

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE



Kidszone Centre Pages



The Knox Community Christmas Support 'Sharing the Joy' Appeal aims to reach families, individuals and children that are in financial crisis in providing festive food hampers and quality gifts for children from Birth-18 years of age. SEE PAGE 14.

BORONIA
Community Breakfast

ALL WELCOME

Made possible with the support of the Boronia Revitalisation Board and funding from the Victorian Government and Knox Infolink

KNOX HAS A NEW FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST IN BORONIA SERVING GUESTS MONDAY TO FRIDAY EVERY WEEK! SEE PAGE 14.

KNOX Virtual Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 11 December
Christmas entertainment from 7:15pm
Knox Factor winners announced at 7:45pm
Carols from 8:00pm-10:00pm

Streamed live from facebook.com/knoxartsandevents
knox.vic.gov.au/carols



OUR MUCH LOVED CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT WILL BE A VIRTUAL EVENT FULL OF FUN AND FESTIVITY THIS YEAR. DESPITE BEING A VIRTUAL FORMAT, THE KNOX CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT WILL FEATURE ALL OUR USUAL FESTIVE FAVOURITES AND OF COURSE, A VISIT FROM SANTA HIMSELF! SEE P.11.

Wishing you a 2022 full of happiness

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CHRISTMAS IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

John Mortimore

We all have our favourite Christmas memories and I would like to share one of mine.

My very favourite Christmas memory is of 1979. We lived in a small old workman's cottage in Windsor and I was a student so poverty had a way of encroaching on our lives. But we were in love with each other and our newborn Emily so we got by - but Christmas was looking a little bleak. How do you find a memorable gift for a pre-toddler with only a student's poverty line allowance?

The answer was found hiding in plain sight when I exchanged greetings with an owner builder who was renovating another cottage on the corner of the street. He scrounged amongst a rubble pile and came up with a short solid length of 100 year old Oregon timber. Then I set to work with my limited tools to create a gift every girl would want - a red truck!



It was our daughter Emily's first Christmas and if I'd had the money I would have bought her something special, like the gifts from friends and relatives wrapped in brightly coloured and recycled paper. Emily proved to be more entertained by ripping the paper off each gift which was immediately discarded.

Then it was the turn of the truck. As with all the other gifts, she ripped off the paper, then did something very different. Discarding the torn paper, she took hold of the little red truck and began to push it around the room. It quickly became her favourite toy and my all-time favourite gift.

Cost of truck - about two dollars. Still going, it's now one of her toddler niece's favourites.

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February Issue Distrib. 27 Jan.

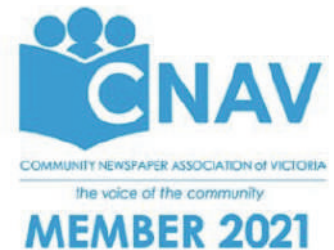
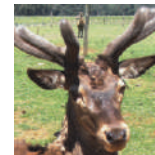
We welcome all contributions from our community but can not guarantee publication. Email is preferred but not essential. Articles or letters that have no contact details, are abusive in nature, or contain racial or other vilification will not be published. Submissions preferably should be kept to 800 to 1000 words maximum.

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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Boronia & The Basin Community News

Published by Boronia and The Basin
Community News Inc.
PO Box 141 Boronia 3155

www.bbcن.org.au
contact@bbcن.org.au

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BBCN is indexed on Eastern
Regional Libraries' Website,
www.erl.vic.gov.au

Search: Boronia and The Basin
Community News

Search: Boronia and The Basin Community News

Design, Typsetting & Graphics

BBCN

Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

BBCN WEBSITE: bbcن.org.au

BBCN EMAIL: contact@bbcن.org.au

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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@bbcن.org.au. The paper can also be accessed online at bbcن.org.au.

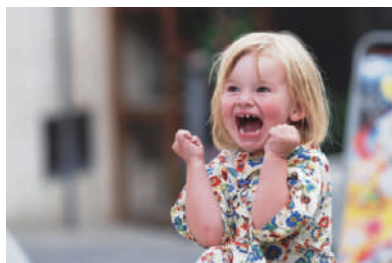
A Special Christmas Story from Yoke Leong

My godmother, Amy Wong, is over 90 years old. She now lives in a residential aged care facility. When cleaning out her home, she showed me her collection of Christmas cards over the years and said to me, "Yoke, all these card senders have gone to Heaven. I won't be keeping these cards anymore. Please put them in the recycling bin for me."

However I have kept some of them because of my fondness for old prints. I like the combination of Christmas greetings in English, and personal messages in Mandarin.



**Merry Christmas to all the
readers of BBCN!**



**INFECTION IS JUST GREAT WHEN IT'S
ENTHUSIASM THAT'S SPREADING.**

Enthusiasm underlies this paper, it infects others, and it supports our community.

We've celebrated this in 2021 with new Volunteer Walkers, and also with new Committee of Management members.

**IF YOU HAVE THE SKILL TO OFFER SOME
RELIABLE ASSISTANCE FOR OUR YOUNG
TREASURER, THEN PLEASE DON'T WAIT, GET
IN TOUCH.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CR SUSAN LAUKENS,
THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR OF KNOX CITY,
AND TO CR NICOLE SEYMOUR, THE NEWLY
ELECTED DEPUTY MAYOR. THEY WILL SERVE IN
THOSE POSITIONS FOR 12 MONTHS.**

Our final PAGE 3 BIRD for the year Diamond Firetail

Photos courtesy Kim Wormald <http://www.lirralirra.com/>

Don't you hate it when you forget to do something? Last month I neglected to mention my admiration for young Taylor Skye, published author at the ripe old age of 10. I would like to congratulate her achievements and encourage her on a literary career, her name may one day be amongst the great writers of this nation. I have recently taken it up very modestly, writing short stories, as well as this bird column, and could only ever dream of having something published. Keep up the great work Taylor!

Furthering the debate on young writers is my young neighbour Emi, whom you may recall was in the BBCN last month with a full page interview, she has a story blog on line, they're great tales! I take my hat off to these two young inspirational girls.

And on the subject of inspirational, the little Diamond Firetail is one such bird. My field guides show their distribution map as including the greater Melbourne area but I have not ever heard of one being seen around Melbourne. I encounter them in the Box-Ironbark forests of Northern Victoria, Chiltern Mt-Pilot national park and in the Lurg district around Benalla.

Another rather sad tale of dwindling numbers like many other bird species in Australia, the Diamond Firetail's numbers are on the decline. We would often encounter these little gems on the Lurg bird surveys but in recent years they are becoming harder to find and flock sizes smaller. Cryptic by nature with their habit of feeding on the ground in native grasslands, they can first be detected by their call, a 'penetrating, rising p-a-i-r-r-r' (Pizzey and Knight).

Perfect is another word which comes to mind when I look at these little birds. An artist's brush could not replicate the beauty of the colours, scarlet bill and rump, the black breastband of the deepest black, the black continuing down each front flank and having spots as white as the driven snow, pretty specky little bird alright. I mentioned in this column some years ago how we found a dead one at a farmhouse we visited which had flown into a window, the colours and the contrast between the black and white, absolutely breathtaking.

Diamond Firetail's belong to the Finch family of birds, of which Australia has so many different species, 19 native and 2 introduced, some so brilliantly coloured it's bordering on the ridiculous, like the



Gouldian Finch and others so strikingly marked like the Beautiful Firetail, you wonder who the hell designs them. Kim's beautiful photo of the Diamond Firetail this month should give everyone inspiration to go up to the Box-Ironbark forests of Northern Victoria and see one for yourself!

Well there's another year done and dusted, I enjoy writing these columns so much you'll hear from me again next year. Just a couple of things before I go. Does anyone else reckon the Boronia Woolworths carpark was designed by the Victorian Panelbeater's association? And last but not least, if you didn't take the view that this nation was disgraced at the Glasgow summit, you're looking at things differently to me. These politicians in Canberra would tell you the sun will rise in the west tomorrow morning, what do their children really think of them? I wouldn't normally quote Prince Charles (not that I have anything against the man, but I'm a republican) but as he said, "this is the last roll of the dice".

Des Palmer



The Uluru Statement from the Heart

Last month Dave Smith wrote a response to this Statement. He has followed it up with a second, printed below.



I write with tears in my eyes and a sense of dismay, mixed with anger, all of which needs to be resolved.

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.

It was with great sadness that I learned from Amnesty International about the incarceration of children as young as ten. More particularly, I would mention the Northern Territory, where there is legislation of a discriminatory nature.

What makes people act this way? What is it that makes them mistreat children in this cold, unfeeling, dispassionate way? The answer is a word I learned in psychology, it is pathological, more simply loveless.

Is there a way to stop this? We must, if there is to be any real way forward, look for answers.

Fear and mistrust are learned, we are not born with them. As I said previously, people who want to express hate need to find reasons. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say excuses rather than reasons. Can they really pretend that they do not know what harm they are doing to these children? How long can this pretence go on? How long can they strangle themselves with their excuses? It is as if, in order to incarcerate others, they tie themselves up in their own kind of prison.

I hoped to do more with this, but as it is I have had to stop while writing simply to cry and acknowledge a depth of feeling I am finding hard to express.

Would that there were some easy resolution, but as it is I will pursue this with MP's and Amnesty International, hoping, like so many others, for the release of innocent children.

Dave Smith

NO PRINTED PAPER IN JANUARY, BUT STORIES WILL BE COMING, SO - STAY UP TO DATE WITH US ON OUR WEBSITE: www.bbcn.org.au AND ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/BoroniaTheBasinNews

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Cheryl Duncan

I was born in the early 1950's - a baby boomer - to parents whose childhood was depression times and World War 2. Christmas for them must have been a special time, even though it would have been very constrained in their circumstances. So, I realize now, the fact that our parents made Christmas so very special for my sister and I, and later our younger brother, too, says a great deal about the culture of Christmas for our family through generations. We enjoyed lots of presents under a huge pine Christmas tree, fun with neighbours, visits from relatives, a wonderful meal with lots of people around the table, decorations everywhere, but most of all we enjoyed the attention of our parents.

Christmas has so many facets: a Christian focus, a community focus, a fun and giving focus, no matter the year that may be coming to an end. It means so many things to so many people in most parts of the world. It is intertwined with history and customs, some long gone. And so, it was for my first 20 years. Then my sister married and had a baby son. I was not ready to be a reduced and adult family on Christmas morning. Being the older sister, I prevailed upon her to have the rest of us to stay and share with her, her husband and their little one. This was the beginning of a new family tradition. We had grown up, we married, more children came along, my parents now Grandparents. For the next 25 years we all spent Christmas Eve together, at one or another of our homes. There was never enough space to bed the growing family down - of course avoiding the



living room! One year even the bath came into use! Another year, with bodies down the hallway, a phone call came in the night to share of yet another baby's arrival! Everyone awake, everyone back to sleep - please!

Again, the children grew up. Those children became parents. Parents were now Grandparents; Grandparents became Great Grandparents. With so many it is now almost a game of hopscotch - hopping here and there to see how many you can share with in one day, some families have overnight stays, some share breakfast. And always there's an extra welcome to anyone who may need a family to be with. The youngest family member was born this year. The oldest is coming to the close of their third trimester of life. Some have passed on. But the joy, the connections, the giving and sharing continue, always anticipated, and even healing if need arises! That's what families do - that's what Christmas is to me.

A NEW HOME FOR KNOX HOCKEY CLUB

Knox Hockey Club will move to a new permanent home, with a new facility to be constructed to support participation in hockey at Wantirna East Reserve.

A new synthetic hockey pitch will be constructed to replace the existing cricket and football oval and will use the existing pavilion and car park.

Mayor, Cr Lisa Cooper said the new facility would allow more opportunities for local players.

"Hockey is a family-orientated sport that encourages diverse participation. It has a strong history of women's participation as well as welcoming older adults into their later years.

"..This new facility will establish Knox as a regional centre for hockey and allow the club to welcome new players and spectators".

Wantirna Cricket Club and Wantirna South Junior Football Club will be relocated as part of the redevelopment and Council is committed to working with these clubs to secure permanent homes.

Other user groups at Wantirna Reserve, including Wantirna Tennis Club, the 2nd Wantirna Scouts Group, Friends of Dandenong Creek and the Jazz Archives, were consulted and expressed their enthusiasm in seeing greater community use of the reserve, as well as looking forward to the opportunity to develop relationships with Knox Hockey Club.

Construction will commence in early 2022.

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7-days, and also dinner on
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WALKING UP THAT HILL

Danny Nolan

I recently turned sixty.

I certainly don't feel it and my wife can attest to the fact that I really don't act it. It puts credence to the adage 60 is the new 40. I know that I'm nothing like what my grandfather and even my dad were like at the same age. This of course can be attributed to a better lifestyle, diet, medical and scientific advancements, or just good genes. My mum is 93 and still walking and talking with great dexterity. Maybe becoming a good argument herself that 90 is the new 70?

The saddest part about reaching this milestone was that it was in a time of covid, this meant no big celebration. Just a lot of phone calls and packages in the mail. I have better hopes for my wife who also turns 60 this year, but just before Christmas. Hopefully, we'll be able to have a bit of a better celebration around that time.

Until this lockdown ends, I am content with pottering around the house and garden and taking walks.

Walks.

We've been on a lot of them.

But still not enough for the dog to run away every time we say the magic word. I'm pretty sure our dog Gracie would walk in her sleep if we let her.

Recently, for a change of scenery, we decided to ditch the dog and go for a walk that was a bit more scenic, a bit more, how you say, demanding. So we decided to take a walk up the side of the mountain and track up to Chandler Hill. On paper, or Google maps it looked close and inviting, a short drive to where the road ended and the fire tracks started just above Forest Road.



The thing about maps is they're flat. The thing about hills is they're steep. Steep inclines, just like golf, ruin a relaxing walk. It's no longer a walk. It's a hike.

As a younger man, I loved running, and my wife was a competitive swimmer. When we first met one of our first outings was trekking up the Thousand Steps. But somewhere between 50 and 60, we seemed to neglect anything that resembled this kind of exercise, and the view upward was intimidating, to say the least.

So, taking in the beautiful spring day and the belief that age is just a number we proceeded to



stroll up the hill.

OK, I'll take a sidebar here. Even though it's called Chandler Hill, a mountain is described typically rising at least 300 metres (1000 feet) above the surrounding land, Chandler Hill is 405 metres high. So, yeah, we were mountain climbing.

Chandler Track is a great place to enjoy nature and views. The track is wide with a firm surface, to accommodate trucks, as its primary use is as an access road. The surrounding bush is not very thick and the absence of rubbish of any kind this close to housing is a delight. Large boulders are piled trackside for a sit down if you need to rest your weary legs.

I was surprised by how popular it was and how many other walkers were about that day. I know because I watched them all overtake us. Skinny couples wearing expensive shoes, families with pre-teens sprinting ahead yelling for their parents to look at something, repeatedly. Even a couple of newborns strapped to mum and dad as they ventured upward. There were plenty of older couples like us enjoying the perfect weather and one guy who looked like my granddad did at 60 sped past us and disappeared from view in minutes.

I'm glad we took it slow because every time we turned to see our progress we were met with another glorious visage over Knox and beyond and the next lot of hikers coming to overtake us. After about half an hour of teasing my wife that once we got to the top there will probably be a coffee van and we could get a couple of Chai Lattes, we reached the flat shady part that is the summit. It was odd, here we were at the highest point, and we had no view because it was the most wooded part of our journey. Someone had arranged a neat stack of stones to commemorate the highest spot on this part of the mountain and left a lovely wide tree stump to park a weary backside on.

I also got an answer to a question I kept asking myself on the way. Why have only a handful of people come back down who passed us going up? The answer: They just continued onwards to One Tree Hill and the picnic grounds another kilometre or so further on. I considered continuing for a split second but realized it just made the walk home a whole lot longer. So after a well-deserved rest, we turned for the return trip.

I'd like to say the views were more plentiful on the way down but I spent most of the journey looking

at the ground to make sure I didn't slip and start a snowball effect when, if, I fell and rolled uncontrollably down the path. Let's face it. The opposite to a steep incline is a steep decline. On the way down, we passed one of the bravest guys I've seen for some time. A gentleman pushing a mountain bicycle up the path. I wanted to but I didn't feel like waiting to see if he came barrelling down (if that was even his intention).

All up it was a lovely afternoon, and I don't know why I didn't do it earlier. It opened my eyes to all the great walking tracks that are so close to home and I plan to spend more time exploring them. I can also reveal I had no aches or pains the next day. That made the day more amazing.



TREE DAHLIA

The Tree Dahlia is a fast-growing perennial plant from South America. Its sturdy bamboo canes can grow to three to five metres tall and are topped with large stunning pale purple bell shaped flowers.



These plants can be frost tender, but the autumn flowering usually finishes before the worst of the winter frosts.

Canes will need to be staked if growing in the open garden, as they are so tall and can easily be blown over in strong winds. I grow mine next to a shed and this provides some protection from windy days.

Tree dahlias can be easily propagated. Once flowering has finished, cut canes down and then divide into

lengths of one metre. Find the bottom node and cut cleanly just below node. Allow the stem to have at least two nodes and either plant upright in potting mix or lay down in box of potting mix and bury stem. I prefer the upright method takes up less room.

Happy gardening, Sari Cuce



VISION FOR HISTORIC MILLER'S HOMESTEAD TO BECOME A REALITY

Eastern Regional Libraries (ERL) will program a range of cultural activities and events for all ages in a 12 month pilot at Miller's Homestead in Boronia.

The pilot responds to a strong community preference for the historic homestead to become a community arts and history centre.

Programming will include creative writing and literature events, children's programs, community and cultural events, arts partnerships, heritage literature collections, genealogy services and gardening, seed bank and sustainability activities.

Mayor, Cr Lisa Cooper said the tenancy agreement with ERL will provide a great public use for the historic site and allow it to be preserved and accessed by more of the community.

"Miller's Homestead is a much-loved feature of Boronia's history and we know it holds great significance for our community," said Cr Cooper.

"Eastern Regional Libraries will help activate this

space so people of all ages can discover and enjoy fantastic programs in a beautiful and historic setting."



Council overturned a decision to rezone and sell the property in 2018 in response to community opposition. Community consultation then provided feedback on future possible uses for Miller's Homestead with overwhelming support for a combined events, community history and

community art space.

An expression of interest was conducted to identify a community or non-profit organisation to provide programming for a 12-month period, with the option to extend this tenancy a further four years. Programs and events will commence when COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Miller's Homestead is one of three historic homesteads owned by Council. The single storey Victorian residence on the corner of Melrose Court and Dorrigo Drive in Boronia was the home of James John Miller, the first President of Ferntree Gully Shire.

The building is the best example of the Victorian style boom era of the 1880s in Knox, and has been restored faithfully. The garden has also been landscaped as far as possible to the original design

including a camellia walkway propagated from remnant vegetation dating back to the 1890s.



Did you know bushfires kill from **200m** away?

The flames of bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from 200 metres away. Planning for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

It's far from a Happy Christmas if you get scammed !

BELOW ARE A FEW COMMON EXAMPLES DESIGNED TO SUCK PEOPLE IN.

PAGE 17 IN THIS PAPER HAS SOME INFORMATION FROM SCAMWATCH. YOU MAY WELL BE SHOCKED WHEN YOU VISIT THE WEBSITE - www.scamwatch.gov.au - AT THE END OF OCTOBER IN AUSTRALIA, OVER \$250,000,000 HAD BEEN LOST TO SCAMMERS.

Scam email: Account suspension

From: Netflix <importantrgow1nchb2iejgg-agxebx5ize8c657y@mvjkb7y-98329773.it>
Subject: Important: We did not authorize your subscription. Please update your membership

Your suspension notification

Hi Customer,

We could not authorize your payment for the next billing cycle of your subscription therefore we've suspended your membership. But your current subscription is active, until it expires.

Obviously we'd love to have you back, simply click restart your membership to update your details and continue to enjoy all the best TV shows & movies without interruption.

[Restart Membership](#)

We're here to help if you need it. Visit the Help Center for more info or contact us.

The Netflix Team

Is this a scam text message? (yes)

Text Message Today 8:00 PM

Bendigo Bank, Your access to e-banking has been restricted. Please visit <https://bendigobank.com.au/retrjinfo/login> to restore your online banking.

Are you "Bendigo Bank"? No, you're not. Your name should be there, and the bank name should appear at the top of the screen if it were a real bank. (Note the bad grammar.)

Misleading part of the web address. It means nothing... That is the meaningful part. Look for the text around the last dot; that's what counts. "retrjinfo" is the website domain, and it's not a bank's. Don't follow it.

This "restricted account" scam is luring you to reveal your login details to organised criminals. Your bank will NEVER send you a message like this, nor would it include a link or grammatical mistakes. Don't follow a link in a text message unless you are absolutely sure the message is legitimate. Just don't.

Text message: parcel-tracking scam

You receive a text message about a parcel that is "stopped".

Today 11:02 AM

There is an update on ur parcel. Item stopped due to unpaid customs fee. Follow the instructions here: <https://bit.do/ILMRY>

FAKE company logo
 This is the real logo:
 UPS
 UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

INTERNATIONAL PARCEL SERVICE

PENDING DELIVERY

You have a pending delivery. Use your unique tracking code to track and receive your item.

Your tracking code
 UPS 01844628968

Track your item

DON'T follow the anonymous link. If you do (don't!), it would take you to this FAKE web page.

FAKE tracking code

DON'T click this button

No company identification -- A real company would not send an anonymous message. Misspelled words -- A legitimate message will have words spelled correctly and fully (not "ur").

Some in-message links will immediately infect your phone. Don't click links in text messages. Scammers don't know if you are expecting a parcel, but they know that many people are.



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.

As we are seeing an improvement in our weather with the arrival of Summer, we are seeing 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 is wonderful to freely enjoy the company of others.

Our next meeting will be on the third Tuesday in January 2022. The venue for this meeting will depend upon Government Covid regulations in the New Year.

With Victoria's vaccination numbers soaring, we are hoping all of our 2022 meetings will take place at indoor venues. It has been impressed on us how important it is to be fully vaccinated, as indoor venues will only accept double-vaccinated patrons.

In the meantime, we are going ahead with plans for our Club trip to Bright during March 2022 and Committee members are working with increasing optimism on a return to our other regular activities, as listed above. Weather permitting, we are now 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.

Please accept our best wishes for a safe and happy Festive Season.

U3A Knox

Like everyone else in Melbourne, in Australia and around the world, the last two years have been a challenge for U3A Knox.

U3A Knox—University of the Third Age—was established for people in their third age who are over the age of 45 and are retired or are semi-retired. We provide opportunities to learn, teach, share and to give mutual support to each other in a friendly and warm environment, regardless of ethnicity, religion, ability or disability.

With Melbourne lockdowns there have been limited opportunities to get together for face-to-face classes. Some classes did manage to continue online using Zoom, definitely a case of learning on the run. Then restrictions allowed some of the walking and riding groups also met, often masked and in smaller groups.

Now, just when we seem to be opening up, there is another disruption. U3A Knox is mainly based in the Parkhills building in Fairpark Reserve in Ferntree Gully. That building is to be part of a redevelopment by Knox City Council.

As well as U3A Knox, the reserve features a large football oval, a cricket pavilion and net, netball courts, a playground and a shared path along Blind Creek.

A big new multi-use centre will be built in 2022 by Knox City Council to accommodate all these groups.

While the new centre will be very welcome, in the meantime we will have to vacate the building and relocate all our classes and activities. As soon as we can

access the building again, we will be packing up the contents, looking at storage options and sorting out what we no longer need. This is a familiar feeling to anyone who has ever moved house.

Next year will be different, but we are getting used to that and we know that the disruption is all for a good reason.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HEAPS OF FUN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE'LL BE BACK IN 2022, AND WE WISH YOU GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS, SAFETY, AND SUCCESS IN YOUR CHOSEN FIELD.

Of course, I mean in this interesting local newspaper, because our activities, at least most, continue throughout the whole year, no holidays for us.

We will still be at Armchair Travel, coffee and chat groups will be catching up, the Garden group will visit a garden in The Basin, and for lunch, we'll be sharing home-made Christmas nibbles. So nice to be outdoors, in beautiful surroundings. Don't forget there is always a cuppa on the cards. Speaking of cards, our three groups will still be playing Bolivia, Canasta, and/or "500", no stopping them.

Now that we have more freedom, we were able to hold our belated A.G.M, but not indoors! NO, NO, NO. Here we are at the Arboretum, completing paperwork, official business, and looking forward to next time we meet. Conditions for a quorum were met, elections held, Committee remained, and Sandra is our president.

For more information about meetings, activities, how to join, etc. contact Carol, 0419 870 639.

'Tis the Season to be Wary' . . . especially if you're in the CFA

Connections within communities are important, across communities they are empowering

Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA) was established in 1945, although the earlier the Country Fire Brigades Board was founded by the Fire Brigades Act in 1890, with some brigades formed as far back as the 1850s. Throughout the years CFA and its predecessors have been community-based volunteer organisations. Passionate people caring for their local communities, often despite the high personal risks.

One of the critical elements of safe fire management, is the accumulated knowledge and learning that has amassed over time and passed between generations of volunteers. CFA has a wonderful culture of passing on knowledge within their local brigades. However, distance and lack of personal connections make sharing insights between districts more difficult.

Stuart French, CFA's Knowledge Manager stated, "Connections and communications within communities are important, across communities they are empowering." Stuart's job is to increase the flow of knowledge and insights, so that all CFA brigades learn from as many experiences as possible. He says, "Our objective is when that Tanker rolls down your driveway, it isn't just five local firefighters, but the entire expertise of CFA coming to your rescue." This approach to managing knowledge, creates greater benefits for CFA members and the communities they serve by combining the

real-world insights from firefighters with the validation and expertise of engineers, researchers and officers at the state level. Knowing what to do in an emergency is critical to survival, not just for the firefighters themselves, but also the people and property it is their mission to protect.

firefighters is being stepped up a notch with COVID making eLearning a priority, with collaboration between CFA brigades being crucial. Cooperation between CFA and FRV is working well on the fireground and will improve as new relationships form.



The 2020 review of fire services in Victoria, created a new entity, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV). FRV is a sibling service to volunteer-based CFA, with paid firefighters crewing stations 24/7. The changes have seen many long-serving staff members move from CFA to FRV, posing challenges for the CFAs collective knowledge retention. In response, CFA is upping their game to connect their collective knowledge and keep us all safe. This includes Organisational Learning programs like their Lessons Management function, building new world-class training facilities and mentoring programs to ensure Road Rescue, Coastguard, High Angle rescue, and Forest Industry expertise is preserved.

Lieutenant Gabby Keats, Training Officer at The Basin Brigade talked about the existing knowledge sharing at CFA; "We regularly train with other local brigades. At one joint session after teams from all over the Dandenongs practiced driving through the narrow streets, the host brigade supplied pizza and a display of how they organise and keep track of their strike teams. We learned a lot." The restructure will require new ways of connecting and collaborating within and across CFA brigades, both face-to-face and online. Across Boronia and The Basin, there is a mix of urban and rural fire dangers, especially with the entwined interface between domestic housing, factories and forests of the foothills. Official training of

Community members are encouraged to become members of the CFA. Being involved in a volunteer organisation that protects our community is rewarding, and they provide training in important life and survival skills too!

Recently, socially-challenging events such as the COVID pandemic have shown how important it is to have strong community connections. Knowing who to ask for help and knowing who to trust, helps us to get through such challenges with less stress. Think about how you are connected to the people in your community and why. How do these social connections and relationships enable to you feel more connected to your community? Humans are social beings that benefit from social interactions and feeling part of something bigger than themselves. Being part of a community organisation like CFA is a great way to be more connected to your local community. Sharing your thoughts through Boronia & The Basin Community News is another option.

HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE BETTER WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND WHY IS THIS OF VALUE TO YOU AND OTHERS?

Arthur Shelley

Volunteer Drivers needed

Ever wondered how seniors cope with shopping alone?

Bridges is looking for compassionate and caring volunteer drivers to help with general driving roles and to support some clients with Assisted Shopping support.

At this time of social distancing we will ensure you are trained in safety protocols to keep yourself and our clients safe while you are conducting the service.

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







Jackson Taylor State MP for Bayswater

The past two years have been a challenging time for our community. You've all done so much to keep us safe and to help us reopen safely. I want to acknowledge each and every one of you – from our healthcare heroes, to our cleaners, and to all of you who've worked on the front line – thank you. The Knox community is one of the most vaccinated in the state and we should be incredibly proud of that, as that's what's allowed us to get back to a sense of normalcy!

I'm so proud of all of the efforts of locals in our community and it's safe to say you've all earned a well-deserved Christmas break with family and friends – from me to you and yours, stay well and merry Christmas.

I've also got an exciting update on Boronia Station. I was stoked to have the Minister for Public Transport out recently to announce \$500,000 to immediately start planning for a better Boronia Station after over 700 of you signed my petition calling for exactly this.

This has been a huge issue you've spoken to me about for 3 years now. You've told me the station doesn't stack up in a modern and growing Boronia and that to see big change in Boronia as part of the State Government's work, the Station is critical to it.

Planning will look at integrating facility and accessibility improvements at Boronia Station with the broader Station precinct and I can't wait to keep you updated along the way!



*The Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll,
with Jackson Taylor at Boronia Station*

I also wanted to update you on a few things as always including a significant change to the Electoral Boundaries.

As some of you may know every two election cycles, there is a redistribution undertaken to ensure each electorate has about the same number of enrolled voters. This gives Victorians equal representation in Parliament.

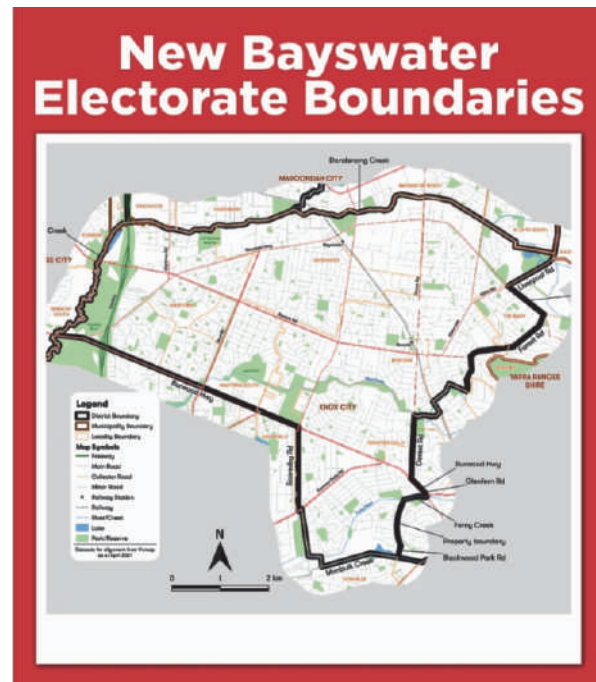
This is conducted by Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) and as at the 28th of October they have finalised the boundaries for the next election.

Here are the key changes in relation to Boronia and The Basin for the Bayswater District which take effect next Election Day in 2022:

Its southern boundary has moved significantly south after the commission abolished the Ferntree Gully District to take in Boronia below Boronia Road and bordered by Lewis and Scoresby Roads.

The changes will also see Boronia and The Basin east of Forest Road move into the new Monbulk District as well as The Basin north of Mountain Hwy.

As such, I'm really excited to be hearing from all of



you in the new parts of the Bayswater District and to get things done. You can read more info on this and all the changes at www.ebc.vic.gov.au

I am so proud to represent the current district of Bayswater as your local State Member and will continue to do so right up until the election in November 2022.

As always a few quick updates on what's happening locally:

- Tutor program in schools to continue into 2022;
- North East Link designs revealed with 45km of new and upgraded lanes to overhaul the Eastern Freeway to get you home sooner – go to bigbuild.vic.gov.au for more;
- Grants available for outdoor dining and entertainment;
- \$200 million Mental Health fund for government schools being rolled out;
- \$700,000 to support community safety initiatives in Knox;
- \$40,000 to support local multicultural seniors groups and
- Designs for Fairhills High's new facilities finalised

That's all for now, until next time – stay well and Merry Christmas!

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.

Good Reads: **TOXIC**

Richard Flanagan

(Booker Prize winning author)
published by Penguin Books, 2021

It was not such a shock to read this book, because I'd heard Richard Flanagan speak about it on "Late Night Live". The subtitle is "The Rotting Underbelly of the Tasmanian Salmon Industry". It's one of those once read never forgotten books, and a wake up call to think more about what you put into your mouth.

The Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon industry promotes itself as clean and green, with a healthy product reared in a pristine environment. According to the analysis in this book, nothing could be much further from the truth. Well researched, with 270 notes and support references, the book lays out claims of the tragic damage to pristine parts of Tasmania, but under water and out of sight, as well as the tragic damage to the lives of people living nearby.

If the Tasmanian government has a favourite reading list, "Toxic" will certainly not be on it. The book challenges what it claims is the lack of regulation allowing a powerful, influential and destructive salmon industry, effectively subsidised by the taxpayer, to destroy what includes a World Heritage Area.

Chapter 3 begins: "If we are what we eat, what our food has eaten in turn matters". What follows is its description of the salmon diet, with what appears to be very negative environmental and human repercussions as far away as Peru.

Having read the book, and compared its analysis with information available on the internet, a rethink about Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon seems well warranted. A worthwhile website to visit is goodfish.org.au (Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide, from the Australian Marine Conservation Society). You will find a comprehensive guide to seafood sustainability, with recommendations of what to buy. And what does it say about Atlantic Salmon farmed in Tasmania? Look it up for yourself.

John Pernu

Even Reindeers enjoy the BBCN



John P's Grandson Clancy

A CARING STORY FOR CHRISTMAS ABOUT A COCKY

Roger Alder

I was returning from a shopping trip on a Saturday afternoon and was about to swing into my drive, when I saw a stricken Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, sort of standing and rocking awkwardly in the gutter on the other side of the road, giving an occasional 'squawk' and biting one of its wings. Pinion feathers were scattered around on the road and nature strip like the discarded petals of a white daisy. It had been the victim of a hit-and-run accident.

My neighbour was standing, watching from the footpath, not knowing what to do, and I could see he was on his way down the street, so I said I would call a local vet for help. I contacted various vets after negotiating the "If there is an animal in distress, press 1" messages - but they all baulked due to the bird being "wildlife". The last vet I called gave the number of "Warriors for Wildlife".

Sonja picked up the phone said without any hesitation that she would come to the scene of the accident and gave good advice about handling the injured bird. So I went out with my towel and thick leather welding gloves (look out for that beak!) but by the time I returned to the spot, the bird had disappeared. I looked everywhere. I rang Sonja to call off the mission, but she said she would come anyway. She did say something about perhaps not knowing where to look, and well, being a bloke, I understood.

Standing there on the footpath, with gloves and folded towel,



and feeling just that little bit silly because every now and then I could hear a lone cocky somewhere in the trees. Perhaps it had flown up into the trees to recover, having only been dazed. I couldn't see it, but I did see, coming up the street, a lady with a dog on a lead that looked like a miniature Groodle. Walking next to her, another lady pushing child in a pram. Of course as they came close I just had to pat the dog, and while chatting it came out that the reason for the blanket and gloves was that I waiting for animal rescue, because a white cocky had been badly injured, but - I didn't know where the bird was.

The lady with the dog was gobsmacked. "I have that bird at home, and was going to look after it until it could fly again!" My turn to be gobsmacked. We decided that it would be best if the cocky was looked after by the more professional volunteers at "Warriors for Wildlife". They went off home to get the box with the bird as I waited for Sonja to arrive. The box and the bird duly arrived by car, but no Sonja. So while waiting for help to arrive we chatted. Turns out my new found neighbour had recently migrated from Canada and the lady with the pram was her niece. We shared phone pictures and she showed me pictures of a humming bird she had nursed in Canada - and then Sonja arrived. Poor old cocky was carefully transferred to a better cage. As the car with the

injured bird drove off, I heard the mystery cocky call overhead and it seemed to follow the car from the air. It was, apparently the injured birds' partner. Car and birds one way, my new friends another, and the feathers just blew around on the road.

Sonja had said that it would be about six weeks before the bird would be ready for release, so I marked the date in my diary and rang up before the due time to see how Cocky had progressed. Wildlife Warriors like to release the bird in the territory in which it was injured, so it might have a better chance to be re-introduced to its flock. I wanted to be there to thank Sonja her team for their work, and to get some closure to the event. When I explained the reason for the call, there was some silence, and I was passed from the switch to Sonja, who quietly explained that when they examined the bird back at the sanctuary, they found it was simply too badly injured to be patched up and nursed back to health. Cocky had to be euthanized at a veterinary clinic shortly after arrival, and she offered profuse apologies for not letting me know.

Just a common Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, often considered a pest, screeching in flocks flying overhead in the early morning as I get the paper off the drive, often ripping up the nature strip and 'pruning' trees, but an icon of this masthead and another part of the Australian native wildlife under increasing pressure from loss of habitat - and fast moving cars. A big shout out to the wonderful work "WILDLIFE WARRIORS" do, and my recommended first point of contact for injured wildlife.

KNOX Virtual Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 11 December

Christmas entertainment from 7:15pm

Knox Factor winners announced at 7:45pm

Carols from 8:00pm-10:00pm



Streamed live from facebook.com/knoxartsandevents
knox.vic.gov.au/carols





kidszone@bbcn.org.au

Please do get in touch with your comments and ideas !

CHRISTMAS COOKING, COLOURING AND CRAFT TO HELP YOU CELEBRATE !



Christmas Cookies

These simple chocolate biscuits are the base for Christmas fun. Choose the humble TimTam, chocolate covered Digestives or any of your other faves and using smarties, M&M's, some pretzels, jubes and licorice - you can make these fun Christmas treats with your little ones.

Use icing sugar mixed with water to create edible 'glue' and snow all in one! A wonderful thank you to hardworking teachers, gifts for loved ones or Santas' treat plate.

Have fun!



These easy to make paper straw Christmas trees will delight anyone of any age. Large enough to hang as decoration or make mini ones as Christmas gift tags or on the front of hand-made cards.

Things You Will Need:

- Colourful Paper straws
- Glue or double sided tape
- Glitter or gold/silver paper for star
- Ribbon for hanging (if desired)

Please
colour
me



FRUIT MEDLEY A GREAT RECIPE TO DO WITH CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES

Combine –

1 cup of Self Raising Flour

1 cup of Brown Sugar

1 cup of Coconut

1 cup of Milk

1 cup of Fruit Medley

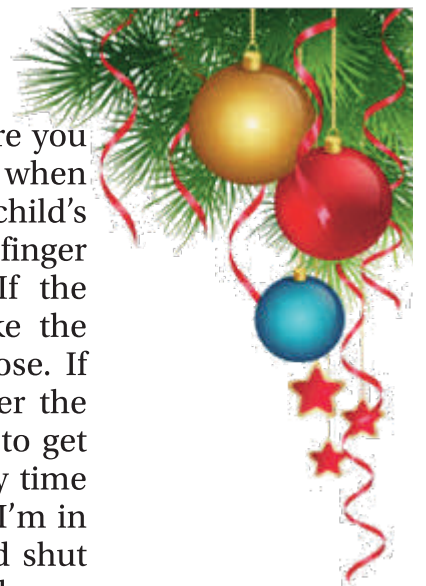
Mix and bake in loaf tin, cake tin, muffin tin, in a moderate oven! Enjoy or gift.

Cheryl Duncan

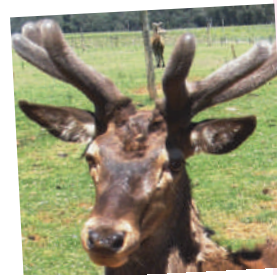
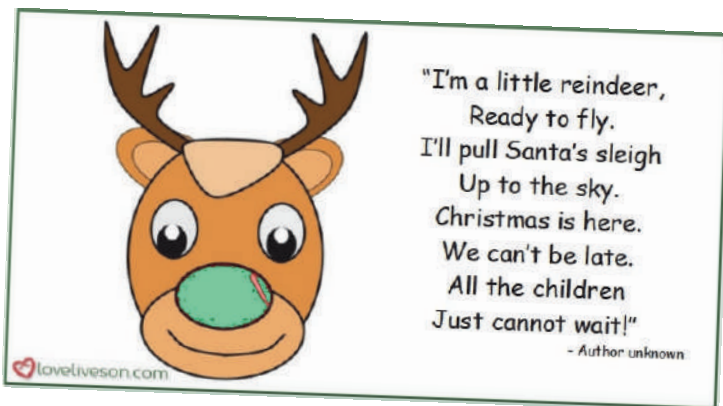
KIDS CARSEAT SAFETY - the Pinch Test



The pinch test is a great way to make sure you have harnessed your child tightly enough when you put them into their car seat. At your child's shoulders bring your thumb and index finger together along the harness webbing. If the webbing folds between your fingers like the image on the left, the harness is too loose. If your thumb and finger just slide together the harness is tight enough. It's a great idea to get in the habit of doing the pinch test every time you harness your child in their car seat. I'm in the habit of saying "pinch the straps and shut the gate" to remind myself to check my daughter's harness and hopefully it will allow her to participate in her own safety one day maybe reminding me or another caregiver if there is something we miss! The QR code will take you to a video demonstrating the pinch test over on my Instagram page.



KATE PINKARD PAEDIATRIC NURSE, NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE NURSE AND TYPE 1 CHILD RESTRAINT FITTER



How many reindeers can you find in the paper?
 Write your answer here

 Happy Hunting!

Peppermint Stick
 I took a lick
 Of a peppermint stick
 And oh it tasted yummy!
 It used to be
 On the Christmas tree
 But now it's in my tummy!

5 SENSES MEDITATION

Sometimes when we are trying to be the calm in the storm of our little peoples' emotions, we need something that grounds us. This quick and simple meditation can help to calm your central nervous system if you feel you are losing control.

Start with taking a few deep breaths to connect back in with your body.

Then look for 5 things you can see. Take time to notice small details that you may normally pass by.

Next notice 4 things you can touch. Perhaps the feeling of clothing on your skin, the ground beneath your feet, or even the sensation of gravity.

Focus next on 3 things you can hear. Birds singing, the sound of traffic in the distance.

Bring your attention to your sense of smell, what are 2 things you can smell? Perhaps the smell of your own clothing, food being prepared, or the fresh outside air.

And finally focus in to your mouth, what is 1 thing you can taste? The lingering taste of your last meal?

I hope this helps you to feel more able to manage any stress in your day.



**TARA CHAUHAN
 FOUND ANOTHER KID
 FRIENDLY CAFE.**

Cafe Brontos, 140 Boronia Road, Boronia

They're a new Flintstones themed cafe with a great kids menu and free babycinos (often with snowmen!). They also have high chairs, a selection of ice creams and separate cutlery for kids!



– Kate Pinkard (original source unknown)



Christmas can be a difficult time for families. Especially those that have lost their jobs or people who are on a low income struggling with the increasing cost of living.

The Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS) project is a partnership of 7 organisations: Coonara Community House, Knox Infolink, Rotary Club of Boronia, Restore Community Care, Raft Anglican Church, Volunteer for Knox and Seventh Day Adventist Church Wantirna South, working together to deliver a coordinated approach supporting Knox residents. This partnership allows many hampers to be distributed across the Knox Municipality.

The KCCS acknowledges the valuable support of Knox City Council through their support and participation on the Knox Community Welfare Fund Governance group who fund the operational side of the project.

The Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS) program is designed to assist Knox households at Christmas. Each household will receive a hamper of festive food. For families with children 16 years and under there will be a selection of quality gifts for parents or carers to choose for their children.

Our Registrations for the Christmas hampers are now open!



To find out how to register please contact Knox Infolink on 9761 1325.

KCCS Distribution Dates for the Christmas Hampers 2021, December 14th, 15th and 16th

By APPOINTMENTS ONLY. Registrations close 5th December 2021

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1) You can donate via GIVENOW, visit www.givenow.com.au/knoxsharethejoy

2) You can volunteer to help with sorting and packing of food and toy donations. For more information about this, visit the Knox Infolink Facebook page www.facebook.com/knoxinfolink

KNOX INFOLINK

Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm, 136 Boronia Road, BORONIA VIC 3155

Ph: 9761 1325 E: kccs@knoxinfolink.org.au



Free Community Breakfast for Boronia

Knox has a new free community breakfast in Boronia serving guests Monday to Friday every week!

On Friday 29th October, Jackson Taylor MP braved very unkind weather conditions to officially launch the Boronia Community Breakfast Program. Since then, Knox Infolink and a team of passionate volunteers have been providing Boronia and surrounding community members with a hot meal and an inclusive and safe place to socialise and connect with local community services.



Official Opening Photo

Jackson Taylor MP

Denise Budge House Manager Knox Infolink

Knox Council staff

Community Volunteers

The Community Breakfast Program is designed to address a gap identified by the Knox Emergency Relief Network, by serving guests who are vulnerable, homeless, disadvantaged, or socially isolated. The program aims not only to ensure that all local community members can start their day with a nutritious meal, but that they also have a chance to connect and build links with their community and know how they can access services and resources as required.

This exciting new program is a result of the incredible partnership efforts of many local organisations including Saint Paul's Church, EACH, the Boronia Police, Uniting Homeless Service, the Basin Community House, the amazing contribution of the volunteer team, and made possible with the support of the Boronia Revitalisation Board and funding from the Victorian Government and Knox City Council.

The Boronia Community Breakfast Program operates:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from the Boronia Progress Hall (134 Boronia Road, Boronia)
- Wednesdays from Saint Paul's Church (273 Dorset Road, Boronia)

Enquiries to Knox Infolink on 9761 1325

Last month, we interviewed 11 year old Emi and mum Crystal.

She told us about her ZERO WASTE house.

Here is more of that conversation.

The term zero waste is used a lot these days but many of us may not know what it means. According to zerowasteaustralia.org, zero waste is about "sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use. (It) means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials..."

Beside their front door, Emi and her parents have a sign proudly proclaiming "Zero Waste House". Crystal, Emi's Mum explains that they have chosen to be "more sustainable for my daughter's future, for everyone else's future. We try to not use any virgin resources. We try to just (buy) what we need."

The family eats a vegetarian diet and organic. They buy in bulk to cut down on the packaging that comes with their purchases. Their pet chickens and compost also help to reduce their waste.

All of these measures have meant that they have gone from filling their rubbish bin, and sometimes borrowing their neighbour's, to only producing a shoebox size of rubbish in two months. "(It's) more about reusing than recycling." Crystal says: "We have to know how to shop differently. It's not depriving ourselves but just a change of how we shop. And ... we save a lot of money."

If you are interested in learning about zero waste ideas, zerowasteaustralia.org has some great resources. There are also some great documentaries to watch, such as David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet which is available on Netflix.

Kim Hanson

SURPRISES ARE JUST GREAT!

SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL HAPPENED EARLIER THIS YEAR - WE WERE CONTACTED BY SASEHENKA WHO WAS VOLUNTEERING FOR A VACANT DELIVERY ROUND. WHAT WAS SO EXCITING ABOUT THIS VOLUNTEER WAS THAT SHE TURNED OUT TO BE JUST 13 YEARS OLD ! WE HOPE TO BRING YOU SOME MORE OF THE STORY OF THIS YOUNG LADY IN 2022.

KNOX
your city

Building a better Boronia

HAVE YOUR SAY

Renewing Erica Avenue

We are upgrading Erica Avenue with the assistance of the Victorian Government. We are seeking your feedback on draft designs.



Upgrades include:

- New pedestrian crossings
- New shade trees and planting
- Exclusive bike lane in both directions
- New signage
- Street furniture made from locally sourced timber and stone
- Spaces for outdoor dining or shopping
- On street parking

Construction is scheduled for the first half of 2022.

More information visit knox.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Other project updates

Lupton Way



Plans to makeover Lupton Way streetscape are being discussed with rail authorities and private land owners. We hope to get agreement and start this work early next year.

Tormore Reserve to Chandler Rd shared path



We're developing plans for a shared pathway linking Tormore Reserve and Chandler Road. These will be ready to share with the community next month.

Upgrading streetlights



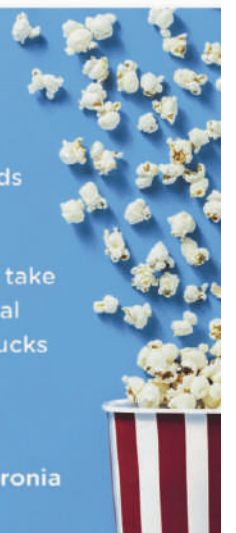
We're replacing 500 streetlights along major roads in Boronia with funding support from the Victorian Government Suburban Revitalisation Program. Street lighting in Dorset Square carpark will also be upgraded by mid-2022, reducing greenhouse gases by 2,900 tonnes over 20 years.

Boronia Big Flix Festival

Over three weekends
19 March - 2 April

Featuring delicious take away food from local businesses, food trucks and kids' activities

More information
knox.vic.gov.au/boronia



Keep up to date

We are working on lots of exciting initiatives to renew Boronia. Stay up to date is to visit our webpage knox.vic.gov.au/boronia



Jobs, Precincts and Regions

SOME VERY LOCAL WIND POWER

As the debate about global warming ramps up I just wanted to share a photo of my 92 year old Dad Silvio's front garden in Sundew Avenue, Boronia.

Dad loves to tinker and he is always on the lookout for objects that he can reuse and over the past few years has made a lot of aeroplanes that take up position in his front yard. He loves the look of joy on children's faces as they walk past. He also has many solar lights in place in the front garden. The other day when it was very windy the propellers were spinning very fast.

Anna Morgan



**Nick Wakeling MP –
State Member for
Ferntree Gully**

I am delighted that the Foothills Community Care team will again be hosting their Annual Ferntree Gully Christmas Day Lunch on Friday, 24th December 2021 at St John the Baptist Parish Hall, Ferntree Gully.

Foothills Community Care has hosted this Christmas lunch since 2002 and it is open to anyone in the local community to attend, particularly, to those who would normally be on their own.

Steve Barrington and his terrific volunteers do a fantastic job, they are well known and embraced for the work they do for our community, by the community, I know they will be working hard again this Christmas Eve to ensure this is a very memorable event.

I always enjoy dropping in and lending a hand, particularly this year, as there is no question it has been another tough year, for many in Knox.

Businesses have struggled, parents and students have had to learn to work and study together, mental health issues have increased and if that's not enough, we have been impacted by severe weather events which have seen our emergency service workers and volunteers working in more than usual dangerous conditions.

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

One thing we have all learnt from these past two year, we are a resilient community.

Volunteers have kept on providing vital support to those in need, local businesses adapted to restrictions where possible, and their loyal customers came to their support, environmental

groups kept up their advocacy of our green spaces, native flora and fauna and local sporting clubs kept engaging with their members as many did throughout last and this year. I believe 2022 will be a year of recovery and rebuilding and I look forward to standing with you.



At a recent Annual Christmas Lunch with Foothills Community Care CEO Steve Barrington

**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

SCAMS TARGET EVERYONE

Scams target people of all backgrounds, ages and income levels across Australia. There's no one group of people who are more likely to become a victim of a scam, all of us may be vulnerable to a scam at some time.

Scams succeed because they look like the real thing and catch you off guard when you're not expecting it. Scammers are getting smarter and taking advantage of new technology, new products or services and major events to create believable stories that will convince you to give them your money or personal details.

PROTECT YOURSELF

• Be alert to the fact that scams exist. When dealing with uninvited contacts from people or businesses, whether it's over the phone, by mail, email, in person or on a social networking site, always consider the possibility that the approach may be a scam. Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

• Know who you're dealing with. If you've only ever met someone online or are unsure of the legitimacy of a business, take some time to do a bit more research. Do a Google image search on photos or search the internet for others who may have had dealings with them. If a message or email comes from a friend and it seems unusual or out of character for them, contact your friend directly to check that it was really them that sent it.

• Do not open suspicious texts, pop-up windows or click on links or attachments in emails - delete them:

**Don't Get Scammed
this Christmas !****VISIT www.scamwatch.gov.au**

If unsure, verify the identity of the contact through an independent source such as a phone book or online search. Don't use the contact details provided in the message sent to you.

• Don't respond to phone calls about your computer asking for remote access - hang up - even if they mention a well-known company such as Telstra. Scammers will often ask you to turn on your computer to fix a problem or install a free upgrade, which is actually a virus which will give them your passwords and personal details.

• Keep your personal details secure. Put a lock on your mailbox and shred your bills and other important documents before throwing them out. Keep your passwords and pin numbers in a safe place. Be very careful about how much personal information you share on social media sites. Scammers can use your information and pictures to create a fake identity or to target you with a scam.

• Keep your mobile devices and computers secure. Always use password protection, don't share access with others (including remotely), update security software and back up content. Protect your WiFi network with a password and avoid using public computers or WiFi hotspots to access online banking or provide personal information.

• Choose your passwords carefully. Choose passwords that would be difficult for others to guess and update them regularly. A strong password should include a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. Don't use the same password for every account/profile, and don't share your passwords with anyone.

• Review your privacy and security settings on social media. If you use social networking sites, such as Facebook, be careful who you connect with and learn how to use your privacy and security settings to ensure you stay safe. If you recognise suspicious behaviour, clicked on spam or have been scammed online, take steps to secure your account and be sure to report it.

• Beware of any requests for your details or money. Never send money or give credit card details, online account details or copies of personal documents to anyone you don't know or trust. Don't agree to transfer money or goods for someone else: money laundering is a criminal offence.

• Be wary of unusual payment requests. Scammers will often ask you to use an unusual payment method, including preloaded debit cards, gift cards, iTunes cards or virtual currency such as Bitcoin.

• Be careful when shopping online. Beware of offers that seem too good to be true, and always use an online shopping service that you know and trust. Think twice before using virtual currencies (like Bitcoin) - they do not have the same protections as other transaction methods, which means you can't get your money back once you send it.

**Our next issue comes out at
the end of January, BUT ...**

**- you can still keep up with news and
stories because we will have fresh content and**

**updates
available
through both
our Facebook
page and our
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KNOX CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF KNOX

Helping businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, introducing state-funded three-year-old kindergarten, addressing housing affordability and accessibility, responding to climate change and developing a plan to honour First Nations culture are among the priorities for the next decade in Knox, identified in the new Community Plan and Council Plan.

Together the plans identify what the community wants Knox to look like in ten years' time and the work required from Council, its partners and stakeholders, as well as other levels of government, community groups, businesses and individuals to make this a reality.

Mayor, Cr Lisa Cooper said the plans reflect the voices of our community and thanked those who participated in their development.

"These plans represent our promise to the people of Knox and guide our work to achieving the vision for our city that we've set together," said Cr Cooper.

"Our community is still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and our response and recovery as a city will be a key focus over the next four years. We will continue to prioritise delivering services for those facing hardship, helping local businesses to bounce back, and working towards a healthy, connected and resilient community into the future.

"Thousands of people contributed their thoughts and ideas to inform these plans. From the people who shared their 'wish for Knox' at the 2020 Knox Festival, to all those who took part in surveys, focus groups and many other activities, thank you for your valuable contribution."

The ten-year Community Plan sets out the community vision that 'Knox is where we connect with our people and our environment, ensuring they are safe, supported and have every opportunity to thrive.'

It also identifies five key directions that will guide action towards this vision:

- Opportunity and innovation
- Neighbourhoods, housing and infrastructure
- Natural environment and sustainability
- Connection, resilience and wellbeing
- Civic engagement and integrity

The four-year Council Plan outlines how Council will contribute towards achieving the vision, by delivering projects, programs and initiatives across these key areas. It also incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which includes priorities for supporting, protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of the community.

Key initiatives of the Council Plan include implementing the Climate Response Plan to reach zero greenhouse emissions by 2040, advocating to state government for improved public transport and road connectivity, delivering Boronia Renewal works and prioritising mental health and wellbeing initiatives.

The plans are available on Council's website.

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Knox City Council has recognised the climate emergency and adopted its Climate Response Plan, which identifies 56 actions to achieve zero greenhouse emissions by 2040 and to support the community to adapt to climate change impacts.

The actions in the ten-year plan cover themes such as preserving the natural environment, changing the future of transport, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and increasing renewable energy use.

A total of \$33 million is expected to be invested to implement these actions over that period, which include supporting vulnerable residents to stay safe in hot weather, encouraging 'tree-friendly' streetscapes that promote healthy canopy tree growth, surveying the community on sustainable transport options to encourage more people to consider active and public transport and replacing streetlights with energy efficient LEDs.

"The science now shows that we are predicted to reach global warming of 1.5°C by the 2030s and limiting this to less than 2°C is crucial to avoid severe impacts such as heatwaves, droughts and floods from becoming more widespread. The work we do in the next decade to reduce emissions and limit warming will have profound impacts on the future the Knox community will face," said Cr Cooper.

"Reducing emissions is a shared responsibility between all levels of government, business and the community.

"We will lead our community to support and drive emissions reduction across Knox, assisting them in choosing everyday actions that will help in reaching net zero emissions by 2040.

"Further to this, Council will aim to achieve net zero emissions in our operations by 2030."

The stronger targets have been reflected in the 56 actions, requiring minimal additional budget to implement, with an emphasis on community education programs and advocacy to other levels of government, business and industry on issues such as electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards for rental properties.

Among the first projects to launch will be workshops for households to find out more about switching to solar power, installing two new electric vehicle charging stations at local Knox sites and joining the Cities Power Partnership, Australia's largest network of local councils working for a zero-emissions future.

The adopted Climate Response Plan can be found on Council's website at: www.knox.vic.gov.au/climatechange

EXTENDING SUPPORT AS RESTRICTIONS EASE

Support measures for community groups, service providers and local businesses will be extended to offer ongoing relief and respond to changing needs as restrictions ease and community life is reactivated.

The measures recognise the continuing, immediate

impacts of the pandemic and offer support to the organisations providing relief to the community, as well as looking to the future and preparing to reinvigorate local groups, events and the local economy.

Cr Cooper said that while restrictions are easing, many are still in need of urgent support.

"We know that mental health, social isolation and pressure on finances are just some of the areas where our community has seen the greatest effects of the pandemic, but understanding the impacts of COVID-19 is an ongoing task and changes continually".

"We're responding to the pandemic by implementing relief measures and supporting those most at risk now, while also planning for our recovery and building resilience into the future.

"Since the start of the pandemic more than 18 months ago, Council has invested more than \$3 million in support and relief measures and we'll continue to consider how best to support the local community as restrictions ease and needs change."

\$79,000 will be allocated to a new program of community grants, supporting ongoing demand for food relief and emergency relief services.

A further \$40,000 will fund training and mentoring programs for local businesses, and more than \$66,000 in grants will fund community-based arts and culture pop-ups, events and installations to support creative and cultural organisations who have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition, hire agreement, license and lease fees for not-for-profit community organisations will be waived until the end of 2021, and pro-rata charges will apply for sporting club tenancies from January 2022, providing greater flexibility as the guidelines and timeframes for community sport become clearer in the coming weeks.

MAKING SPACE FOR GROWING KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

New modelling shows local early years facilities will struggle to meet demand as kindergarten services expand in response to Victorian Government reforms.

The introduction of funded three-year old kindergarten from next year will give families access to an additional year of play-based learning before school, which will have great benefits for children's social and cognitive development.

As three-year old sessions increase from five hours a week in 2022 to 15 hours in 2029, one of Council's key focuses is ensuring that there is enough physical space to meet growing demand across both council-run and independent kindergarten services. Cr Cooper said significant investment will be required from the Victorian Government to make this a reality and partner with Council to make sure our children get the best start in life.

"By 2029, modelling shows a total of 359 kindergarten places cannot be accommodated in our buildings. This

contd. next page



Another year of Commitment and Enthusiasm has ensured that our paper has landed in your letterbox. Over 80 people reliably deliver the news each month.

Several new Volunteers have joined us in 2021; a few have retired.

FOR 2022, FIVE ROUNDS WILL NEED NEW WALKERS - two of these are in The Basin and three in Boronia.

This is an opportunity to support your community and get a bit of exercise at the same time.

Interested? contact@bbcn.org.au, or use the "CONTACT" link on our website.

Check out our website for more details at the "VACANCIES" link.



KNOX COUNCIL CONTD.

is even more apparent in certain suburbs, with Bayswater, Boronia, Scoresby/Knoxfield and Wantirna expected to reach capacity even sooner or see larger gaps between demand and availability of places.

"Continuing to provide families with a choice of kindergarten provider is important as we know this is something the community values and Council cannot meet this demand alone," she said.

Locally, a major challenge is the lack of vacant land. Council is working hard to unlock unused capacity in our existing buildings and classrooms but even with this approach, the shortage of places for eligible children in some suburbs will still exist by 2028.

Part of using buildings as efficiently as possible involves looking at the way services operate and making changes such as running additional programs, using different timetables including running longer days, mixed-age groups, or offering kindergarten programs conducted by degree-qualified teachers in long day care settings. Council can also support other kindergarten providers operating in its facilities to consider these changes too. The Department of Education and Training has also committed to supporting other kindergarten providers outside Council buildings to work to maximise their own services.

NEW LIBRARY TO TAKE PRIME POSITION IN REDEVELOPED WESTFIELD KNOX

Knox City Council today revealed exciting new plans for the Knox Library, which will be built as part of Scentre Group's redevelopment of Westfield Knox.

The new library will be more than twice the size of the current library, occupying 2,000 square metres, or roughly half, of Level 3 of the former Myer department store.

The library will take pride of place within a completely reimagined precinct, featuring an architectural curved frontage into the centre and a long, glazed northern exposure taking full advantage of natural light and views over a newly designed outdoor landscape.

Cr Cooper said the whole way communities engage with libraries is changing, and Council expects the library to attract people who may not have seen or used a library for decades.

"Libraries used to be about books and being quiet," she said.

"Contemporary libraries are much more than that. There will still be plenty of books and valued traditions like children's story time. But there will also be wi-fi, plenty of flexible seating and desk spaces to meet, read, study, work or just chill out."

"Knox Central is already our busiest library and the second busiest in the whole Eastern region despite the disadvantage of being small, outdated and accessed off a

dark underground carpark.

"Being located inside Westfield Knox near two supermarkets, ALDI and Woolworths with extended trading hours, a range of new food outlets and other complementary tenancies is a perfect position".

"These are places everyone goes, so having the library at the centre of it all, close to plenty of parking, will be extremely convenient for library users".

Just as libraries are evolving to meet changing needs and lifestyles, so are shopping centres.

Scentre Group, Director of Development, Stewart White said community remains at the heart of the Westfield Knox transformation.

"Listening to customers and catering to their changing needs and expectations is how we remain essential to their daily lives and ultimately, what's guiding our decision-making around our redevelopment plans for Westfield Knox".

"The Knox Library has a lot of rich history within our broader community. It was important for us to design and create a contemporary space that is both highly accessible and convenient; located close to other retail experiences and services within the centre, so it can continue to be a place people visit for leisure, education and social experiences for years to come."

Council's Youth Information Centre, which is currently located near Headspace behind Knox Ozone, will relocate into the library once complete.

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HAVING A CLOSER LOOK

CABBAGE WHITE BUTTERFLY - MINOR GARDEN PEST?



On close examination, a creature of remarkable beauty.

Close examination could be given to many of the things we hear, think, say or even do. Sometimes a close examination reveals the unexpected.

What about 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'?

We're already hearing plenty of that. Have a close look at the words - this song has long troubled me.

Many people in our community are different from "us". How many experience discrimination? Maybe you have a physical disability, maybe you're from an ethnic or other minority group. Perhaps you're indigenous, perhaps you are experiencing playground or cyber bullying, perhaps you're in the closet.

In my life experience, Santa is not going to knock on your door one foggy Christmas eve and turn you into a celebrity. Real life isn't like the song, or like some feel good movie.

A close examination given towards the

discriminated will reveal something of unexpected beauty.

Those of us fortunate enough to live without discrimination, have a responsibility for those who do. Life challenges the so-called fortunate ones to knock on the door, and not just on Christmas Eve. Knock on the door, not to turn someone into a universally loved star overnight, but to welcome them out into acceptance.

If I had a magic wand, I would expunge the Rudolph song; I'd do the same for the Ugly Duckling. These songs are sung ad nauseum. Think about their message. Just how appropriate are they?

John Pernu



The biggest commitments I made during the last election were infrastructure projects to address the ever-worsening congestion in our area and get Knox moving. This included \$20 million in federal funding for extra station parking at Boronia Station which many of you will know is in dire need of extra spaces.

While I have the full federal funding secured, the planning and construction is being done by the State Government and Knox Council. This frustratingly has meant that delays to the project have been out of my control, but progress is finally happening!

I've been advised that the Victorian Government has now completed its feasibility work and will provide advice on the preferred design early next



Alan Tudge
local federal MP for Aston

WORK PROGRESSES ON BORONIA STATION PARKING

year. It is then expected for construction to begin in mid-2022 and be completed in mid-2023.

Importantly, work is also progressing on the Ferntree Gully Station parking project which \$16 million is secured for. This project will have the flow-on effect of reducing the number of commuters that travel to other stations like Boronia to park. Planning is also underway on this project with construction expected to commence in late-2022.

More broadly, across Knox, there have been good developments on other key local road projects I committed to.

Construction has started on Henderson Rd and Kelletts Rd traffic lights and slip lanes. These upgrades are on track to be complete in December.

Additional funding has been secured to construct slip lanes at the Ferntree Gully Rd and Henderson Rd intersection. These upgrades are expected to be completed in mid-2022.

Planning is now complete on the Lewis

Rd/Boronia Rd intersection upgrades and construction is expected to start in January. Construction was originally scheduled for September, but the state government has delayed commencement.

\$130 million of federal funding remains secured for the Napoleon Rd duplication and Dorset Rd extension with \$10 million of federal funding



already flowing to the state government to conduct scoping work. This is expected to be complete at the end of this year with pre-construction likely to begin in 2022 with the Napoleon Rd duplication completed first.

Thank you for your patience as we get these important projects done. I'll continue to keep you updated as works progresses on all these commitments.

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

HOME MADE ICECREAM CHRISTMAS CAKE/PUDDING

1) The Basic Icecream Recipe

Ingredients: 600ml thickened cream

1 tin chilled condensed milk

Line a loaf tin with cling wrap (preferably bio-degradable).

Leave plenty of cling wrap each side to be able to cover over the tin.

METHOD: Beat the cream in a bowl until nice and pointy.

Place chilled condensed milk into another bowl.

Fold the cream gradually into the condensed milk.

When finished, place mixture into the prepared loaf tin.

Cover with the cling wrap and freeze.

When frozen, remove from tin, uncover and slice.

2) Christmas Spice-Up

Just add what you like to the condensed milk before folding in the cream.

For example: mixed fruit (for a Christmas Cake), choc chips, broken up honeycomb, rum and raisins, frozen berries, brandy, and so on. (It's a good idea to have chilled these as well).

3) For a Christmas Pudding look, just freeze in a bowl instead of a loaf tin.

OH SO SIMPLE CHRISTMAS CAKE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

750gm mixed fruit.

2 cups SR Flour.

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups freshly squeezed orange juice (takes 6-7 oranges).

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup brandy.

Soak fruit overnight in the orange juice and brandy.

Add flour & mix well.

If mixture too dry, add a little more orange juice.

Place in well greased 20cm pan.

Bake at 150 degrees in fan forced oven for 1 hour. Turn off oven & leave cake in oven for further 15 minutes.

Cool on cake rack.

Just the easiest cake, a guaranteed hit.



FUDGE FINGERS

Barbara Sharp

125g butter

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar

1 cup sultanas

1 tsp vanilla essence

1 egg, beaten

1 pkt crushed malt biscuits

Melt butter in a pot

Add brown sugar and sultanas

Stir till melted and bubbling

Remove from heat

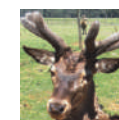
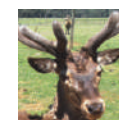
Add vanilla essence and beaten egg

Beat mixture well

Stir in crushed malt biscuits

Press well into a greased tin.

For an extra touch, cover with chocolate icing, sprinkled with chopped nuts, coconut, sprinkles, etc.



BORONIA BOWLS CLUB IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN

If you would like to sample what we have on offer, come down for a newly rebranded Twilight Bowls session from 6-9pm every Friday night during daylight savings. hosting a monthly Family FunTime on a Sunday from 2-4pm. The bar will be open and both adult and young children's bowls provided. Flat shoes or bare feet will be fine.

A BBQ is always on the go, friendly club members on standby to get you started on the green and our club bar with very favourable prices open to quench your thirst. December 19th is the initial date and the cost is \$20 per family. Bring the grandparents too. You will all be made most welcome.

Also, this season, we are reaching out to young families in the area and Val Gage 0490 841065 Social Events Coordinator

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Cr. Jude Dwight Chandler Ward



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Contact Val on 0490 841 065 to discuss your specific needs and to get a quote for your special event.

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As per the Victorian Government Guidelines it is a condition of entry that everyone entering our building must be fully vaccinated and are required to check in on the Victorian Government contact tracing app on arrival, or see the person on duty to do the check-in manually.

A FRESH START

Do you know the saying - "TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF"? I often liken that to when I was at school and we used an exercise book, pen and ink to answer questions and write essays. I had the worst hand-writing, and blots and smudges often appeared on the page. I always felt happier when I turned the page, and was able to start afresh!

Each year, we turn over a 'new leaf' starting at January 1st. 2022 will start no differently, except it should be a year of hope and promise, but also what we ourselves make it!

During the 2021 Olympic Games athletics, I noticed that with the 100 metres, there were about three false starts. I am sure those athletes who 'broke' before the gun, were enthusiastic to get to the finishing line! We start each year, hopeful and enthusiastic with high expectations and inevitably as the year progresses, things don't always go to plan and we become angry or at least disappointed. I have a framed prayer on my dressing table that a dear friend gave me at a difficult time in my life, that says:

"Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together can't handle."

Maybe we can apply this to each day as we move through 2022! God Bless You All, as you move through Christmas and into the New Year!
Beth Butler

AN INVITATION TO ALL OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES -

December 15 @ 7.30pm Blue Christmas Service - for anyone who finds celebrating Christmas difficult.

December 19 @ 5pm - Family Fun@ Five. This will include a simple nativity play where the children can dress-up, followed by activities and supper in the hall - visitors are welcome.

DECEMBER 24TH @ 5.30PM JOIN US FOR A BBQ TEA, NO COST, FOLLOWED BY A SHORT CAROL SERVICE AT 7PM. VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

DECEMBER 25TH @ 9AM. CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!

CRAFT GROUP will resume on FRIDAY, 19th November at 11.30pm - call Alison on 9763 9384 for details.

OPEN OFFICE will open on Thursday, 2nd December at 10 am. 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 areas who hold a Health Care or Pension card.

CLOTHING SHOP will also open on THURSDAY, 2ND DECEMBER..... **SPECIAL DEAL....** ALL clothing items will be sold for \$1 each in November and December!!! Come along and grab a bargain!

GOOD READS:

THE BEEKEEPER'S SECRET

by Josephine Moon

Josephine Moon is an Australian author who lives in Cooroy Queensland with her husband, son and many animals, including dogs, goats, horses etc. A former English Teacher who had a change of career after having Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Other works by Josephine are The Tea Chest, The Chocolate Promise, Three Gold Coins and the book for review, The Beekeeper's Secret

The story opens with Maria receiving two letters on the same day, both letters cause her painful memories of her past, one especially brings back memories about why she left the church and why she has put herself into self-imposed exile at the Honeybee Haven. The other letter is from her niece Tansy whom she has never met because, not only did she leave the church, but her family as well.

Maria becomes involved with her niece Tansy. Tansy has her own problems dealing with choices she has to make if she wants her marriage to work.

Josephine has brought in many interesting characters with stories of their own and she weaves these stories magically together into a heart warming finish.

I found this book to be any easy read, perfect for the summer break.

Good reading

Sari Cuce



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