the Department of Transport backed a change to 40km/h flashing speed signs to make The Basin CBD Safer. Well, now I'm happy to say funding has been secured and they're proposed to operate from 8am-6pm along both Forest Road and Mountain Hwy in the CBD with work to start in October. This'll make it safer for the families and locals who use it each day - cheers to those who reached out on this issue that may save a life or prevent a serious injury. And that is worth it.

Some news on Boronia Revitalisation: Stage 1 of the Erica Ave Renewal in Boronia was secured (Boronia-Orchid) and now we're

getting on with renewing the entire stretch (Boronia - Chandler) with Stage 2 funding now delivered.

Works will deliver public realm improvements along Erica Avenue including landscaping, street furniture and will create a safe and accessible footpath with park and civic realm opportunities for outdoor dining and other activities. It will also provide improved connectivity to the Boronia Train Station Precinct and along Erica Avenue.

And with this work - it means both sides of the Station are set for a long overdue major renewal.

As always, a few quick updates on what's happening locally to bring you up to speed:

- The new Knox SES unit building is now complete
- Construction ramping up on the new Knox Regional Netball Facility with \$5 million from the State Government
- Around 500 signatures on my online petition on my website to start planning for a Better Boronia Station
- \$140,000 funding for 'My Generation Project' delivered by Eastern Community Legal Centre to help combat elder abuse locally
- \$50,000 Boronia Revitalisation Community Grant Fund and \$100,000 for the 2nd round of Business Façade Grants in Boronia's CBD - both will be open soon for eligible organisations

This editions local shout-out goes to local company IDT Australia in Boronia who are helping to bring Australia one step closer to manufacturing mRNA vaccines. A new \$1 million NanoAssembly machine will allow this Boronia local to create the final product for mRNA vaccines.

The VICSES Knox unit has this week moved into its new address at Knoxfield thanks to a \$6 million investment from the State Government.

Jackson Taylor congratulated the Knox unit - one of the busiest metropolitan units in the state - on moving into their new premises.

With 50 active members, volunteers from the VICSES Knox Unit are among the most active in Victoria, responding to 1200 requests for assistance from July 2020 to June 2021 inclusive.

As Victoria's largest Road Crash Rescue provider in the state, volunteers from the unit also responded to almost 60 calls for help in relation to road crash rescue incidents in the last financial year alone.

The new fit-for-purpose facility is co-located with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) local headquarters, and reflects VICSES'



commitment and dedication to the community and will enable an expansion of local services, while supporting the retention and recruitment of new volunteers.

The new site includes a Divisional Control Point, which coordinates emergency response activities with other emergency services agencies, and will enable the Unit to continue to respond effectively and assist Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and fire services throughout the State.

The State Government's \$125 million investment in VICSES capital works is ensuring the State's emergency services volunteers are equipped with the resources needed to support Victorian communities. These projects are delivered on behalf of the government by the Community Safety Building Authority.

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.



**FUTURE VOLUNTEERS
PUT YOUR HANDS UP!**

Throughout 2021 our volunteers have continued to help Bridges to support our clients under tight restrictions and with limited capacity. As our services recommence, we continue to need supportive and willing volunteers to help in the following roles:

- Pet Walking
- Transport Drivers
- Social Support
- Admin Assistants
- Phone a Friend
- Knox Senior Safety Register

Find out more at www.bridgescc.com.au
Email or call: info@bridgescc.com.au on 9753 4577 or 0476 470 030



BM ANIMALS was started by John and Maree in 2010,

with the aim of bringing healthy food options to the pet owners of Melbourne. A second hand bookshop stop near Castlemaine spurred their thirst for information and knowledge in the direction of canine nutrition. After dairy farming for many years and with a huge interest in natural animal health behind us, this little bookshop opened our eyes to many possibilities for our dogs. By changing our pet's food, we can drastically increase the lifespan of our four-legged companions, and help them to thrive instead of just surviving.

At BM Animals, we are always striving to supply our customers and their pets with natural, healthy food options. Primarily we supply fresh meals for dogs, including pre-made raw meals, high quality raw meats, plus the supplies a pet owner would need to custom make their dog's own raw diet.

We cater to dogs with gut and skin intolerances, as none of our products contain preservatives or other nasties. We believe in supplying our dogs with the right nutrients, vitamins, minerals, trace elements, probiotics, enzymes, amino acids etc in an available form in real, biologically appropriate food.

To cater for all dogs, we also have a small range of dry food (Meals For Mutts), plus some cooked options to act as replacements for high-sugar, salt and preservative tin foods at a highly

competitive price!

Our dry treat range is a small batch of high quality ingredient varieties, designed as training treats, long lasting chews, or simply to spoil our beloved critters.

Everything we sell is 100% Australian, sourced from small local Victorian Farms where we can, and processed by us in our Bayswater Factory. What we do is purely for the welfare of our dogs, to give them the happiest & healthiest life possible.

We specialise in nutrition for dogs with certain metabolic conditions including intolerances and allergies, and are always happy to have a chat about our customer's concerns.

We are proud of the pet community that we are a part of and have helped create. Our customers are like our family; we love their pets as much as our own.



Your One-Stop Shop for All Your Pet's Dietary Needs!

Visit Our Factory Outlet At 1 McLellan Street, Bayswater

Open Hours: 9am-6pm Tuesday To Friday (Closed Mondays)

9am-5pm Saturday

9am-4pm Sunday

Contact us on 0488 144 675 with your enquiries, or come on down!

Whether your dogs are fed a raw, cooked or dry diet we have options to help them thrive on any budget.

We stock a range of high quality fresh meats and bones plus fresh/frozen balanced meals for your raw fed dog.

We stock Meals for Mutts, an Australian-Made dry food for your pet's optimal health.

Our range of dry treats are 100% natural, sourced from small local farms, with nothing else added. We have options for training, occupying, or spoiling! Everything is made fresh by us here in Bayswater in our factory warehouse. You will meet the folks who make the food when you come!

If you're looking for a reliable, local and trustworthy small business for your pet products, come check us out!

Plus, bring a copy of this ad with you to receive

10% Off

Your First Purchase!

Voucher is single use & Expires on December 1st 2021

REHABILITATION FOR PEOPLE WITH ATAXIA STUDY

Researchers are looking for people with ataxia for a research study to evaluate whether a 30-week rehabilitation program, including six weeks of outpatient rehabilitation and 24 weeks of a supported home-based exercise program is better than standard care for people with degenerative ataxia.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the Chief Investigator, Ms Melissa Roberts, on (03) 8341 6228 or via email: melissa.roberts@monashhealth.org

C.MURRAY GILL – A GOOD SAMARITAN IN OUR MIDST

Murray tells me that 1982 was the year he started working as an Outdoor Garden/Maintenance Man and it was then that he started again to pick up litter in the community. Between 1992 and 2002 he was admitted to hospital with a bipolar condition some 18 times over that 10 year period of time. Life has had its challenges for him but he tells me he is overall a positive person in spite of it all.

A number of months ago, Murray decided to get back to helping clean up his neighborhood and so he has been using a shopping trolley during his exercise time in the day and even into the evening to collect rubbish off our streets. I was told about his service to the community and gave him a phone call to talk about his wonderful efforts. Sadly for Murray, someone who was aware of his bipolar condition and no doubt out of concern, reported his unusual behavior and he was swiftly taken to Peter James Clinic. His medication was changed, which has altered his mood to a more depressive level on the spectrum of bipolar. He sees aspects of his bipolar as a source of strength because when he is mildly elevated he says, "I am at my best and I'm hard to beat." He also tells me

proudly that in the 1970's he was working as skilled tradesman and he won the Beasley Award as top in the State of Victoria as a 1st year apprentice in Tool and Gauge making. He says when his mood is elevated, "I don't bother anyone, I'm enthusiastic and we need enthusiasm to survive." So his work cleaning the environment collecting rubbish, reflects the enthusiasm of his elevated bipolar condition and its benefit to others and



himself.

Murray comments that, "We are too Covid conscious and not enough community conscious." He is concerned that people are losing employment, that businesses are

suffering too. He understands and accepts that Covid 19 is serious but is concerned also that democracy is being threatened because parliament has been closed due to Covid 19. His community mindedness is reflected in his effort to run for Federal parliament for the Lower House for the Australian Democrats in 1984. Also, in 1988, he ran again but this time as a Christian Independent for the Lower House of State parliament; he wanted to make a difference. As a Christian he believed that he had a responsibility to do good and expressed this by saying, "If the good do nothing, then it is wrong."

On a personal level, Murray tells me that in 1992 he had a one hour encounter over a coffee with a woman called Catherine, when he had been admitted to hospital due to bipolar. This brief contact led to a long lasting relationship. Sadly, in 2018, she died prematurely; he misses her very much. They were able to support one another, (it had been claimed she too had bipolar) at a time in their lives when few others were there to help, especially with people experiencing mental issues. Finally, Murray sums up his life by saying, "I have suffered much but have triumphed over adversity basically because I have a positive view of life." Well done, Murray and keep up the good work!

Lynette Hayhurst

KNOX
your city

Honour everyday heroes

Knox Australia Day Awards 2022

Know someone who has made a difference? Think of people who volunteer at schools or clubs, or reach out to help others, or work to sustain the environment. Help us give these amazing people the recognition they deserve.

Nominate by 22 November 2021

knox.vic.gov.au/ausday

Australia Day
redfern, sydney, australia

Knox City Council

William Matthews Funerals

45 Cave Hill Rd, Lilydale
24 HOUR SERVICE - ALL AREAS

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

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

Before you decide call
Bill, Narelle or Melanie Matthews or Micah

9739 6868

www.williammatthewsfunerals.com.au
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED N.F.D.A. Member



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.

Due to the current lockdown restrictions, we do not envisage holding a meeting during the month of October. However, as soon as the

rules permit, we will resume our monthly meetings. It is most likely our first meeting would be an outdoors one (subject to weather conditions). We have our fingers (and toes) crossed this will be before Christmas.

As we are finally seeing an improvement in our weather with the arrival of spring, we are hoping for a similar improvement in the social situation. Each and every one of us has been missing our get-togethers with family and friends and it would be wonderful to freely enjoy the company of others.

Following the ups and downs of recent

months, we hope to also return to our other 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.

Alan Tudge, Local Federal MP



New Homes for Wildlife in Boronia

One of the best parts of living in Knox and especially in The Basin/Boronia area is its proximity to the Dandenongs National Park and other natural habitat areas.

One of the not so well-known spots is Koolunga Native Reserve right on the edge of Boronia on Forest Rd.

Nestled at the foot of the Dandenongs, the reserve is a great place to visit and an important connector for wildlife travelling between the Dandenongs and the wildlife corridors that exist throughout Knox.

The reserve is home to over fifty species of birds, including the endangered powerful owl, and is cared for by an extraordinary group of local volunteers - The Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve.

They are currently undertaking a project to build and install artificial hollows or nest boxes to increase nesting



opportunities and further strengthen the wildlife corridors from the Dandenongs.

To assist the Friends of Koolunga Reserve with this important project, I was pleased to recently help them secure a \$10,000 federal grant to install nesting boxes in the reserve.

Throughout the year, the volunteers have been working hard to build and install these nest boxes and they look sensational.

The boxes are made from 100% recycled waste plastic and are expected to last 4-5 times longer than wooden boxes.

The Friends plan to run this program long-term and continue to install and maintain the boxes in the reserve and on private properties in the area.

Thank you for your amazing work Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve and for finding practical ways to maintain our natural environment.

If you live nearby and are interested in getting involved, the Friends are always looking for new volunteers so please get in touch.

Sometimes just a small amount of money can make a huge difference.

Please contact my office if your local club or organisation is not on my database, so we can keep you informed of upcoming grant opportunities.

Alan TUDGE MP
Federal Member for Aston

f tudgeMP ✉ alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au
☎ 9887 3890 🌐 www.alantudge.com.au

Real Action For Knox

Published by Alan Tudge MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Level 1, 100 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Celebrating A Local Young Author

Meet the lovely Taylor Skye. At just 10 years old Taylor is a published author. Yes - you read that right. This bright young local is the author of 'The Crystal Cave' that she wrote at just 8 years old and thanks to an encouraging Victorian publishing company, she has seen



her vivid imagination come to life in print. This colourful and delightful children's book is one of the many stories that pour out of this young author's mind. Drawing influences and ideas from the world around her, this bright young girl is a name to watch.

Taylor's story "The Crystal Cave" is an exciting adventure featuring a girl called Lucy and her young dog Puddles as they discover a cave full of magical crystals on a beach while on a family trip. It is beautifully illustrated by artist Kimberley Coffey and attractively printed. Taylor's story was 'discovered' after it began to circulate from one contact to another, ending up in a preschool and was then recommended to publishers. What an experience to have at such a young age and speaks to the talent others have seen in her.

Taylor's face lights up as we talk about unicorns and other magical things as we chat on Zoom with her mum. Taylor has always dreamed of becoming a writer and is working on a chapter book and also hopes to publish another picture book next year. Taylor shares a love for crystals with her nana who is one of her best friends and influences and shares her success with and gets encouragement from

her pop, her dad, cousins and her mum who is her biggest fan.

Taylor attends Regency Park Primary School in Wantirna South and has been encouraged and cheered on by her school especially the lovely Ms Hawkins her teacher and Mrs Brown her librarian. What an important part our caring and passionate teachers play when we are spreading our wings. We can all remember the magic of books and libraries when we were young and it's delightful to see the wonder lives on in new generations. Taylor's favourite authors include Roald Dahl and Aaron Blabey (of Pig the Pug fame).

When Taylor isn't writing she will be found riding her two horses Bronson and Danny or riding around on her bike or scooter or talking to friends. However Taylor is always writing something. She has been writing stories since Prep in fact and is often commenting to her mum "Oooh, that would make a good story". Taylor's desire to become a well known author is well on the way and is an inspiration to all of us, that we are never too young or too old to pursue our dreams and put pen to paper or follow other avenues of creativity and Taylor she is well on her way to fulfilling her dream, so watch out for her name as she continues



her journey.

How can you get a hold of this delightful book for yourself or a loved one? You can contact Shawline Publishing directly. It is an all Australian company based in Ballarat who will ship to your home directly. This publishing company is providing opportunities for Australian artists and writers to shine in what can be a very

competitive market. All books are edited, illustrated, designed and printed in Australia.

You can call or head to their new bookstore online called "The Independent Bookstore" where it showcases all it's published books for adults and children. It also sells a range of self-published authors, giving them a market when the big companies won't give them a go. You can access your copy of "The Crystal Cave" through this bookstore or wherever good books are sold including Dymocks, Booktopia and Amazon. Visit their website <https://indiebookstores.com.au> or <https://www.shawlinepublishing.com.au/>

We wish this young author all the best in her future endeavours and look forward to hearing more from her in years to come. If you are a local artist or creative person we would love to hear from you so we can continue to celebrate local talent.

By Analy Alfonso

SALT and VINEGAR potatoes.

Maggie Hawkes

Rinse spuds in usual way, no need to peel.

Place in saucepan with usual water quantity and a cup of white vinegar.

Boil. Drain. Press lightly to flatten.

Place on baking tray. Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt.

Place in oven or grill for 10 minutes.

Then add yoghurt, sour cream or cheese.

Add mint or rosemary.

Serve with fish, chicken, chops, steak.

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavet.com.au

"Serving the community for over 45 years"

With over 20 veterinarians, we are one of the largest, privately owned, single site, general practice veterinary hospitals in Melbourne.

Our commitment is to provide diverse options to the entire community.

The clinic offers extended consulting hours, and our hospital provides round-the-clock care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our existing clients enjoy a 24 hour service.

TRAGEDY, THEN TRIUMPH

The story of Sothea, from The Basin

In the 1970's Cambodia experienced a civil war and the "Killing Fields" terror reign of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. It is estimated that some 1.5-2 million Cambodians died whether of starvation, execution, disease or overwork. It was during this terrible time in Cambodia that in 1973 a little baby was born called Sothea Thea. This is his story of separation, suffering, survival and courage, and escape to a new homeland.

One day when Sothea was only a baby, his mother left him with his grandparents, and crossed a bridge to meet with her husband. War broke out that very day. Sothea would spend many, many years separated from his parents, who were not allowed to cross that bridge. During these childhood years under the care of his grandmother he learned and experienced many things unimaginable in our country. "We would run around playing with some ammunition left by the army. We used the gun powder and put it in clay pots with hay on top, lit it, and waited for the explosion, just for fun." He learnt how to make a "fire master" by using dried and compacted tobacco with wax at one end then put it in a bamboo stick and lit it and it lasted for 2-3 days so they could light the fire for cooking and other uses. As a teenager he worked on farms picking fruit and vegies. Years passed



by until one day in April 1990, it was Cambodian New Year that everything changed for Sothea.

His mother escaped Cambodia as a refugee to live in Melbourne, Australia. She managed



over a long time to borrow U.S. 1200 dollars, a lot of money then, to try and bring her son to our shores.

This was very risky and dangerous. Sothea tells me he couldn't sleep the night before he was leaving (he was 17 years old); all he had with him was a U.S. 100 dollar note. An uncle collected him at 4 a.m. and he headed off on the back of his uncle's bicycle. Then he was bundled into a car boot with three other boys, not eating or sleeping until 11 am the next day. Along with others, he was then put in a "dodgee" boat and, hidden, they headed off into international waters. The crew stole all their things, and he was left with just the clothes on his back and the cash. As they entered Malaysian waters, the boat was not moving, the propeller had gone. Marines stopped them, sprayed them all with "heavy smoke" knocking them unconscious, then towed them into Indonesian waters. Three days later they ended up at Kalimantan, a portion of the island of Borneo. The boat was leaking and the Red Cross on the island helped repair their boat. Finally, but with no compass they headed towards Timor Island. Four nights and days passed when they saw some capsized fisherman. They rescued them and their boat, and after seven days at sea, they landed on Timor Island. The Premier of the island thanked them for helping the fisherman, but due to the poverty they could only offer them fresh water for their trip, which they gladly took.

The boat again began to take on water. They wrote a big "Please Help" message. Marines from Townsville arrived, tried to make repairs, but finally all of them were taken onto the marine's boat. An hour later their boat sank. Three days later they reached Darwin and were all locked up in detention for six months, then flown to a refugee camp in Port Hedland, WA for another one and a half years.

Sothea's mother was finally approved to sponsor him and so he was reunited with his family in Melbourne. Sothea explains, "As a refugee our lives were like animals that can be bought or sold by anyone, without us having any control. It was the "human traffickers" who were the ones who profited financially from us as refugees; they were the real problem not us."

In his early years in Melbourne, Sothea worked with car radiators at Calsonic Australia, then later as a security guard and crowd controller. During this time in 2000 he met and married his wife Sokunthea. In 2004 a door opened for him to work at Robinvale Hotel, in northern western Victoria. The job he thought was in security turned out to be the local pub manager, and he surprised the locals by working there for four years - most publicans lasted less than two. The pub work taught Sothea, "a lot in life like community, social life, hard work and that there were many types of Australians. Some I found couldn't read or write but chose to walk everywhere as itinerant workers saying, 'Where night falls that's where my house is'." When Sothea and his wife headed back to Melbourne, a new door opened for him to run his own small business in The Basin - Wright's Milk Bar. The day he moved into the store in 2009 in February was "Black Saturday" and he saw the black smoke over the nearby hill behind his store. His heart sank as he wondered to himself with his wife and children around him, "What the hell am I putting my family through?" Thankfully, they survived and his business has thrived over the years. I recently observed a local express to him their respect and affection toward him in his shop.

Sothea's philosophy is, "What comes is our destiny, we don't have a goal - I just take a ride with my life, I take it and harvest it. As poor people in Cambodia we had no goals because of the war, corruption and the rich controlling our lives. It meant there was no use having goals, we could never achieve them." He sums up the changes he has seen in his life and says, "War, sadness, frustration, trapped, more frustration due to our current circumstances." He is lost for words and can't describe how painful it is for individuals and businesses but some like him he says are fortunate to be open, but some will never recover. He then tells me with great respect and warmth about his grandma and that she had the most influence in his life. He says, "She taught me to cook, garden, shop and make fire which was hard to do in those days - much vital knowledge."

Contd. next page



He most admires her because of her great knowledge of life including how to plant crops and prepare food. He says, "I can't thank her enough for all she taught me; she passed on the knowledge from her elders. A great God is knowledge in life."

Sothea tells me that his family are first priority with his wife and his three sons Eric, Harry and Brian. He says, "In our culture we do not openly express our love for others but show it by the actions of love toward them." Sothea is a passionate gardener and combined with his compassion to those small businesses unable to sell due to the ongoing lockdowns, he lets a local grower/trader display her plants in his shop for sale at no cost to them. Finally, Sothea talks about the challenges he has faced in his life saying, "Life is a great burden to people and also it is a great learning place as well and that we need to be grateful for what we have at this time."

Lynette Hayhurst

KNOX
your city



Knox Seniors Festival 2021

1 - 28 October

Expand your horizons

Come along to meet new people, learn something new, and have a good time!

Event highlights include:

- 1 Oct - How to get older without getting old talk
- 5 Oct - Taste of Asia cooking workshop
- 7 Oct - Self-publish your own ebook

Book your spot today by calling 9298 8000 or visit knox.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival



Event details may change due to restrictions. Check with the event host or our website for updates.

Catching you before someone gets hurt.

Right now, Victoria Police are out in force catching drivers distracted by their phones. Catching these drivers helps protect them from harming themselves and other road users. The lucky ones get caught.

TAC **VICTORIA**
State Government



Community is one of those words you hear all the time. I heard it used six times on the news last night in various contexts. Although we are

Nick Wakeling Local State MP Ferntree Gully



2021 Ferntree Gully Endeavour Awards

For the second year running, the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health orders issued in response have severely disrupted the lives of our kids.

Our kids have had to trade face-to-face learning for remote learning. They have been unable to be with their friends, to play community sports, and have missed out on many of the events and milestones we took for granted.

In particular, I feel for the kids who have missed out on the early, formative years of their education and for the students in those all-important final years.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, our kids have displayed tremendous resilience and this resilience should give us all hope for the future.

Our kids' sacrifice must not be overlooked and their resilience over these past two years must be recognised by us as a community.

all familiar with the word, many of us have a different perspective on what it means and how it impacts us (or we impact it).

Effective communities have strong connections between the members, which provides them with a connected sense of identity and belonging. These can be based on place (like a physical location - like Boronia and The Basin), belief (like a cultural group, or advocates for a movement), interest (for example, a sport or craft), or a combination of these like the local footy club.

It is for this reason that I am particularly delighted to be awarding the 2021 Ferntree Gully Endeavour Awards over the coming months.

These awards recognise the students who have shown great endeavour over the course of their entire education.

These awards highlight pupils who have strived to do their best in all aspects of their schooling, including by being helpful to other students and staff, and those who have been great ambassadors for their schools.

I can think of no better time to recognise the endeavour of our students. To show great endeavour during these difficult times is a remarkable accomplishment deserving of our recognition as a community.

Even though this year's graduations will resemble those of 2020, I hope that every student in Knox feels proud of what they have achieved in what was yet another challenging year.

Their resilience and their achievements will stand them in good stead to realise their dreams and to contribute to a brighter future for us all.

Since the emergence of the internet, and especially the growth of social media, the boundaries for communities have become more open, with many virtual communities engaging entirely on-line across geographies. This was further accelerated by COVID, which has emphasized remote communications because of the health challenges of socializing face-to-face.

Most humans are social creatures who have a fundamental need to engage with other people. Being part of a social group is important to our individual and collective mental and physical wellbeing. COVID has clearly shown us that being isolated increases anxiety and negatively impacts our resilience and happiness.

The need to engage with others is an important part of our sense of being and worth. Who we socialize with, greatly impacts how we see ourselves and this influences who we are becoming as we develop.

People may be attracted to a community because of how it benefits them; those benefits increase far more when they ask "How can I help?", "What can I offer?". The more people who have a contributing mindset in a community, the stronger the trust and relationships become. This flows on to strong connections and amazing outcomes, as we are more powerful as a collaborating collective than as competing individuals.

Boronia and The Basin Community News is a volunteer not-for-profit organisation, operated for the community, by the community. For over 25 years BBCN has shared stories, ideas and questions with our community members to help connect and inform us. This has been achieved through a free monthly newspaper, a Facebook Page and a website. Our purpose and values statements are available on the webpage here: <https://bbcن.org.au/aboutus/>

If you would like to share ideas and participate in your community, here is a great place to start. Just contact us at contact@bbcن.org.au

Arthur Shelley

Nick WAKELING MP

STATE MEMBER FOR FERNTREE GULLY



Unit 4, 91 Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully 3156 nick.wakeling@parliament.vic.gov.au

03 9758 6011 nickwakeling.com.au /NickWakeling

Meet JANETTE GARBUIO

a local artist, painter and artistic tour director. Janette fell in love with painting at a young age and has pursued this passion throughout her life, creating an impressive portfolio of work, culminating in exhibitions and associations with a number of local art societies and much travel abroad.

This delightful, enthusiastic and talented painter is most often found outdoors making the most of the 'en plein-air' or fresh open air, capturing the landscapes of our beloved hills nearby or on location elsewhere. Janette paints with oils, pastels or watercolours preferring to do most of her work on location and only doing the finishing off in her studio.

Born in Upper Ferntree Gully in 1955 at Chandler House (which is now the Angliss Hospital), to immigrants from Italy, Janette has lived in this area all her life. Janette attended St Johns Primary School and then Mater Cristi. Spotting her enthusiasm for art, Janette was encouraged by a school teacher to visit studios and galleries to develop her passion. Having both talent for art and maths, Janette was also encouraged to do something practical with her mathematics skills but her love for art would eventually prevail.

Janette fell in love with art in school and began to pursue it, taking classes with instructors when she discovered you could do such a thing. The Hut (Ferntree Gully Arts Society) and then Carrington Park art classes were a place to develop her talent under the guiding and generous influence of teachers who became her mentors. Some of her greatest inspirations were June Barnett, Sue Hall, David Moore and many others who helped her develop her own style, skills and passion.



By the time Janette was married, had young children and was working part time, something in her was still stirring in the direction of her painting and love for art so she finally decided to formalise her training by completing a Diploma of Fine Arts at Dandenong TAFE. Janette went on to join and contribute to many local artist groups and galleries such as the Sherbrooke and Ringwood Arts Societies and the 'The Hut' in Ferntree Gully, sharing her talent, volunteer hours and administrative skills to promote the work of her fellow local artists and continue to grow her own body of work and exhibits.

Another interesting turning point in her journey came on a trip through Europe with her young family, where Janette was exposed to the wonders of the great European painters and beautiful galleries and museums that she visited. This stayed with her, and planted the seed of an idea. With her family roots in the mountains of Italy she eventually began running painting tours of her beloved Emilia Romagna region and later Tuscany, Venice and the Bay of Poets (Gulf of La Spezia). With her knowledge of the language, cuisine and culture, these tours have been a huge success, carrying painters and photographers to beautiful spots across Italy to sample the countryside, the delicious food and wine of the region, and encouraging fellow artists to let their gaze and brushes run free over the beauty of nature and the historical cities, towns and many galleries and museums. The locals welcomed these visitors from

across the world with warmth, care and generosity, making these trips very memorable for all.

From humble beginnings, this entrepreneurial and talented lady grew "Paseano Tours" into a much sought after experience. Check out her website on www.paesanotours.com Sadly, the pandemic put a halt to tours last year and this year and Janette is wondering whether she will return to these trips again. Let's hope the flame is not out completely and others may have the chance to roam the hills and cities of Italy pursuing their hearts and imaginations as she once did many years ago.

You may run into Janette someday sitting in the sun in places like the Blind Creek Trail (due to the 5 km limited during restrictions) making the most of the fresh air, natural light and local landscapes. If you do, stop and say hello and take a look at what she's painting and remember to admire the beauty we have right on our doorstep worth stopping for.

If you are interested in local artists and exhibitions you may want to check out the current "Small Packages" exhibition showing on the Sherbrooke Arts Society website www.sherbrookegallery.com This website can also show you many other of their events, classes and exhibitions. Let's all hope we can soon be out and about enjoying things like galleries and museums again. In the meantime, if you want to see some of Janette's paintings, visit her facebook page or bump into her in 'plein air'. Arrivederci!

By Analy Alfonso



Simply The Best



45 Stuart Street, The Basin



Online Auction
13 Oct
7pm

5



3



6



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A MINI COMMUNITY PANTRY & MINI FREE LIBRARY are operating out of plastic tubs at the front door of the church. The Pantry on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 12noon and the Library each day. Please ONLY take what food you need and replace what you can when you can. If you are passing the church and have some grocery items for the pantry, please feel free to put them into the tub. You might like to change your library book too! Books are for your enjoyment.

For further information, phone the church office on 9762 6732, or use our Facebook page which is: www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch

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Craig Kelly
Director
0411 866 316

4 St Helena Place, Rowville

We engaged Craig to represent us in the sale of our property for the reason that he came across as honest in the way he presented the facts in relation to the market and our expectations to obtain a great result. We were not let down. We had purchased and knew we had to sell, however we were hit by the current lock down. Craig's communication with us and the purchasers, who had shown some interest in the two opens, was amazing. We achieved our goal EVEN in the Lock Down. Thank You Craig!

Jim and Judy Gordon

Hans Brenkman
0427 371 886



Annie Brenkman
9762 0008

