

RECOGNISING INSPIRING KNOX LOCALS ON 26 JANUARY

Knox City Council has recognised five inspiring local residents in the awards announced on 26th January 2022. Knox City Council Mayor, Councillor Susan Laukens said there are many high achievers, local heroes and unsung volunteers who work tirelessly for the Knox community.

The 2022 Knox Awards winners are:

- Citizen of the Year: Gayle Dye
- Young Citizen of the Year: Sophie Ashdowne
- Elder Citizen of the Year: Barbara Edwards
- Volunteer of the Year: Margaret Hawkes
- Sustainability Leadership Award: Anthony Bigelow



Fab Nobs
"Alice in Wonderland"
cast from their recent
performances in The
Basin Triangle.

*Official photo from Fab Nobs
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*fabnobstheatre.com.au
fabnobstheatre@gmail.com*

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BE PREPARED

John Mortimore

My Scouting days are more than half a century behind me, but I still remember that overarching command: "Be prepared!"

One of my first lessons on the importance of this advice came with my first bicycle. Growing up on a soldier settlement block (vineyard) on the edge of the Mallee, there was a lot of importance attached to self-reliance. So, before my new second-hand bike was finally mine I had to show I was worthy; that I could pump up or patch a flat tyre, fix a broken chain, oil a chain and have all the relevant tools ready to hand wherever I went.

Then came my first ride, and was I ever prepared? Actually, no! As I was too small to reach the pedals my Dad tied bags around the cross bar to sit on. Then, with a steadying hand from Dad and a bit of a gentle push I was off! I flew like the wind all the way to a neighbour's half a kilometre down the road. At first, proud of my achievement, it suddenly occurred to me that I was not as well prepared as I should have been; where were the brakes?!

The role of the mysterious brakes was duly filled by a truck parked where I was trying to ride. A cup of tea and a Band-Aid later and I was cycling back for home just a little bit wiser. I wore my bruises with pride.

"A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because its trust is not on the branch but on its own wings." — Charlie Wardle,

**AND BY THE WAY,
ARE YOUR KIDS COVID-19 PREPARED ?**

VACCINATION INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone aged 5 years and over in Australia.

The type of vaccine young people can have depends on their age and, in some cases, whether they have certain medical conditions.

Some children are already eligible for vaccination, while others will turn 5 during the year. Families should book their children in for vaccination as soon as possible after their fifth birthday.

All parents and guardians should aim to have their children aged 5 years and over vaccinated with one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by the start of Term 1. **VISIT:**

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers

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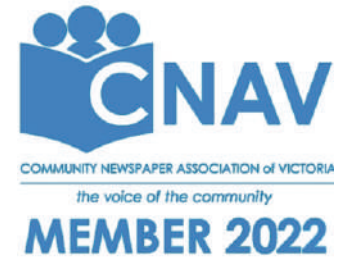
We welcome all contributions from our community but can not guarantee publication. Email is preferred but not essential. Articles or letters that have no contact details, are abusive in nature, or contain racial or other vilification will not be published. Submissions preferably should be kept to 800 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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We share our sincere thanks and say farewell to the following Walkers who have retired for various reasons. We have enjoyed their contribution to our community through this paper over many years.

Renata Zablocki, Marija Burnorough, John Barker, Vernon Denford, Sue Ratcliffe,

Lyen & Lindsay Rouillon.

Permanent Round Vacancies which you may be able to help fill:

THE BASIN:

- 1) Lachlan Road, Mercia Avenue (part), Bayview Crescent area - 116 papers
- 2) Stuart Street, Verbena Ave, Carnarvon Ave area - 185 papers

BORONIA:

- 1) Rowson Street area - 138 papers
- 2) Maryborough Road area - 45 papers
- 3) Herbert St, Devenish St (part) - 175 papers

SALVATION ARMY LAND SALE in THE BASIN

**Keep informed,
Keep involved,
and tell us what you think.**

The Salvation Army land dominates the landscape of The Basin. From Sheffield Road to Liverpool Road, The Basin, the farm provides a magnificent view across farmland of towering mountains and a network of waterways. The principal creek is Dobson Creek, designated as the most significant natural waterway in our neighbourhood. And now it is all under threat.

Despite the property being protected against most potential developments, the Salvation Army has called for expressions of interest from developers wanting to exploit this remarkable property.

The BBCN is determined to keep well informed of developments, making sure that you are also well informed because without a clear case we will lose and this peri-urban gem that sits in the heart of our neighbourhood will be gone forever.

Although not all of the property is being touted for sale, (the property sits in a significant flood plain) careful attention to developing details is essential. Remember, no matter how nice many developers are, and many are very nice and community minded, they will be involved in this project for very different reasons.

John Mortimore

contact@bbcن.org.au

Page 3 Bird

COMMON CICADABIRD (*Coracina tenuirostris*)

Photo credit - Dean Ingwersen

Well, here we go again, another year started and back to work, hectic as usual. But the birds give some relief from the mundane boring predictability of our lives. Take our yearly pilgrimage to Warburton for example, where we round up the same suspects every year. You know, Platypus, Yellow-bellied Glider, Satin Bowerbird, etc,etc, and that's just in the caravan park. Venture into the forests though and you just never know what might turn up. Like a bird called the Cicadabird, which sounds so much like a cicada you would never pick the difference.

Found in the canopy of the towering eucalypts, this bird is THE most cryptic of all the diurnal birds I've come across. My recent 3 second glimpse of one up on the O' Shannessy aqueduct was a 2.9 second longer look than my previous record. The cicada like call is the only giveaway of their presence, and the ventriloquial delivery is cleverly disguised to throw you off the scent. This bird also has a clever ability to detect binoculars, as well as vanishing into thin air. Good luck with all that, but my sister-in-law Gabrielle and her husband Ron, who were both with me at the time also got as good a look at him as I did. I'm putting that down to beginner's luck, I have to, as my last 20 year search for this elusive devil would frustrate me even more.

A member of the Cuckoo-shrike family, they are breeding migrants to SE Australia, arriving in October and departing in March, wintering in Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. Similar in size and shape and even flight pattern to a Red Wattlebird, you need good binoculars to nail one if they are also present, which they were up on the aqueduct. Patience also helps, something I'm not renowned for possessing.



Male Cicadabirds are a uniform dark charcoal colour with a white streak on the underwing and the females have grey brown upperparts with cream-buff underparts and dark barrings across the breast. The nest is a shallow cup of twigs in horizontal branch, nearly invisible from below.

And on the subject of yearly pilgrimages, we spent between Christmas and the New Year down at Phillip Island. This is certainly a place where man and wildlife seem to be able to co-exist. Not only is it jam packed with people, the island is also hopping with birds and, now it is fox free, a little native mammal called the Eastern-barred Bandicoot, which is thriving. Hooray! With a 12 day gestation period, yes you read that correctly, 12 days, as well as having up to 5 litters per year, this little guy is thriving. We went to the Penguin Parade (Fairy Penguin numbers up 3 fold since the demise of monsieur Fox) and saw one then saw another two on the drive home. A feel good story at last! I like them.

The good news didn't stop there though, as the house we were renting came with it's very own colony of Lesser Long-eared bats, some even roosting inside the house, with a nightly cameo flight around the dining room by these fantastic little animals. The landlord could have doubled the rent and we would have gladly paid, my wife actually as big a fan of them as me.

A trip to Observation Point at Rhyll also revealed many wader species but also 18 Fairy Terns, a tiny bird which is struggling in Victoria as they need secluded beaches to nest on, and like Hooded Plovers, are very vulnerable to human disturbance. Nailing 18 was certainly a good get!

Our field trips will be starting up again soon, so if you need a bird/mammal/ native plant fix at any time, drop me an email and I'll keep you updated. Hopefully with this covid bizzo behind us, famous last words, we'll have an uninterrupted field trip year. Fingers crossed!

Des Palmer arc_up_welding@live.com.au





For twenty years, the Friends of Blind Creek Billabong have been protecting and enhancing this remnant of original Valley Heathy Forest which forms part of a wildlife corridor west of the Dandenongs.

The Friends Group has been planting local indigenous species, controlling weeds and cleaning up litter in Blind Creek Reserve, in the revegetation area behind the small fence and also, for 20 metres inside the quarry fence.

This Reserve is a very important wildlife corridor and habitat for large and small birds (including barn owls), little forest bats, frogs, lizards, beetles, butterflies, skippers, other insects and more.



This Friends Group, and others like it, do a wonderful job for the whole community. No wonder that they can become very disheartened to find so much rubbish, graffiti and damage in the reserve. Recently, in the fenced off protected area, a tree had been felled. They've even had to dismantle tree houses.

This bush land must be preserved and protected

FRIENDS OF BLIND CREEK BILLABONG

for future generations. We can be most grateful to groups such as Friends of Blind Creek Billabong. We can also play our part in picking up after our own dogs, being alert for and reporting vandalism to Knox Council, and leaving only our footprints behind.

To take a short virtual tour of Blind Creek Billabong, type those three words into your YouTube search box and you'll be there. This is just one of many such Knox Nature Discovery tours.



THE FRIENDS GROUP MEETS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCLUDING JAN) BETWEEN 10AM AND 12 NOON. TO FIND OUT MORE, LOOK UP THEIR WEBSITE AND THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE.

THEY LOVE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

HERE IS A PICTURE OF ONE OF THE NOTICE BOARDS WITH MOST OF THE GRAFFITI NOW CLEANED OFF.



I don't own a dog. I choose not to be responsible for a pet which needs to be cared for, and that includes giving it regular exercise.

I enjoy seeing dogs being walked around the local streets with their owners – almost all with little 'doggy poo' bags in their hands or tied round the dog leads.

I object to seeing those same filled 'doggy poo' bags left lying on nature strips, front gardens and on the local bike paths.

IT'S NOT FAIR that I should have to dispose your 'doggy poo' bags from the front of my property.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR 'DOGGY POO' HOME AND DISPOSE OF IT IN YOUR BIN.

(name and address supplied)

KILSYTH SOUTH WALKING GROUP

– OPEN TO ALL

The Kilsyth Walking Group will recommence weekly walks on Thursday 3rd of February.

Meeting in the car park of the Kilsyth South Baptist Church at 9.30am the walk will be about 45 minutes coming back to the Church for a tea/coffee and biscuit.

The group is registered with the Heart Foundation, and is a good opportunity to get some exercise while meeting new people and having a friendly chat.

There is no cost except for a gold coin donation for morning tea.

For more information contact Keith Richardson on 0411 466 390 or keithrichardson1@bigpond.com

TWILIGHT BOWLS

FRIDAYS

Boronia Bowls Club

6pm - 9pm

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

ALL WELCOME

Marie St, Boronia

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

You've seen the posters around town, so now is the time to give it a try.
"Lawn Bowls is not a sport for old people - it's a sport old people can play".
Bring the family and friends down to one of our Twilight Bowls sessions held every Friday night from 6-9pm till April 1st.
You'll be glad you did.

All equipment and coaching supplied - full bar, sausage sizzle and dim sims available.
Just turn up or phone Val on 0490 841 065 to book your place. (Currently double vaxed please)

FAMILY FUNTIME 2 - 4pm

Sunday 20th February and Sunday 20th March
Just \$20 per family. Contact Val as above for further details

MAJOR SPONSORS
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Noel Jones Real Estate Wantirna
Chemist Discount Centre Boronia
Palandri Insurances Boronia
The Spectacle Site Boronia



CLUB SUPPORTERS
Jackson Taylor MP Bayswater
Nick Wakeling MP Ferntree Gully
Alan Tudge Federal MP Aston
Cr. Jude Dwight Chandler Ward

New members welcome – no fees for the first year – call Patrick on 0459 999 261

Mayor's Message from Knox Mayor, Cr. Susan Laukens

As 2022 gets under way, my new-year message is 'Be kind.' Be kind to yourselves, each other and support local businesses.

Be Kind

If you do need support, please speak up - there are Council services and supports available for you personally.

We've had an uncertain, continually-changing start to the year with COVID and restrictions. Some people in our community have coped better than others. Have the courage and vulnerability to ask for support if you need it - it's OK to ask.

We know that these are tough times for our community and we're here to support so please reach out. You don't have to do it on your own - as a Council, we are here to support you.

Visit the Knox website for information: knox.vic.gov.au/our-services/children-family-and-community-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing

Towards Zero Waste

Do you have a New Year's resolution for 2022? Maybe it is to reduce the amount of your household waste ending up in landfill and to recycle more.



Knox City Council recently released and distributed the 2022 household waste calendar, which has heaps of information on how to reduce waste. Many individuals, groups and businesses in the City of Knox are working towards zero waste and thinking of ways to recycle. I encourage people to visit knox.vic.gov.au/reducewaste for tips.

Return to School

The last two years have been challenging for both parents and students. As Knox's youngest residents either start or return to kindergarten and school, remember to celebrate the small to achieve the big.

Don't forget, school zone speed limits and parking

restrictions around schools are in place for the safety of our precious kids. Slow down and allow a bit of extra time to get to school in a happy frame of mind.

Remember, you don't have to do it on your own - it's OK to ask for help and support.

I wish everyone a safe and successful return to school and a good year ahead.



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

WE ARE SEEKING A FULL-TIME Gardener

**PRACTICAL, HANDS ON, FULL TIME ROLE.
ATTRACTIVE SALARY.**

Ferndale is a beautiful 35 acre private property in Sassafras, surrounded by National Park forest. We have extensive lawns, landscaped gardens, orchards, vegetable growing areas and hothouses.

We are looking for an experienced gardener to join our property maintenance team.

You will be expected to take full responsibility for the care of our trees and gardens, and help Mother Nature do her work.

If you are an experienced Gardener with commonsense, attention to detail, the ability to plan and most importantly, a person who delivers on promises - please send your resume and cover letter to hr@ferndalezen.com



Latest from Knox

KNOX
your city

The Bobby Darin Story



Featuring Rod Gilbert
1 March - One show only

Check out the full Knox Community Art Centre program and book tickets at knox.vic.gov.au/kcac

You must be fully vaccinated to attend

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/bigflix

Go solar and save

Check if solar is suitable for your business or home - including rental properties. Find out how much it will reduce your bills and get a quote to install a quality solar system. Discounts available to low income households.



For advice you can trust go to knox.vic.gov.au/solarsavers or phone 1300 548 598

Cat curfew begins

10 April



Cats must be kept on your property at all times to keep them safe, protect wildlife, and reduce nuisance cat complaints.

For more information, including cat curfew resources, visit knox.vic.gov.au/cats

Shape where you shop and dine

Have your say on the draft Retail Activation Strategy by 25 February. More information knox.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

Keep up to date

For weekly updates to your inbox subscribe at knox.vic.gov.au/email-newsletter



KNOX
your city

Building a better Boronia

Congratulations to these organisations who will share in \$50,000 worth of grants to support them to provide services and facilities that meet the needs of the Boronia community.

- Alchester Village Preschool
- Aussie Veterans' Association
- Belonging Matters
- Boronia and Bayswater Community Church of Christ
- Boronia Bowls Club
- Boronia Cricket Club
- Boronia Hawks Football Netball Club
- Cooinda Playgroup
- Girl Guides Association of Victoria - Boronia
- Knox Community Baptist Church
- Knox Community Gardens Society
- Knox Infolink
- Knox Photographic Society
- Relationships Australia Victoria
- Saint Paul's Anglican Church in Boronia
- The Basin Community House
- The Haven Day Centre



Funding is made possible with the support of the Boronia Suburban Revitalisation Board and from the Victorian Government.

The Aussie Veterans' Association is one of the recipients of the Boronia revitalisation community grants.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Shared pathway linking Tormore Reserve to Chandler Road

Tell us what you think of designs for a shared path to link Tormore Reserve and Chandler Road. The green corridor will offer better access for cyclists and walkers and more planting to provide homes for native wildlife.



New lights for Boronia Bowling Club

Share your thoughts on the proposed upgrades, including installation of light towers. These lights will improve safety for players and encourage greater participation in lawn bowls.

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

Facelifts for shopfronts

Grants are available for painting, tiling, signage, awnings, and lighting. Applications close 30 April.

Replacing streetlights

500 streetlights are being replaced with energy efficient LED's along major roads in Boronia.

Erica Ave upgrades

Thank you for your feedback on planned upgrades to Erica Ave. Work is expected to take place in April.

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

SQUARING THE CIRCLE

this is worth thinking about.

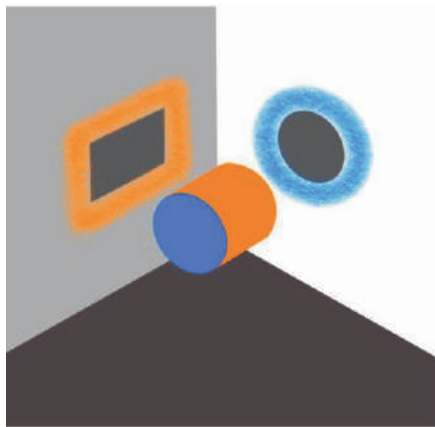
SHARING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES CAN STIMULATE LEARNING AND REDUCE CONFLICT

The natural human response to being challenged with a new or alternative idea is to reject it. Sometimes this reaction is subconscious and quiet and other times quite conscious and loud. People generally "know" what they think and why. So, when another way to explain what happened, or how the world is gets shared, they tend to argue why the other view is wrong. However, we usually only have a limited view of a given situation. Our understanding is sometimes even indirect and rarely comprehensive or free of biases. However, most people can quickly form opinions based on this, and take decisions from that limited perspective. What we "know" (our "truth" or beliefs), is based on what we have been taught and our life experiences. Much of what we "know" is based on only a small part of the total possible knowledge and evidence available. We often disagree on what reliable evidence is.

Our understanding of the world is influenced by how we interpret what we see, hear and observe and who we interact with. If we just argue what we already know, we lose the opportunity to learn new things. We lose the ability to develop as a person. If we listen and reflect when others share their ideas, we have the opportunity to see something that we could not see before. Even though it may be the same thing that we are

looking at, another person interprets it through different filters and experiences. Discussing these differences in a constructive conversation enables us to grow individually and collectively.

The "Cylinder Shadows" image opposite appeared on the internet several years ago and had been used by many people to stimulate conversation and insights about differences in perspective. This simple image highlights an important point; that mostly in life we mistakenly interpret what we see assuming we have all the information. If we see the cylinder from the blue angle, we only see a circle. This is a true impression of the cylinder from that angle. Of course, if we see the cylinder from the orange angle, we see a rectangle. Again, a true impression, but equally as limited. Sharing these perspectives helps both parties to understand that in reality, it is a cylinder they are each observing from different sides.



The cylinder shadows image highlights the limitations of a single perspective. However, it too is an oversimplification. The illustration only shows two perpendicular (opposing) perspectives of a simple three-dimensional inanimate object. A full sphere of angles is

possible. There are many more possible ways to observe and interpret what it is. If there are infinite possibilities with just a simple inanimate object, imagine the number of possibilities when we look at all angles of complex social interactions!

Even an expert in their field is constantly learning new things, as the ideas and technology develop through application and learning. Many experts argue about what the best course of actions are in complex challenges, like social developments and medical procedures.

So, is there such a thing as absolute right and wrong?

Are their situations where seemingly opposite positions can be parallel truths?

Can you learn more, and form better relationships, if you are more open to other's ideas?

If you discuss, agree to disagree, and move on, your relationships become stronger. If you just outright reject and argue they deteriorate. Communities that engage in robust, meaningful conversations across a range of perspectives become more connected. Join us in conversations through BBCN.

Limited perspectives create unnecessary conflicts.

OPENING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO OTHERS' PERSPECTIVES CAN CREATE MUTUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Arthur Shelley



WELCOME BACK, AND LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO 2022.

BUT, first - our news, which I wanted to pass on last year, but it is now official. Paperwork done, signed, sealed, and delivered! We now have a home base, no more using members' homes! We are now Managers of the "Wattle Senior Citizens" clubrooms. More space, car parking, and it is in Ferntree Gully! And more news, some of their members have chosen to amalgamate with our club. Bonus, more input, new ideas, two clubs become one and is now "Life Activities Club Knox Clubrooms", 160 Underwood Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156.



NOW, what's planned for February? The Garden group are heading to Ripponlea on

the 9th., Chinwaggers are meeting at the Lilydale International for lunch on the 16th.


On the 17th. we're meeting at the Tim Neville Arboretum for the first of our "Picnics in the Park." At 5p.m. we'll arrive with our meal and drinks. Some will bring salads, others food for a bbq, maybe fish and chips, your choice, but it will be a fun time and be home before dark.

Apart from this, the Friday Walkers will be out there, in Ringwood, and later in Ferntree Gully. The Bushwalkers go every week, and The Sunday Walkers will be exploring Alamein and East Malvern! Let's not forget, we can enjoy the Quarterly Meeting in our new clubrooms. All welcome, at 7:30p.m. on February 28th, and after a short time for club business, there will be supper and time to chat.

For more information about meetings, receiving a newsletter, activities, how to join, etc. contact

Carol 0419 870 639

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED



Volunteer drivers play a key role in supporting members of our community to remain active and engaged in the community.

We are looking for volunteers to support our local seniors to attend their medical, allied health and social group appointments.

If you enjoy driving and having a chat, then give us a call. You will be rewarded by meaningful volunteer experience and the opportunity to meet some great people.

Find out more at www.bridgescc.com.au

Email: info@bridgescc.com.au or call 9753 4577 or 0476 470 030

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavet.com.au

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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.

OUR CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

A REALLY GREAT 'THANK YOU' OCCASION FOR OUR VIPs

Coming out of numerous lock-downs and restrictions, we happily accepted an invitation to celebrate the end of the year break up Christmas party at the Boronia Bowls Club.

After the now standard procedure of QR signing in and confirming vaccination status, we were greeted by plenty of smiling faces. It was good to catch up with some old friends and meet some new friends.

The weather was warm enough to mingle outdoors on the club's verandah, and we were treated to a constant stream of hot and delicious finger food.

When everybody had arrived, John Pernu welcomed all of us. He introduced some committee members and honoured all of the Volunteers by saying that this gathering was put together to thank some very important people, that being all of us, the Walkers, Drivers and Contributors with their bright informative articles,

and also the Advertisers, without whom we could not afford to continue. John also singled out three past committee members for their long service to the newspaper, Margaret Comport for 25 years, Veronica Pearce for 13 years and Jill Walters for 11 years of service.

We were pleased to see and meet the Hon. Nick Wakeling, member for Ferntree Gully, and the Hon. Jackson Taylor, member for Bayswater. It was good to see both sides of politics chatting together over drinks and a sandwich.

The party finished up with an invitation (from Anthony Vlek) to "take a brown paper back and help yourself to the bowl of left over chocolates". We said our goodbyes and enjoyed our chocolates on the way home.

Looking forward to the new year, and we would like to thank all those who helped to put together this most enjoyable afternoon.

Sam and Sari Cuce, Volunteer Walkers

Margaret with flowers and a Thank You card acknowledging her 25 years of unbroken volunteering with our newspaper. She has performed a number of roles and will continue to be one of our Volunteer Drivers, delivering bundles of papers to Walkers.



Roger and Murielle Thompson of Boronia will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 25th January 2022



*Picture is at Roger's 80th Birthday Party.
Tribute by Gary Pope*

The couple have lived in their long established family home for 58 years now, in what was a just huge paddock of daffodils when they moved into what is now the Alchester Village Shopping area.

So, they know everyone, and pretty much everyone in the area knows this fine couple. They've run a business in the area for many years prior to retirement, and these days devote 110% of their time to family and volunteering to various organisations, including Roger's work with the BBCN for many years. Their family, local friends and Members of Freemason's, Probus, Vietnam Veterans CO-OP and Church colleagues, we're sure, will be wishing them all the best for many more happy days together into the future.

Reader's Letter

Response from Anne Francis to this extract from Knox News dated 7 September 2021

"Parked cars blocking bins to collect has resulted in the rubbish truck driver having to get out of the truck and physically move bins in order to empty them... if there are more cars in the street with people working from home, please leave your bins in the driveway for collection. This will help our drivers save time and reduce contact with bins."

There are more cars in the street because council has been approving developments that don't cater appropriately for off-street parking - congestion is not only caused due to more people working from home. If bins are placed in driveways how do residents get their vehicles on to the road? If it is taking longer for drivers to empty our bins does this mean we are paying overtime rates out of our council rates? Shame on the Knox Council!



The Hut
GALLERY

Ferntree Gully Arts Society

157 Underwood Rd FTG

Weekends 11am - 4pm

Free entry

For the latest information on current exhibitions and opportunities, visit the website, Facebook and Instagram

www.thehutgallery.com.au

[www.facebook.com/TheHutFTGArts Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheHutFTGArtsSociety)

www.instagram.com/thehutgallery



Have you added a few extra Kilo's over the last couple of years? Looking for inexpensive support to help you lose

weight, that will educate and help you achieve your weight loss goal? Then Ferntree Gully TOWN Weight Loss Club could be the club for you.

At every meeting at Ferntree Gully TOWN Weight Loss Club, we have an educational section, designed to educate, motivate and inspire you to make changes to your lifestyle.

Check out Ferntree Gully TOWN Weight Loss Club. We meet every Wednesday night from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Senior Citizens Hall in Underwood Road Ferntree Gully.

No Gimmicks. No Set Diets. Just the knowledge on how to successfully lose weight and keep it off. Whether you are a new member or have previously been a member of any TOWN Group you will certainly be made welcome at our club.

Joining fee is \$60.00, and our weekly fee is \$8.00.

Contact Therese 0417 351 898 or email her at ftgtownleader@gmail.com



"A national women's only speaking organisation,

where warm, friendly women of all ages meet regularly to practise their speaking and presentation skills. Maroondah group meets on 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 8pm, Croydon Library, Glenn Frost Room, Civic Square, Mt. Dandenong Road, Croydon. Phone Joanna on 0459 186 670. for more information visit speakingmadeeasy.com.au"

SANDRA WARREN, PRESIDENT & PUBLICITY (MAROONDAH BRANCH)

KIDS
ZONE

5 Senses Reflection Walk

Something calming to do by yourself
or with a little one.



When I walk my 15 month old, I often go through the five senses, being thankful for all I can sense, and hoping to raise my boy with gratefulness and appreciation of the little things. It was an exercise someone talked me through once to help ground me in the moment, and I

love doing it when I think of it!

See - thank you for what I can see, the colours of the flowers, the greenery of the trees, the blue sky, houses where people live, cars that means people can drive around, our dog which is a friend to us, the birds flying around.

Hear - thank you that we can hear cars which means people are driving to work, shops, home, friends, and out and about, thank you for the sound of the stroller which means I have a child, for the tap of Cody (our dogs) paws, the wind in the trees, the birds singing their songs, the workers nearby who build for us.

Feel - thank you for the ground firm beneath us, for the handles of the stroller, for the gentle tug of the lead, for the breeze on our skin, for the warmth of the sun/cool of the day, for our clothes which means we are warm

Taste - thank you that we can taste the breakfast we just ate, thank you for the taste of toothpaste and having dental hygiene

Smell - thank you for the smell of freshly cut grass, the smell of summer, the smell of worksites nearby, thank you for the smell of food in the air.

By Laura Young – a community mum

Music Together Program

For Pre-School Children and their Parents/Carers.

Sessions facilitated by a qualified Music Therapist



Including:

Singing, dancing, instrument playing and relaxation

Term 1: 11/2/22 – 8/4/22

At Boronia Rd, UC, cnr. Boronia Rd & Zeising Crt

Time: Fridays – 9.30-10.15am followed by BYO morning tea

Cost: \$10/week Enq. Sue – ph: 0402 079 432

KIDS
ZONE

Car Safety in the Summer

As we enjoy the warm weather and catch up on exploring nature and so many other things, it's important to keep safety at the front of our minds when we travel with little ones.

The temperature inside a car can rise up to 30° higher than the outside temperature, and 75% of this rise in temperature happens within the first 5 minutes of parking and closing the doors. Children left unattended in a hot car experience dehydration, heatstroke, hyperthermia and asphyxia. All of these can lead to serious injury or even death, so it is important that we take this seriously and never leave children unattended in the car.

As parents we are often tired and distracted, and it is possible for ANY of us to have a lapse in concentration, so here are some tips that can help reduce the risk of accidentally leaving our children unattended in the car, and keeping safe in hot weather:

- Leave your handbag/wallet/phone in the back seat so you have to grab them before you lock the car.
- Get in the habit of looking in the back seat, even when you know you don't have your kids with you. When we are in the habit of doing something, we are more likely to do it without thinking about it!
- Take your children out of the car with you, even for small errands.
- Look for fuel stations that offer pay at the pump services.
- Make sure that when your car is parked you keep it locked and keys out of reach of children, so they can't gain access to it.
- Don't leave your child in the car with the



keys within reach – even if you are just walking around from your seat to get them out, they could press the lock button when all doors are closed and lock themselves in. (I've also heard this happen with a dog, so same thing goes for pets in the car!)

- Start the car and pump the aircon before you have to leave, to cool down the car before putting your children in it.
- Make sure you keep your children (and yourself!) hydrated with plenty of water.
- Dress your children in lightweight clothing that is light in colour.
- Take breaks from driving at least every 2 hours for no less than 15 minutes to give everyone a chance to stretch their legs – including getting your infant out of their capsule/seat to have a stretch and roll around on a mat.
- Plan to drive in the cooler hours of the day.

Happy summer exploring!

Kate Pinkard – Type 1 Child Restraint Fitter and NICU Nurse



LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE RAINBOW SNAKE AND HIS WIFE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE RIVERS.

The Rainbow Snake allows the blackfellas to catch fish when they are hungry, but if they spear them for fun, he becomes very angry.

Rainbow Snake is a beautiful creature with long red and yellow stripes down his body. His wife is blue from top of her head to tip of her tail. After a shower of rain they sometimes stroll together and their bodies can be seen in the huge curve that stretches across the sky. It is then that the blackfella must be careful because Rainbow Snake can dart down like lightning to pick up anyone who has been foolish enough to catch fish for sport. As a just retribution he feeds them to the fish in the rivers.

www.kullillaart.com.au



'Ask Kate' is our new section for 2022 which will feature Kate Pinkard answering questions sent in by our community on a range of helpful topics.

Kate is a Registered Nurse working in Neonatal Intensive Care, a Type 1 Restraint Fitter, a mum of Chloe who you've seen featured in our last and current edition, married to Joe, and living locally.

Kate will be happy to answer (or research) questions of importance and of interest to you in the coming months.

So get ASKING! Send your questions to kidszone@bbcn.org.au and include the subject Ask Kate so your questions go to the right person. Let us know if you would like your name published or remain anonymous.

Hi all,

So I thought to start off this section it might be nice for me to introduce myself a bit more, obviously the basics are above, but I wanted to share more about what interests me, and some things I've discovered on my parenting journey so far.

I often jokingly say I've discovered I'm a bit of a hippy since becoming a Mum, and as I have come up against different challenges I like to take an approach of educating myself on the research surrounding the topic, but also trying to tune in to my own intuition and what feels right for me and my family. I think with parenting (and everything in life!) if something doesn't feel right, there is a reason for that and we should listen to that gut feeling. Approaches we have taken as a

family for raising our daughter include using cloth nappies from birth, elimination communication starting at a few months old, safe co-sleeping, lots of babywearing, natural term breastfeeding (still going strong at 19 months), baby-led introduction of solids (often called baby-led weaning, but didn't involve weaning for us!) Auslan baby sign and attachment parenting. Whilst these approaches have been right for us, I know what works for one family, or even one child within a family will not necessarily work for the next, so I encourage you that in whatever you choose, be educated, go with your gut and surround yourself with the support you need. If you have any questions about any of the above, please shoot them through, I would love to open up discussions and get us supporting each other.

Other interests I have are sewing, aerial silks, dancing (mostly in the lounge room), ukulele, kombucha brewing, sourdough baking, being aware of our ecological impact and being kind to our planet, sustainable and ethical fashion, op shopping, gardening (although this is more my husbands strength), healing from birth trauma and following my Christian faith authentically. I'm also happy to talk about these, and anything outside of my field of knowledge and experience I will happily do some research! So please send through your questions, I'm really excited about starting this segment, I'm not an expert in areas outside of my paid work, but I hope it may offer some helpful insight to you.

Kate



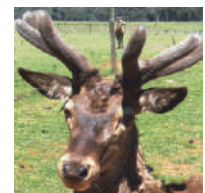
is for
Gang-gang
Cockatoo



Dr Cathryn, Paediatrician
Instagram @healthiest_baby

DID YOU FIND THOSE 16 REINDEER PICTURES IN OUR DECEMBER ISSUE?

p1, p2, p4, p5, p6, p7, p8, p8, p8, p13 (larger one), p16, p19, p21, p21, p22, p23





Jackson Taylor
Local State MP
for Bayswater

I wanted to start my first column of 2022 by saying a big thank you to all of you. As we've moved into 2022, I again couldn't be prouder of our community. Among the challenges to the start of the year, we've continued to help others around us and do incredible things. We're also one of the most vaccinated places in the nation with around 95% of us having two doses of the vaccine.

It's clear that it's not over yet. We are continuing to support the Commonwealth's vaccine rollout and I wanted to remind you that if you are due for your third dose (3 months after your second dose) then please go and get it. It offers the protection needed to help significantly reduce the chances of hospitalisation and serious complications if you contract COVID. And a reminder that 5-11's can now also get vaccinated. For more info go to coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call 1800 675 398.

Onto other matters. You would recall in 2018 we said we'd build the Suburban Rail Loop, which is an underground rail line that will link up our middle suburbs to stop you having to go into the City Loop and out again. Well, construction is kicking off this year. The first stage will involve digging 26 kilometres of underground rail tunnels and six new underground stations between Cheltenham and Box Hill. It'll create 8,000 jobs, wipe up to an hour off travel in each direction and will take hundreds of thousands of cars off roads.

And it'll mean we'll have a train system that works like those of Paris and London - where you can turn up and go wherever you need to. Just like removing level crossings (54 of them to date) and building Metro Tunnel this is a huge project - it's going to reshape our city. And we're getting on with it.

Recently, I highlighted in Parliament the importance of bringing our waterways back to life

along Blind Creek. We have already done the section next to Fairpark Reserve, but I've been working with the Minister on securing a further section to be daylighted and revitalised between Scoresby Road and Lewis Park (behind Knox City shops), as per some of the work Knox Council has done with its planning. Funding would be required from the State Government which would daylight around 1.65 km of waterways in that section and would support local biodiversity and create exciting open spaces. The Minister has advised there's a lot of interest in this project. I will keep you updated to its status, as this would be a huge win for community!

QUICK UPDATES:

- Designs for \$4.3 million upgrade at Boronia West Primary finalised

- \$200,000 for a new all abilities inclusive playground at Boronia Heights Primary announced

- Nearly 400 new jobs announced in our mental health system

- A total of \$2.8 million has been invested in 18 revitalisation projects in Boronia's CBD

- \$2,741 to Boronia Community Church of Christ for food purchasing and transport as well as hospitality partnership to help those who need it

And finally, we've strengthened protections for electricity and gas customers. From Friday 31 December 2021, the following have been prohibited:

- Unsolicited door to door sales

- Cold calling

- Retailers seeking to 'save' or 'win back' customers attempting to switch providers

We want retailers to provide fair offers to customers upfront, so they don't have to change providers.

And a quick shout out to legend Margaret who is



stepping down from the executive at this great local paper after 25 years - thanks for your service! That's all for now, until next time - stay well!

You can call my office on 9738 0577, email me at Jackson.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au or pop into 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.

A personal reflection on the Covid-19 lockdowns

The hurdy gurdy music stops;

There is a garden on my balcony, cooking recipes, books, videos, and "at home" keep fit.

My daughter arrives with my little grandson and I realise I have been alone.

I remember being something other than my own observer.

I used to belong to different groups, there was laughter then, when the hurdy gurdy played.

Now, I have achieved a soliloquy so perfect, I have no sense of loss.

I know why the hurdy gurdy has to stop. I know why there has to be this isolation. Florida has 80% of our population, but fifty times our death rate. So I do not isolate for myself alone and am sad at the lies that take lives.

One day, the statistics that began to rule our lives reach a favourable vector and we try to reclaim once more what was ordinary and taken for granted, longing for something we can call normal.

But the notes of the hurdy gurdy are strange to me and I cannot recognise the tune it plays.

(A HURDY GURDY IS BEST DESCRIBED AS A PORTABLE
BARREL ORGAN STRAPPED AROUND THE NECK)

Dave Smith



Jackson Taylor MP

Your Local State Member

Proudly Supporting **Our Community**

Suite 2, Mountain High Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater Vic 3153

📞 9738 0577 📧 @ Jackson Taylor MP

✉️ jackson.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au 🌐 jacksonontaylor.com.au

Trip to Mungo

During our recent visit to Mildura, we visited the Mungo National Park. Mungo National Park is in New South Wales, about 120 km from Mildura. The whole area known as Willandra Lakes region is a UNESCO world heritage site.

The beautiful sand dunes and the resilient shrubs make a lasting impression on any visitor to the region. But Mungo is much more than a beautiful national park. It is a sacred site for the Indigenous Australians, and it has an impressive history. Scientists have discovered artefacts dating about 50,000 years on this land. What was happening 50,000 years ago? Well, the last ice age was on full blast 50,000 years ago and Lake Mungo had a considerable amount of water (it is dry now). There were people living in this region; homo sapiens eating, drinking, hunting, playing games, telling stories and what else. When the last ice age ended about 10,000 years ago the lake had dried out. Slowly, layers of sand and soil deposited hiding any evidence of human inhabitancy, and the climate became drier.

Lake Mungo is famous for its lunette - a considerably long dune composed of clay, silt and sand. In 1968 geologist Jim Bowler and his team found burnt human bones belonging to a woman in the lunette. She became known as Mungo Lady. Mungo Lady lived about 40,000 - 42,000 years ago. Again, in 1974, Jim Bowler found the remains of another human, a male, who is now known as

Mungo Man. Mungo Man also lived about 42,000 years ago.

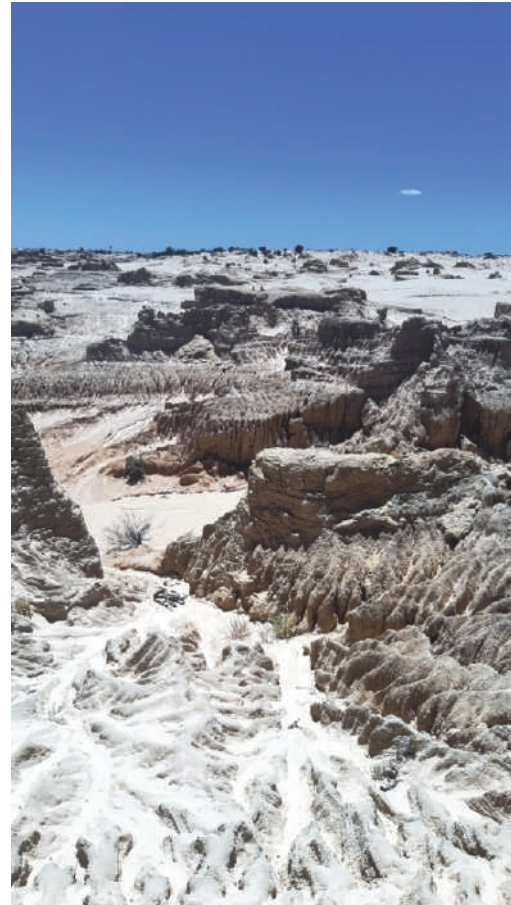
Before our visit to Mungo National Park, I briefly knew about Mungo Lady and Mungo Man. What I never expected was how my curiosity would be sparked by this visit. Lake Mungo had guided tours, but they were all booked out. There was a 70km driving track and our plan was to do that. We were fortunate enough to have a chat with an Indigenous Guide named Ivan, who was extremely kind and answered our questions generously. Ivan informed us that the track was closed after a certain point. There were heavy rains earlier in 2021 and the rain had washed away the soil and uncovered ancient fireplaces underneath the driving track. This was the reason for the closure. Wow! I was amazed. We could potentially be walking on soil with ancient artefacts buried underneath! Tread slowly my friend, I told myself. You don't want to harm this valuable evidence underneath.

The sand dunes were intricate and beautiful. Even on a 39 degree day, their magnetism did not fail.

The sand formations on the lakebed were detailed and one could visualize them at the bottom of a large lake. Staring at them in the hot sun, I had new questions. What was it like 50,000 years ago? What did those humans do? How many people lived here at that time? How did the numbers fluctuate over this long period? What tools did they use? What language? Did they have a nomadic lifestyle, or because Lake Mungo had a good food supply were they more sedentary? Did they play games? Did they tell jokes and stories? What was their culture like? Burning with these questions, we turned back. I hope that future collaborations with scientists and indigenous communities will give us a better understanding of what happened at Lake Mungo all those years ago.

Sevovandi Kandanaarachchi

(Additional resource -
<http://www.visitmungo.com.au/>)



A single ember can spread bushfires as far as 30km.

Burning embers from bushfires can travel up to 30km, starting new fires in seconds, destroying homes and making escape impossible. If the Fire Danger Rating is ever extreme or above, don't hesitate. Leave early.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

VICTORIA
State Government



World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March 10.30am

World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme is: I know the plans I have for you.

Knox Community Baptist Church is hosting this year's day of prayer on

behalf of World Day of Prayer Boronia District, (which comprises of seven local Churches, who take turns each year to host the service). Address: 17-19 Falconer Rd, Boronia VIC 3155 Angie Fox is the Artist

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org>



GULLY MARKET
Upper
Ferntree Gully
Every
Saturday and
Sunday.
Look out for
the special
feature in
our next
issue.

Saving Lake Knox

The Knox community prides itself on our green, leafy environment. That is why many residents are concerned about the proposed demolition of Lake Knox in Knoxfield (located behind Fairhills High School). The lake is an important breeding ground for the blue-billed duck.

I recently met with a number of local environment groups including the Friends of Lake Knox Sanctuary, Friends of Blind Creek Billabong, Knox Environment Society, First Friends of Dandenong Creek and Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve to hear their concerns about this important issue.

I would like to thank these groups for their dedication to protecting our local environment in Knox for future generations to come. These local volunteers do tremendous work to protect the unique character of Knox.



Nick Wakeling
Local State MP for
Ferntree Gully

BEST LOCAL CAFE COMPETITION

Recently, voting finished for the Best Local Café Competition in Knox. An initiative I was pleased to support, it was a resounding success for our local community. Over two months of coffee-tasting and voting saw Knox residents come together and endorse over 60 local cafes as their favourite local café.

For the better part of two years, our local small businesses have been under the immense pressure of lockdowns and COVID-19 restrictions. Knowing that our community has a fantastic hospitality industry, I was very pleased to be able to shine a light on our local cafes and to join forces with Knox residents to help support local businesses during such challenging times.

Koko Lime Café received enormous support from Boronia residents and the wider Knox community, clinching the number one spot as Boronia's Best Local Café.

Schokolade Café in Wantirna South received the most support from the Knox community, crowning it the overall winner as the Best Local Café in Knox.

Survey entrants consistently praised the delicious food, friendly service and great coffee of all the local cafes in Knox.



I would like to thank Knox residents for joining with me and supporting our local small businesses in this community initiative.

As always, If I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me anytime via email at nick.wakeling@parliament.vic.gov.au or during business hours on (03) 9758 6011.

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

SCAM SAFETY

The ACCC SCAMWATCH (scamwatch.gov.au) and the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network [ACCAN] (accan.org.au) are important sources of scam information and scam safety strategies.

Visit the Scamwatch site at scamwatch.gov.au and scroll down towards the bottom. You will see the following list of the types of scams in operation.

- * Covid-19
- * Attempts to gain your personal information
- * Buying or selling
- * Dating and romance
- * Fake Charities
- * Investments
- * Jobs and employment
- * Threats and extortion
- * Unexpected money
- * Unexpected winnings
- * Flubot scams

When on the Scamwatch site, clicking on any of these topics takes you to an explanation of what the scam is, how it works, how to protect yourself, and what to do if you have in fact been scammed.

Here is an example for Covid-19

Scamwatch has received over 6415 scam reports mentioning the coronavirus with more than \$9,800 000 in reported losses since the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Common scams include phishing for personal information, online shopping, and superannuation scams.

If you have been scammed or have seen a scam, you can make a report on the Scamwatch website, and find more information about where to get help.

Scamwatch urges everyone to be cautious and remain alert to coronavirus-related scams. Scammers are hoping that you have let your guard down. Do not provide your personal, banking or superannuation details to strangers who have approached you.

Scammers may pretend to have a connection with you. So it's important to stop and check, even when you are approached by what you think is a trusted organisation.

Visit the Scamwatch news webpage for general warnings and media releases on COVID-19 scams.

Below are some examples of what to look out for.

These are a few examples, but there are many more. If your experience does not match any of the examples provided, it could still be a scam. If you have any doubts at all, don't proceed.

Vaccination scams

Scamwatch is aware of scams relating to COVID-19 vaccines both in Australia and overseas. These include:

- * requesting payment for vaccines or for early access to vaccines
- * offers to mail vaccines
- * offers to pay money as an investment opportunity in the Pfizer vaccine
- * fake surveys related to vaccines that offer prizes or early access.

See our COVID-19 vaccinations scams page to find out how to avoid and protect yourself from these and other potential scams relating to COVID-19 vaccines.



Phishing – Government impersonation scams

Scammers are pretending to be government agencies providing information on COVID-19 through text messages and emails 'phishing' for your information. These contain malicious links and attachments designed to steal your personal and financial information.



Our newest residents and their families getting to know each other

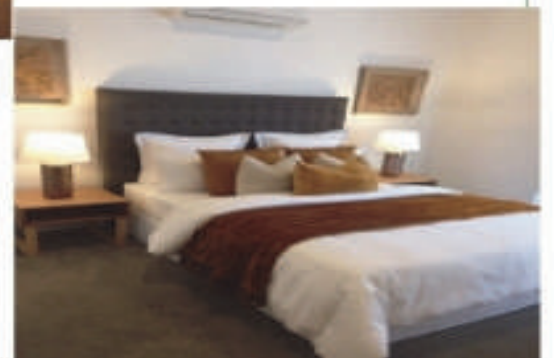
- **HURRY SELLING FAST ONLY 4 LEFT OF THE 12 NEW RETIREMENT UNITS.**
- 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, single garage with internal entry, Fisher & Paykel cooking appliances including built in microwave. Split system cooling x 2 plus gas-ducted heating, private courtyard, pet friendly
- Money refunded within 90 days of permanent departure
- Everything you need is close at hand, including our Aged Care located within the grounds
- Some newly refurbished 2 bedroom units also available

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE

A storybook lifestyle where you'll live happily ever after



What the past 2 years has taught us is that during unprecedented times it's important to be somewhere you feel safe, protected, cared for and most importantly somewhere you don't feel alone.



To book a tour or for more information call
Kym Faulkner Ph: 8706 4502

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEED RATs TO REMAIN SAFE AND EFFECTIVE

Volunteering Victoria calls on the State Government to urgently provide free rapid antigen tests (RATs) to every volunteer and organisation involved in the delivery of essential services. The current surge in infections and testing only reinforce the pressing need for concrete actions supporting volunteers and their organisations.

While Volunteering Victoria welcomes the allocation of free tests to concession cardholders, this policy forgets the thousands of volunteer-involving and community organisations and their volunteers.

"Organisations and volunteers are under increased pressure. With the Omicron surging, Victorian volunteers are at increased risk of contracting and/or spreading the virus, threatening thousands of volunteers into isolation" says Scott Miller, Chief Executive of Volunteering Victoria.

The safety of all involved is paramount to building trust through and following this latest wave and the provision of free rapid tests for volunteers in essential services is urgent.

"It is abundantly clear that the Victorian government must urgently act to ensure organisations can count on volunteers to meet the increase demand on their services. Organisations

simply do not have the means to provide rapid tests to their volunteers, and volunteers cannot be expected to cover such costs. Without prompt Government action, we fear that the delivery of many essential volunteering programs and activities will be severely disrupted" adds Miller.

During the Delta surge, volunteer organisations reported a 43% increase in demand for services, with 56% reporting that they need more volunteers. Additionally, 72% of organisation's volunteer programs were either only partially operational (60%) or not operational (12%).

"As we aim to recover from the effects of the pandemic, now is a critical time to focus on ensuring safe and effective volunteering" concluded Miller.

Beyond the immediate need for free rapid tests, Volunteering Victoria recommends the State Government create a Volunteer COVID-19 recovery fund of \$3 million over the next 12 months as an urgent priority for volunteers to continue fulfilling their vital role in communities throughout Victoria.

We are advocating for a flexible funding program that will allow organisations to respond quickly to unpredictable environments and meet the growing need for their services.

volunteeringvictoria.org.au



Luka and the Letterbox



Seven month old Luka and his letterbox pal in Harrison Street, The Basin. The creative local artist is his granddad Matthew.



A belated Happy New Year to all Over50s in our community. Let's hope this new year brings with it increased opportunities for improvement in our social lives. 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.

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.

We were able to hold a Christmas Luncheon at the Knox Club on Tuesday, 14th December 2021 and a wonderful time was had by all. It was great to catch up with everybody and just enjoy good company and lots of fun.

At this stage, we envisage holding all of our 2022 meetings at indoor venues. Authorities have impressed on us how important it is to be fully vaccinated, as currently all indoor venues will accept only fully-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.

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

DIVING IN - DANNY NOLAN

For her birthday this year, we arranged to have my wife Lorraine thrown to the sharks. Well not exactly, for her birthday this year she wanted to experience diving with the sharks at SeaLife at the Melbourne Aquarium. After a period of disappointments due to Covid that had resulted in us cancelling a holiday to Cairns, the Harry Potter show at the theatre, and the combined celebration of both our 60th birthdays this year, it was lovely to have something to go to plan.

I had never been to the Melbourne Aquarium before, having grown up kids it's just one of those places I never found on my radar of things to go and visit. But with my wife's love of the beach and a desire to swim with dolphins or whales, this seemed like a perfect alternative.

With the announcement of the Aquariums reopening in November last year I leapt at the chance to book the experience.



Since Lorraine had to do some training for the dive, and the children were coming in later I got a couple of hours to wander around by myself to check things out and make some observational notes.

The Aquarium is an amazing and interesting place with so much packed into what appears to be a small area. Squeezed between the Yarra River, Flinders

Street and the King Street bridge while being hovered over by two bridges that carry the multitude of trains that travel the thoroughfare between Flinders Street station to Spencer Street. It's a deceiving place. Not quite a TARDIS but similar for first time visitors. I say this because I'm still trying to figure out how they got the biggest crocodile I had ever seen in my life into this place.

I know this sounds like ignorance but I had no idea they grew this big. That thing is a dinosaur. So heavy it looked like gravity was squashing it onto the floor, but no, it lifted itself up onto its short stubby legs like hydraulic lifts and when it entered the water turned into an aircraft carrier or submarine whichever is the fastest and more dangerous. This thing lives by itself because it ATE its girlfriend.

The penguin area is extremely popular and totally crazy, the King Penguins are active little fellows who waddle on the ice but once they hit the water they turn into acrobatic torpedoes. Fascinating to watch. In contrast, the larger Emperor penguins just stand and stare, this made me feel sorry for them, thinking what kind of life is this? That was until I saw a documentary of them in their natural habitat and discovered this seemed to be their job, what they did on holidays and when they slept.

There is one small section that sits in an alcove behind glass. The sign says Marine Biologists. It was weird because there were lots of tubes and tanks, switches and pumps but no Marine Biologists. It looked like a mad scientist's lab. Most of these tanks had jellyfish in them. I could only assume that this is



where they made them. It wasn't manned and looked very sinister. Maybe it's where all those horseshoe-shaped jellyfish come from that show up on the tide line at your local beach.

When it was time for the diving adventure to start, I met up with the kids and descended to the basement where they hide the really big fish tank full of all species of fish swimming around in schools as well as Manta Rays and swordfish and, of course, sharks.


When the divers appeared - six all up, four adventurers and two instructors/safety marshals, we didn't know who was who? It took about twenty minutes to work out who was my wife through mannerisms, as

everyone was dressed identical, and the refraction of the tank glass made everyone about one third smaller when viewed from outside the tank. After over an hour of frolicking with the fishes, Lorraine eventually emerged happy and thrilled at the experience. Was there any fear that she would be eaten by sharks? Well no. Apparently, sharks are afraid of bubbles. So that when the divers come into the tank and start exhaling all the sharks go hide in the farthest corner. Something to remember next time I get dumped into shark-infested waters James Bond style.

All up it was a great day and Lorraine loved her present/experience,

Of course, the end result of this was the conversation that was had on the drive home.

The kids were asking their mother what she should try next. Sky diving? Walking up the Harbour Bridge? Abseiling? In true Mother style, she replied. "Yes dear, we'll see"



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AT BORONIA ROAD UNITING CHURCH...

2022 promises to be an exciting year – although all our plans for regular, as well as occasional, activities will be COVID dependent. Please go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch> to check how the current situation affects us.

The health and safety of all our members and our guests is always our PRIORITY.

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM...

We have a user-friendly worship service..... kids activities, lots of singing – all followed by morning tea and fellowship, once again COVID situation permitting.

OUR CHURCH...

Is open each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon where an

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CRAFT GROUP...

Meets from 11.30am each Friday at the church. Bring your lunch and your own craft project – although working on ANY craft is optional! You are welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat. The kettle is always on!

MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS...

is held each Friday from 9.30am during school terms. We are excited to announce that we have a new music-therapist, who comes to us with lots of previous experience. The 45minute session is followed by a BYO morning tea when the carers get the opportunity to get to know each other. Leaders of this program are always on hand to offer support and encouragement. Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET...

will be held on Saturday, 2nd April. To book a stall or enquire, contact irenesmith2@bigpond.com

PLEASE NOTE...

All our appointed leaders, employees and volunteers have completed the required Safe Church Training and have current Working With Children Checks. For more information about us check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch or phone the church office on 9762 6732.



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