

NAIDOC

National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

Check out NAIDOC Week events at www.naidoc.org.au/local-events/local-naidoc-week-events

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NATIONAL TREE WEEK

“ I think that I shall never see
a poem lovely as a tree.”

This classic poem by American poet Joyce Kilmer extols the benefits and the beauty of trees in our natural environment, but the value of our trees goes far beyond looks. Lack of respect is just part of contemporary problems. For example, it was reported several years ago that, yielding to pressure from motorists, the management of an American national park bulldozed over a dozen mature trees so that drivers could better see a memorial to the poem from the comfort of their cars.



Several years ago, on a holiday trip to the Queensland hinterland, I found myself in a forest clearing surrounded by forest giants; cedars, bunyas, figs and more. These were ancient trees and I found myself close to tears and in awe of such glorious

plants, knowing I would never see my own trees grown to such magnificence.

My grandmother would have understood. Her name was Ada, after whom the Ada Tree and Ada River were named. Even after having significant storm damage, this giant of the tall forests stands over 60 metres tall.



We need to look after our trees, for better or worse they are a critical element in our future; absorbing and storing carbon, pumping out oxygen to breathe. But times are getting tougher.

John Mortimore

Middle picture above - "The Big Tree" giant River Red Gum, Guildford, Victoria

Bottom picture - Quercus Robur (English Oak), Castelemaine, Victoria

Established in 1996, National Tree Day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event. The program is a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to their community.

Each year, around 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate Australians about the world around them. While every day can be Tree Day, we dedicate celebration of Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day to the last Friday and last Sunday in July.

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August Issue Distrib. 28 July

We welcome all contributions from our community but can not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit material. 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 500-800 words.

This community newspaper is run totally 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. We welcome your response to published articles, and request that such responses be courteous and objective.

If you would like to help, do get in touch, we use many skills.

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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 Team

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.



NOT ONLY
WALKING
THE NEWS

Currently we are in the unusual but very encouraging position where all of our walking rounds are filled.

Of course, this changes frequently, sometimes on a permanent basis, and at others for one or two months when someone is away on holiday or away for some other reason.

Please do keep reading:-

It's not only delivering papers though, there's a lot more to this story. You may well have skills that we can use right now. Our Treasurer needs your help. Our Facebook moderator needs your help. What about editing and graphic design? We can certainly use your help with those.

Getting this paper up is quite involved, embracing many skills, with opportunities for many people to offer both time and expertise.

All those behind the scenes work voluntarily. As is sometimes said, the pay may be lousy but the rewards are great.

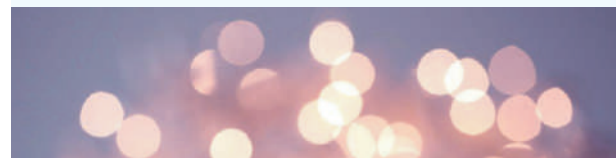
We're an email away - contact@bbcn.org.au

Welcome - Winter !

Bringing milky drops ,
in the mid-year Morn.
Sprinkled snowy bubbles
O'er the meadows .

Flowers, buds winked at me.
Dim clouds let the sun rays to see .
Snow drops shine on browny tree ,
Is the " Winter" nice to see ?

DAYANGANI SILVA



How we played 'online'



before the internet

Page 3 "Bird"

Lesser Long-eared Bat

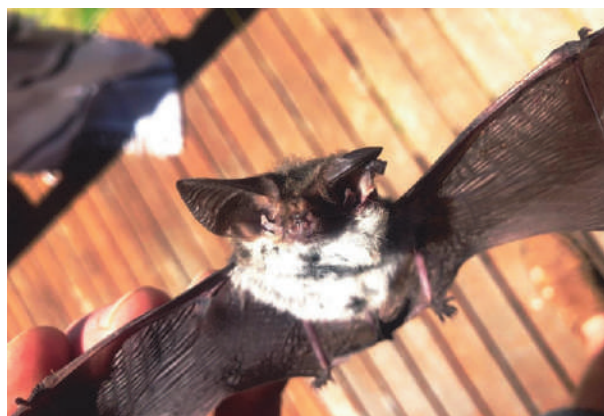
(Nyctophilus geoffroyi)

Diseases and virus' and stuff are at the forefront of everyone's thinking these days. And it has recently come to my attention of a new disease called bird fatigue which I'm concerned some of you may be suffering from. Me, I got vaccinated at birth so I won't catch it. So this month we'll be talking about a mammal instead. As I've said before if you do actually mind, it's too late.

Last summer we booked a family holiday house at Ventnor down at Phillip Island and it came with its very own colony of Lesser long-eared Bats. We tried to re book for next summer but it's unavailable as the owners will be using it, I tell you, some people are so selfish!

Anyhow, these little micro bats had a communal roost in a cavity in the eaves with an overflow roost site inside the house. Our first night there saw a cameo flight around the dining room by one of these fantastic little animals, with one roosting on a beam in our bedroom, another in the dining room and another above the air conditioning unit! Now that's what I call entertainment!

Lesser Long-eared Bats (yes there is a separate species called Greater Long-eared Bat) are probably the most abundant species of mammal found in Australia. The Rainforests of far North Queensland the only place on the continent they haven't been recorded. Consider that for a moment, these bats live over the entire state of Tasmania as well as the arid interior, now that's what I call adaptation.



When the weather gets a bit warmer, go outside your house right on dusk and you may see some of these little mammals (or any one of the dozen or so species of microbat we have in Victoria) flying overhead. If you have an amount of decent sized eucalypts near your house I can almost guarantee you will have bats living in your vicinity. We have a small park just down from us with some ripping big Eucs, and yep we often see them down there.

Identification of small microbats flying overhead on dusk is very nearly impossible except by bat experts, of which I am not one. I only managed to ID this species by finding a



dead one outside the house and referring to my 'Mammals of Australia' field guide. Refer to attached photos. Most bats use echo-location to find their prey and rely on the ability to determine if the continual sound they make hits a target or not. Sort of like radar, pretty cool, huh? Most species make sounds outside the hearing range of humans but there are one or two whose sounds can be picked up by humans, the White-striped Free-tail Bat being one.

Face only a mother could love? Yeah I know, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder, I reckon they're pretty cool looking creatures. And if you wonder what role they play in the environment consider the fact that over wetlands they have been recorded as nightly eating their body weight in mosquitoes. Mozzie munchers personified!

And while on the topic of bats and their role in the natural world the flying-foxes, or fruit bats, play a critical role wherever they live by being super pollinators and maintaining ecosystem health. Without flying-foxes entire ecosystems would collapse, can you imagine no more Daintree rainforest? Or indeed the entire rainforest system down the east coast of the continent. Can you believe Bob Katter, independent federal member for Kennedy hates flying-foxes and says so publicly? Presumably because of destruction of crops, I mean I get that, but Bob, why cut off your nose to spite your face, doesn't make a lot of sense, just quietly. Why do our politicians fail continually to see the bigger picture in so many areas of life? Work it out will ya! Unfortunately 99% of federal politicians refuse to believe anything other than their own ideological view of the world, very sad really.

And on the subject still of bats, I want to take my good friend and brothe-in-law Ronny to task and tell him how insanely jealous I am of him as he helped a bat researcher, many years ago, on Ghost bats in Queensland. Ghost bats are high up on my bucket list, in fact probably only Sperm Whale and Spot-tail Quoll are above them. Some people are just born lucky!

Happy Batting, talk again next month.

*In memory of Woofy,
born 20.11.05 - died 8.6.22.
"The little Doggy"*

Des Palmer

KNOX FOOD RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS

Knox residents will continue to be supported with food and emergency relief with 12 community groups sharing \$79,000 in Council grants.

Knox Mayor Cr Susan Laukens said \$79,000 has been allocated as a continuation of Council's support for the community and business groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These grants aim to support local service providers who are based in Knox or provide services and support to Knox residents," she said.

"These grants will help to provide food parcels, hot meals and other related emergency relief items to Knox residents as the community continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

"... We're here to support local services helping Knox residents with the most basic items that everyone should be able to access, from fresh food and hot meals to hygiene items and prescription medication.

"Our partnership with these groups, with whom we have formed strong and trusted relationships, is an example of working together to deliver for our community."



Community Support Knox & Surrounds >

Like to help?

Email us at

contact@bbcn.org.au
we'll put you in touch.

Here's a letter from a reader about a wonderful local initiative to help others in need.

Hello, my name is Fiona Jackson. I am a supporting member of this group. We help feed the local community with donations from Coles Boronia, Coles Mooroolbark, Crumbles Bakery.

We have members who pick up and drop off food, fresh fruit and vegetables, Bread, Treats, Clothing

This is run by Shelby W. from her home in The Basin.

We were wondering if you would like to run a story on the group, to not only help get the message out to those in need and maybe some business that would like to get involved. **This group feeds over 1000 families. So we would love some help.**

Thank you for your time

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND MINOR GRANTS

Submission period: Opens 30 May - closes 4 July 2022

The CDF grant program provides funds to support a range of events, arts and cultural projects, services and activities provided by not-for-profit groups or organisations for the benefit of Knox residents.

Contact the Community Partnerships Team to discuss your project. 9298 8000 or email cdf@knox.vic.gov.au

DO YOU KNOW A 2, 3 OR 4 YEAR OLD IN KNOX?

If you have a 2-year-old or 3-year-old child, now is the time to enrol them in 3-year-old kindergarten for next year. Registrations are also open for 4-year-old kindergarten.

At Council-run kindergartens you can access five hours of funded 3-year-old kindergarten each week and 15 hours of 4-year-old.

For more information about kindergarten in Knox including locations, session times, fees and registration visit www.knox.vic.gov.au/kindergarten.

CARING FOR CARERS

Being a carer can be challenging, time consuming and emotionally draining but also incredibly rewarding. Common challenges faced by carers are chronic stress, lack of assistance, decreased social activity, financial strain and lack of sleep, often resulting in decreasing or giving up work, study and social activities. But this will change with the introduction of a State Government funded (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) Carers Employment Support Program to 108 unpaid carers in the Outer East of Melbourne in 2022.

It's called the Linking Carers to Vocational Opportunity project. Unpaid carers of employment age are eligible to access the program.

An unpaid carer is someone who is not employed as a carer. Being in receipt of carer allowances is not considered "payment". The project has been funded to support the 108 carers to explore their options, current or future, for employment and/or training. Employment can include working for an employer, unpaid or volunteer work or self-employment. Carers may choose to work only a few hours per week. There is no minimum required.

"Victoria" enrolled in the program and has already noticed huge benefits. "It's with great excitement that I have found exactly what I was looking for and needed in a job," she said.

The Community Houses Association of the Outer-eastern Suburbs (CHAOS) Network is lead agent in a consortium to deliver the program.

Training or further education may include initial confidence building, stress management and resilience as well as computer skills, industry taster courses, anything that assists the carer to achieve their goals and prepare them for eventual employment.

For further information contact Leanne FitzGerald, Ph: 0457646384

E: carersproject@chaosnetwork.org.au

William Matthews Funerals

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DELIVERING THE GREEN HEART OF KNOX

The State Government is delivering the single biggest open space and environmental project in a generation in Knox, unlocking more green space for locals and visitors to enjoy while delivering unprecedented environmental outcomes.

The State Government via Melbourne Water is contributing \$12 million and Knox Council is contributing \$3.5 million.

The Green Heart of Knox project – located between Scoresby Road and Lewis Park, just north of Knox City, will deliver:

- Un-piping of 1.65km of waterways, creating a beautiful and naturalised green spine, linking Fairpark to the east with Lewis Park to the west
- The activation of 33 hectares of open space for community use and benefit
- The creation of 3 new wetlands and 2 water harvesting ponds
- Over 6km of new walking paths integrated into the broader network
- Nearly 700,000 new native plants
- Improved waterway quality and more flood storage
- Nearly 2,000 native trees to be planted
- A boardwalk through the new wetland system at Lewis Park – with viewing platforms and other



Blind Creek Lewis Park Wetlands Image

engagement opportunities like stepping stones for the community to enjoy

Importantly, the works will harvest around 250 million litres a year of stormwater that can be used to irrigate local sports ovals and community gardens. There will also be an improvement in the quality of water flowing through to Dandenong Creek.

Knox Council has worked closely with Melbourne Water to reimagine Blind Creek as part of our bigger plan to turn Lewis Park into the green heart of Knox.

The project will also involve the creation of wetlands with pedestrian bridges, waterway crossings and boardwalks.

Knox Mayor Cr Susan Laukens said the project will create an incredible place for the community to enjoy and enhance biodiversity within the 40-hectare parkland.

“In 2020, a section of Blind Creek was

daylighted from Manuka Drive to Scoresby Road. When you walk along that section of creek now it is bursting with wildlife and people enjoying the area for exercise and recreation,” she said.

“Lewis Park is one of the largest open spaces in Knox. It is in a critical location with a surrounding population expected to grow to 61,284 by 2041. This project will improve its connection with some of our busiest community hubs.

“As Melbourne continues to grow, fewer residents will have their own backyards and investment in public open space will be important for all levels of government to ensure the health and wellbeing of communities.

“It takes all levels of government working together to respond to the changing needs of our community and I am grateful to the Victorian Government for partnering with us to deliver this first stage of our vision for Lewis Park.



Lewis Park with Lisa Neville, State Minister for Water



Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St., Boronia

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2 separate large gazebos for a more private feel and did we mention you can even have a game of bowls with all equipment provided and special rubber bowls for the kids.

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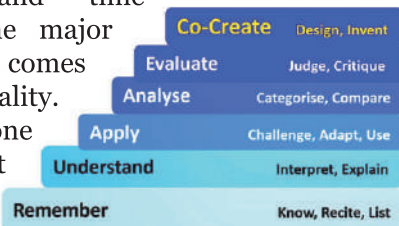
New members welcome – no fees for the first year – coaching available – call Patrick on 0459 999 261

THERE'S LEARNING AND THEN . . . THERE'S LEARNING

We used to go to school to learn, and then go to work. In this world that changes quickly however, we need to continue learning throughout our life, to remain relevant and capable of being a contributing member of society. What's not always clear is what we should learn and how this will help us in future.

People started to talk about life-long learning. That is, learning that goes on forever, to understand new things as they emerge. In reality now though, we're in an era of life-style learning. That is, ongoing learning that fits into our busy schedules. Relevant formal courses, supplemented by online videos, working in remote teams and more, all jumbled into what we can do when. This has advantages as well as disadvantages.

Convenience and time flexibility is the major plus, but it often comes at the cost of quality. Learning alone you only get your own perspective.



When you learn with others you can chat with them about what they think, feel and do as a result of the content and experiences being shared. Socialised learning is a much richer experience with better long term outcomes. The drawing shows that instead of just remembering stuff, you can apply it, analyse the results and make judgements about its quality. Having done all that, go on to co-create something new that works in future.

The best learning involves three aspects: Knowing (knowledge & theory through education), Doing (application of skills through training and coaching), and Being (the soft skills we need to engage with other people around these in context). Unfortunately, most current

formal education is too focused on Knowing, with little attention on practical application (Doing) and building collaborative relationships and trust (Being).

Learners are taught what "the answer" is, instead of building their ability to figure out what questions need to be asked to get best outcomes. Even more important in our modern world, is the ability to confidently approach uncertainty and weigh up relative risk. These are the life skills required to generate productive citizens and contributing community members that society depends on.

It's not that what we're doing in the formal system is wrong, it's just limited and sub-optimal. We all know a highly knowledgeable person who is arrogant. We all know someone with little education who is a beautiful person. The best lifestyle learning comes with a balance of theoretical knowledge, the ability to apply this in context and most importantly, the personal characteristics that stimulate others to engage with them to create social value. These people are considered natural leaders, but our education systems can nurture them better through a balance of capabilities across knowing, doing and being.

A really helpful book is "Becoming Adaptable". Want to know more about the book, more about this discussion? Get in touch through contact@bbcn.org.au

Arthur Shelley

<https://realkm.com/2022/05/09/book-review> to read the book review.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO READ MORE ARTICLES LIKE THIS ONE, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW, PHOTO AND EMAIL

TO US AT contact@bbcn.org.au.

I enjoyed reading this and would like more.

I would like to have an informative article on

WE ARE SORRY

Council unveiled a new yarning circle as part of ceremonies to mark National Sorry Day on 26 May.

Sorry Day acknowledges the enduring harm of government laws, policies and practices that removed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and communities.

There are an estimated 1500 Aboriginal people living in Knox today, many of whom still live with the pain of being separated from their families and their culture.

Knox Mayor, Cr Susan Laukens said recognising Sorry Day is a step we take towards healing.

"As the Mayor of Knox City Council, I am sorry," she said. "As the local government, we are sorry. On Sorry Day we apologise for the past, and we reaffirm our commitment to healing, acknowledgement and respect of First Nations people.

"As a Council, we understand that hard work needs to be done to heal our community. We are committed to supporting reconciliation in practical and symbolic ways.

"We are working with local Aboriginal leaders to discuss what is most important to them and to raise awareness of First Nations culture and history in Knox.

"Last year, in collaboration with our local Aboriginal community, we agreed to five key areas of focus: health and wellbeing, recognition and respect, employment and economic development, civic participation, and cultural heritage.

"The yarning circle at our Civic Centre is one idea that came out of those discussions. It will be a place of truth telling and healing conversations.

"Truth telling and listening are important steps in facing our confronting history."

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12:30pm - 3pm

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Wednesdays: 20 Jul - 7 Sep
9:30am - 12pm

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Fridays: 22 Jul - 9 Sep
9:30am - 12pm

Tech Support Drop in
Mondays: 18 Jul - 5 Sept
9.30 - 11am

Computers for Beginners
Fridays: 22 Jul - 9 Sep
12.30 - 3pm

CANVA
Thursdays: 21 Jul - 11 Aug
7pm to 9pm

Digital Photography - part 1
Mondays: 18 Jul - 5 Sep
12.00pm - 2.30pm

Lightroom - part 1
Tuesdays 12 Jul - 9 Aug
7pm - 9.30pm

Craft & Leisure

Fiction & Food
Wednesdays: 20 Jul - 7 Sep
10.30am- 12.30pm

Colour and Chat
Mondays: 18 Jul - 5 Sep
1pm - 3pm

Craft & Chat
2nd & 4th Thursday of the Month
12pm - 2.30pm

Beginners Art
Tuesdays: 19 Jul - 23 Aug
9:30 - 11am

Yoga classes :

Tuesdays: 19 Jul - 6 Sep
7.30pm - 9pm

Fridays: 22 Jul - 9 Sep
9.30am - 11am

Card Making
Fridays: 29 Jul, 12 Aug, 2 Sep
12pm - 2.30pm

Charity
Fridays: 15 Jul, 19 Aug, 9 Sep
12pm - 2.30pm

Patchwork & Sewing - Monthly
Thursdays: 21 Jul, 18 Aug, 15 Sep
7.30pm- 9:30pm

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KIDS
ZONE6 QUESTIONS FOR A 6 YEAR OLD
(from Kate Pinkard)

What is your name?

Angus Hugh Mauger

How old are you?

6 almost 7

If you could grow anything in your backyard what would it be?

A beautiful willow tree

What do you do to make our world a better place to live?

- I like cleaning up rubbish

What's a memory that makes you happy?

- Reuben's birthday [Reuben is Angus's younger brother]

What makes you so awesome?

- Me! [then after further prompting] I'm kind and I have a good mind and I can think really well.

What's your favourite park around here?

- The Basin Triangle

NAIDOC Week Word Puzzle

C	U	L	T	U	R	E	S	E	A	Y
S	D	N	E	I	R	F	L	I	H	R
D	A	T	S	U	P	D	L	E	I	T
I	M	X	K	E	E	A	F	R	S	N
Q	Z	Q	O	R	R	N	G	A	T	U
B	X	P	S	T	I	D	S	H	O	O
D	L	I	S	Y	V	I	R	S	R	C
E	B	U	N	Q	I	D	O	C	Y	Y
P	A	T	U	P	Q	X	U	J	H	P
A	K	X	I	Z	P	B	W	F	P	P
T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	C	O	A
F	A	M	I	L	Y	P	I	M	B	H

Australia
culture
share

country
friends
together

family
NAIDOC
elders

happy
history
people

THE LEGEND OF THE FLOWERS

After Baiame left the earth and gone to live in his far-away land of rest on top of the Sacred Mountain, all the flowers that grew on the plains and the stony ridges and the trees withered and died and none grew again in their place. The earth looked bare and desolate with no flowers to brighten it. As the flowers were gone, so were the bees and consequently the honey.



The People asked the Wirinuns [the Clever Ones] to go and ask Baiame if he could cover the earth again with the flowers so it would be made beautiful again. The Wirinuns journeyed until they came to the foot of the Sacred Mountain and began climbing and after 4 days they reached the summit and were greeted by the Spirit Messenger of Baiame.

They told the Spirit Messenger they came to ask Baiame for some flowers to make the earth beautiful again which will bring back the bees and give honey to their People. The Spirit Messenger lifted the Wirinuns into the Sky Camp where fadeless flowers never ceased to bloom and told the Wirinuns they could gather as many as they could hold in their hands as they were good People and had obeyed Baiame's Loes of the Land. The Sky Camp of Baiame was a land of beauty; flowers blooming everywhere in such splendour as they had never seen before they looked like rows of rainbows laid on the grass. The Wirinuns cried tears of joy as they had never seen such beauty.

The Spirit Messenger returned the Wirinuns to their People laden with armfuls of the blossoms from the Sky Camp and told them the earth shall never again be bare of such blossoms and fragrance. The Wirinuns scattered the flowers far and wide. Some fell on the tree tops, some on the plains, and ridges and where they fell they have grown ever since. It is the work of the bees of Baiame from the blossoms of the Sky Camp to make Yarraga [the spring wind] blow the rain down the Sacred Mountain that the trees, shrubs and flowers may blossom and the earth bees make honey.

Michael J Connolly Dreamtime Kullilla-Art <https://www.kullillaart.com.au>

DO YOU SING
TO YOUR BABY?KIDS
ZONE

GOOD NEWS ON WASHING CLOTH NAPPIES



Washing cloth nappies has come a long way in the last 30 years - it is no longer recommended to soak them, and there is much less intensive manual labour! Let me break it down for you:

Firstly you want to remove the poo from the nappy. There are several methods for this, we opted to use a little 2L handheld pressure sprayer from Bunnings, and spray it off into the toilet. Some people get a plumber to attach a bidet to their toilet to spray the nappies. Some people have an allocated poo scraping knife, or silicone brush. I want to mention here, this should be done with disposable nappies as well, human waste is not appropriate to be going in to landfill. After removing the soiling, the nappy goes in to a 'dry pail' – an airy basket that allows air flow through the nappies. Nappies that are just wet can go straight into the dry pail.

Pre wash: A pre wash is done every 1-2 days. The nappies go from the dirty dry pail in to the washing machine for a short wash, at least 30mins in length at 40°-60° with ½ the amount of detergent required to treat 'heavy soiling'. From here they go back in to the dry pail. We have two small wire baskets for our dry pails – one for dirty nappies, and one for items that have been prewashed.

Main wash: The main wash is done every 2-3 days, depending on when you have enough for a full load. Because the bulk of the soiling has already been removed from the nappies in the prewash, it is okay to bulk out this load with



clothes. The main wash needs to be a minimum of 2 hours in length, and a temperature of 40°-60°. I choose to do the pre wash at 60° and the main wash at 40° so I'm not wearing out elastics etc in general clothes that go in the main wash.

Drying: Once they are nice and clean it's time to get them dry. You can hang them out on the line, near a heater inside in the cooler months, or of course in the dryer.

Once they are all dry it's time to re-assemble them and they are ready to go on the bum again! To be honest, hanging them out to dry and then putting them back together is probably the most time intensive part of cloth napping, and it's only necessary every 3 or so days.

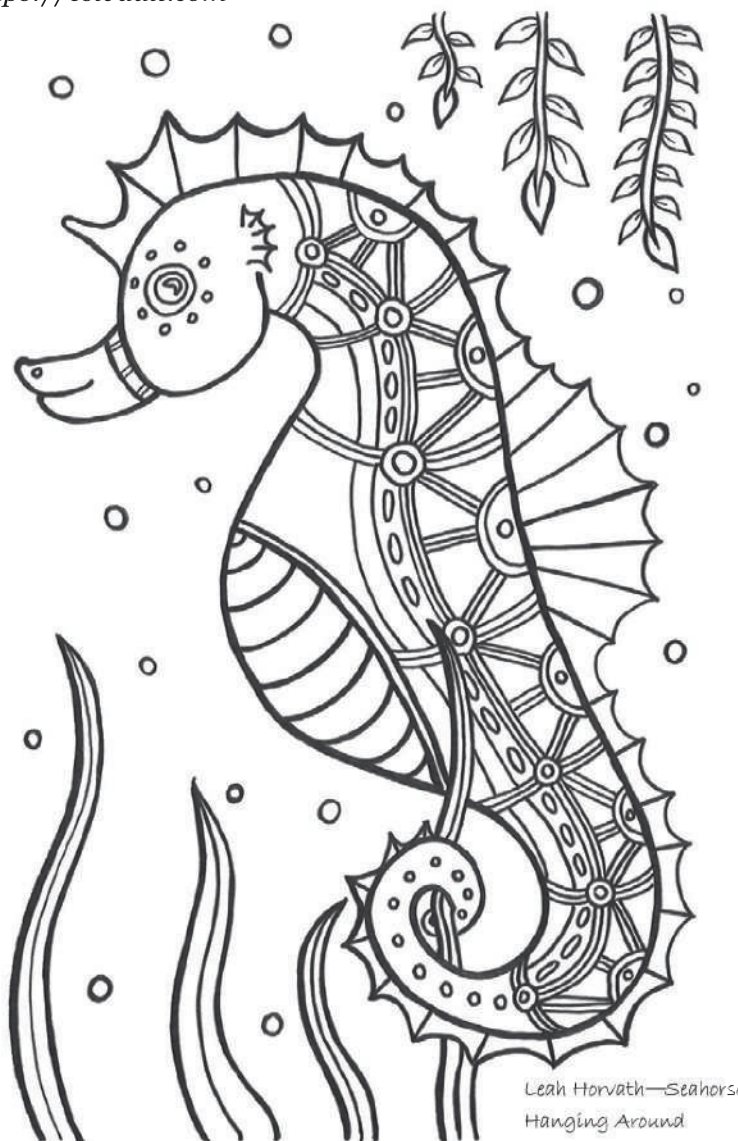
I am thankful for the Clean Cloth Nappies website and Facebook page, and would definitely recommend checking them out www.cleanclothingnappies.com. They are a wealth of information, explaining the ins and outs of a good wash routine, and can help you troubleshoot if you are having issues.

As usual, send through any questions you have to kidszone@bbcn.org.au, whether they are cloth nappy related or something totally different!

Stay warm, and I'll see you again next issue!

Kate

source: <https://eslvault.com>



Leah Horvath—Seahors,
Hanging Around

5 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ABORIGINAL ART

1. Only indigenous artists can create indigenous art

If an artist – a painter, sculptor, or craftsman – wants their artwork to be considered aboriginal, they should belong to a tribe.

2. Aboriginal paintings are part of education

Every aboriginal painting has its story encoded in the artwork by the master. Artists then decode this story and explain different symbols to a younger generation.

3. Paintings by aboriginal artists are highly valued by modern art collectors.

In 2007, the Australian artist Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri set a record when his painting was sold for \$2.4 million.

4. Symbols replace formal written language

Many aboriginal tribes do not have formal written languages. That is why they tend to use symbols, signs, and icons.

5. Indigenous art is heavily symbolic

While symbols are integral for aboriginal painting style, understanding comes with experience.

source: <https://300magazine.com/5-fun-facts-about-aboriginal-art-you-might-not-know/>

IN SEARCH OF THE NEW MYSTIC LAKE ESTATE

Part Two - Danny Nolan



The New Mystic Lakes Estate was a failed development by Spencer Jackson, an agent who had experience in the area. He tried hard to capitalize on the peaceful and serene location, spectacular views and beauty of the Dandenong Ranges via an impressive advertising campaign in 1952, but along the way left out some important information. If you wished to live here, depending on which lot you chose, it would pay to be a

survivalist or a mountain goat. I can attest to this because when I tried to explore one of the plots, I gave up due to the lack of a grappling hook and a safety net. Those who actually came to inspect the site, obviously the majority, realized the work and expense involved to build there; those who bought off the plan sight unseen as an investment were not so lucky. Despite all this, at least eight people/families decided to make the New Mystic Lake estate their residence in one form or another.

The development was named the New Mystic Lakes because the Mystic Lake name had been used for a former estate further south, near One Tree Hill back in the 1920s. The Mystic Lake derives from the "Lake" that appears on foggy mornings down in the lower reaches of the Basin, and when viewed from the higher points such as the development, gave an impression of a misty ethereal lake.

There would be no "lake" this day as it was a beautiful sunny autumn day when the wife and I headed to the upper level of the old estate, now part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

I was going to inspect the other main road associated with the estate, the now Tobruk track or as it was known back then Tobruk Avenue, to see if I could find any trace of the adventurist souls who made this home for a while. The entrance to Tobruk track is just short of half a kilometre further up the Mountain highway (passing the only existing estate house which is on the north side of the highway) and runs roughly in tandem to Alamein track, but about 100 to 150 metres higher depending on the block sizes. The track is also gated these days, but the road is in great condition, though I believe the Alamein track to be marginally better.

Surprisingly enough the track is very even and rises and falls gently over the kilometre we travelled before returning. Luck was on our side as it was mid morning, a beautiful blue sky and the temperature just nudging 20 degrees. To

add a touch of colour to the comfort we were surrounded by hundreds of brown butterflies. (Or Common Brown Butterfly - we spent quite a long time trying to capture pictures of these guys then another long time on the internet trying to identify them). These butterflies basically followed or led us depending on how slow we were, for the entire length of our trek up and back. And if I was going to be surrounded by flies in the bush these are definitely my insect of choice.



I'd read that a couple of families built on this road until they were bought out or burnt out by bush fires. So, with our merry band of butterflies, we began our journey, stopping occasionally to take in the views towards Croydon or up to see the towers nestled on top of the mountain. On the first tight bend, we came across the remains of a driveway, exploring deeper we came upon a rock face and the sound of water. There was a water source in there somewhere, I assumed it ran under the road because opposite the driveway on the downside of the hill, it fell away very steeply to what looked like a gully. Up the driveway and beyond the growth was a levelled out area which may have been the foundation of a structure but no other evidence was visible. So, we followed the butterflies onward. We walked for quite some time thinking that we were too late and mother nature had won, when as we were approaching our predesignated point of return, I noticed a cutting into the bank that arched back down a few metres further, almost like steps. Not seeing any viable path, I looked down the road and saw what could only be the overgrown remains of a driveway. Following the driveway, up the hill, I saw something solid with a square hole. As I approached closer, I could see it was a slab of concrete and beside it was a section of brickwork, and beyond that a level piece of ground. I had found the remains of a house. The



concrete and brickwork looked like it was part of a chimney, probably for a kitchen stove. The levelled area indicated the structure itself may have been quite small. The wife and butterflies had stayed down on the road, so I had to savor the discovery by myself and spent some time looking for anything archaeological. I had no luck in that department. It was great to see

someone had made a red hot go of it up here, and a tiny piece of the legacy remained. Content with the mornings' work, we let the butterflies lead us homeward. I had a feeling they wanted us gone by the end, because I got a few direct headbutts from a couple who didn't swerve as good as they did earlier in the day.

Now comes the weird part. The butterflies all stopped just prior to the descent back down to the gate. The same place where we first encountered them. We surmised the heat of the road or the noise and slipstream of the cars were a hazard. That was until I got home and researched a bit more. That's when I found that near to that very spot where Tobruk Avenue intersects with the Mountain highway lived a former psychiatrist Ms Annie Yoppa, who lived a hermits existence in a tent after retiring from city life. Though from a rich family and by nature of her occupation highly intelligent, her final years seemed to point towards that maybe she was suffering some degree of mental illness. In February 1959 Ms Yoppa was murdered in her home/tent by a man who had sought out her assistance; he then reacted by beating her to death with one of her tent poles. Soon after his arrest, the man was certified insane and committed to an asylum.

Maybe the butterflies sensed the sad places and avoided them for the happy ones. Maybe there's a bit of mystic still happening up there.

References and much thanks to:

Rick Coxhill's history of the Basin and the Trove newspaper website: www.coxhill.com
www.trove.nla.gov.au

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The World Environment Day theme for 2022 #Only One Earth was the very same theme under which the very first World Environment Day was held to mark fifty years of the event and to show that the core message of World Environment Day remains strong.

World Environment Day aims to raise awareness around environmental and climate issues and encourages people from around the globe to act.

Protecting and preserving our precious environment is vitally important for our and our future generations and I am pleased to see so many young people active and not afraid to speak out about their future.

This World Environment Day held on 4 June 2022, I was delighted to join with local community groups including the First Friends of Dandenong Creek, Rotary Clubs of Bayswater and Ferntree Gully, Lions Club of Wantirna

Only One Earth - World Environment Day 2022



along with Knox City Council bushland team to help plant over 4,000 indigenous plants along Dandenong Creek in Bayswater.

I would like to thank the outstanding work of

local environment groups in Knox, including the Knox Environment Society, First Friends of Dandenong Creek, Friends of Blind Creek Billabong and Friends of Koolunga Reserve whose main focus is on the wider catchment area of Dandenong Creek and Blind Creek.

Our many Knox Environment groups work together to ensure we:

- * improve the water quality and riparian habitat
- * re-establish indigenous floral and faunal habitat
- * protect the waterway from inappropriate development load
- * manage environmental weeds and
- * reduce litter.

Photo: Nick Wakeling and volunteers planting for Environment Day (end of Armstrong Road, in Bayswater near Dandenong Creek)

Millers Homestead – Open for our community!



Community members have been embracing the opportunity to visit Boronia and the Basin's historic treasure, Miller's Homestead, under its new tenancy with Eastern Regional Libraries, in partnership with Knox Council. Visit during opening hours - Mon-Fri, 9.30 - 12 and 1-5pm, to tour the homestead and gardens, view community art exhibitions, use library services or attend an inspiring and fun programme of

mostly free events.

Forthcoming highlights include: Miller's Singalong Sessions with Rachel Nendick, 15th July at 2pm, Weekly storytimes on Thursdays during term time (Family, 0-6yrs at 11am, Tiny Tots, 0-1yr at 2pm), Monthly Parlour Games (cards and scrabble), Crafternoons, Miller's Matinee Film afternoons and plant, produce, recipe and seed swaps.

Visit during the school holidays for a CWA teddy bear scavenger hunt, art & steam workshops and fun storytimes, or take part in the Miller's Winter Photography challenge for adults and children alike, in conjunction with the Knox Camera Club, who are running photography workshops for adults and children taking part in the challenge.

Grown-up book-lovers can join the Miller's Book Club and there is even a **monthly Book Chat for parents of little ones aged 0-2yrs.** For more details and bookings, visit -

events.yourlibrary.com.au, call Miller's Homestead on 0438 284 989 or pop in for a visit and chat with the staff during opening hours. See you at Miller's soon!



Michelle Kemp – Eastern Regional Libraries



Alan TUDGE MP

Federal Member for Aston

f tudgeMP e alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au
 9887 3890 www.alantudge.com.au

Real Action For Knox



The show goes on at The Basin Theatre

The Basin Theatre is one of the hidden gems of our community and a community group that I've been proud to recently support.



Nestled at the foot of the Dandenongs on Doongalla Rd, the theatre is a thespian destination for theatre lovers from across Melbourne.

For almost 70 years, the theatre has been operated by a passionate group of volunteers who come to together four times a year to a put on a wide array of classic and contemporary productions.

With everything from set construction to costume design being done on-site, the company is always looking for new volunteers to help with make their shows a reality.

In between shows, the volunteers work tirelessly to maintain the theatre and improve the amenities for their patrons. This has included most recently upgrades to the foyer, soundproofing of the theatre, and the creation of a new mezzanine and outdoor area.

I was pleased to assist them with securing a

\$10,000 federal grant to help them with these upgrades and they look sensational!

With COVID restrictions now eased, the productions are back in full swing and I absolutely recommend checking it out. Their next production is *The Lady in the Van* and opens on the 16th of June.



PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY TRAIN OF LIGHTS EXPERIENCE

Rug up in your warmest winter woollies these school holidays and experience the magic of Puffing Billy Railway at night with the Train of Lights; a mesmerising train travelling light show and the first of its kind in Australia.

From Friday 24 June — Sunday 10 July 2022, the Train of Lights will take passengers on a return journey that departs from Lakeside Station



to Gembrook, immersing guests in bright colours, hypnotic patterns, and native wild animal projections that leap from open-side carriages

and onto the passing dark Wright Forest, historic timber trestle bridges, and open rolling hills of the Gembrook countryside. You must book online at <https://puffingbilly.com.au/events/train-of-lights/>

SOFT PLASTICS MUST **NOT** GO IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN

Knox Council, at time of writing, has almost finished its 3-month bin inspection program where contractors have been hired to randomly do a 'flip top visual audit' at the kerbside of randomly selected bins. The findings from this inspection are being utilised to form the structure of Knox Council's ongoing waste education programs in the community.

The Inspection program has so far revealed that a common contamination item in the blue lidded, recycling bin is soft-plastics. Soft plastic is basically any type of plastic that you can easily scrunch up into a ball in your hand.


Soft plastics can NOT go into your kerbside recycling bin for a number of reasons. Firstly, your recycling should always be presented as all loose inside your recycling bin and must never be bagged.

Secondly, when soft plastics arrive at the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) that processes your recycling, they cause issues with the plant and equipment to separate all your

valuable recycling content effectively. Soft plastics wrap around conveyors and clog up sorting equipment which are designed to recover the valuable commodities from your recycling bin.

MRF's process between 25-30 tonnes of recycling per hour. Bagged recyclables, which are commonly seen in Knox kerbside bins, cannot be recognised by any of the automated processes. Also, to maintain efficiencies, bagged recyclables are simply removed from the processing line and dropped to a conveyor which takes the bag to the landfill bay. It is simply uneconomical to employ staff to open bags in the hope that there may be recyclables inside.

You can bring your soft plastics for recycling to the REDcycle bins available at Coles and Woolworths stores throughout Australia where they will then be recycled into items such as park furniture and carpark bollards.



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Jackson Taylor, Bayswater State MP

It's been a cold start to winter, particularly in our part of the world, so I do hope you're keeping warm! But I do have a couple of big items that will warm your hearts and help put money back in your pocket.

Free Kinder and Early Childhood Reform

We know that childcare fees are crippling family budgets, with families spending up to 25% of their daily earnings just to cover increasing costs. But the truth is: our current childcare system has been set up to work against working families, and it's meant for many parents – mainly mums – it doesn't make sense to enter the workforce, or if they do, they lose money. It just shouldn't be this hard. So, we're going to fix it.

That's why the State Government has announced a once-in-a-generation reform to Victoria's kinder and childcare system to save local families money, get more parents into work and give every Victorian child the best start in life.

To relieve pressure on household budgets, kinder will be free for three and four-year olds from 2023. It will save local families up to \$2,500 per child every year – meaning you can focus on the important things, like returning to work, or taking the family on a holiday. And in a massive step, we're ensuring every child gets the best start in life and is ready for school. To do that, we're going to transition the 15 hour four-year-old-kinder to a new year of 'Pre-Prep' rolling out from 2025 with universal access by 2032. That means every child – regardless of where they live – will be able to access 30 hours a week of free, play based learning to ensure they get the best start in life. And finally, we're establishing 50 new government-run, affordable centres delivering childcare, kinder and Pre-Prep in areas with the greatest unmet demand for childcare places.

These are big changes. And they'll make a big difference. For family budgets, for parents, for our economy. And most importantly of all - for our kids.

\$250 Power Saving Bonus

From July 1, every single Victorian Household will be able to head to the Victorian Government's Energy Compare Website (www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au) and apply for their \$250 Power Saving Bonus. Typically, seven out of ten users save money by switching energy offers with savings of around \$330 on energy bills in the first year alone. This one-off \$250 payment provides immediate financial relief for those struggling to pay their power bills – while also helping Victorians find a better energy deal. For assistance you can also call the hotline on 1800 000 832.

Quick Updates

- Construction started on major upgrade at Boronia West Primary
- 60 level crossings now gone across Victoria including two locally
- \$60,000 to provide new lighting for the greens at Boronia Bowls Club
- Added Auslan to the Free TAFE courses
- \$250,000 to help upgrade the Knox Athletics Facilities
- Delivering the Sick Pay Guarantee for eligible casual and contract workers
- Providing a \$3,000 winter retention and surge payment to every worker in public hospitals and ambulance services
- Construction has begun on the Suburban Rail Loop East connecting the middle suburbs and changing the way we get around
- Nearly 5,000 half price solar panels delivered

across Knox

Shout-Out

This edition I wanted to thank the many local Boronia business owners for attending the recent networking event funded by the State Government's Boronia Revitalisation work. Remember to support local. For more info <https://www.suburbandevelopment.vic.gov.au/home/suburban-revitalisation/boronia>



With James Merlino, Minister for Education, turning the sod at Boronia West Primary School

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Also on these days is our 'nearly-new' CLOTHING SHOP.

EVERYONE can be assured of a warm, friendly welcome.

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.

Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

POP-UP-SHOP selling boxes of YUMMY TREATS will resume on September, 2nd.

For more information about us check out our Facebook page,

www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch

or phone the church office on 9762 6732.

KILSYTH SOUTH WALKING GROUP

A great opportunity to join other people and have a chat while getting some exercise through walking

"The Kilsyth South Walking group meets every Thursday morning in the Car Park of the Kilsyth South Baptist Church Car Park at 9.30am and goes on a walk of one hour then meets back at the church for a tea or coffee and a chat.

The group meets with the cooperation of National Heart Foundation of Australia the group is for male and females of all ages there is no charge for being part of this group and all are welcome

Please contact Keith Richardson 0411 466 390 or keithrichardson1@bigpond.com"

Keith Richardson



July already, but the month is organised, but if other ideas arise, we'll include them too. Happy Birthday, Life Activities, and may the success and friendship of the club continue for many more birthdays to

come. 35 years of activities, friendships, travel, socialising, and happy times.

Girls Coffee and Chat is now at the Kilsyth Club at 11:00am. I've heard that this meeting is attended by 26 ladies which means conversations could go anywhere. Definitely an enjoyable get-together. For live theatre lovers, Lyn has a number of tickets for '9 to 5', the Dolly Parton show. Tickets are for a matinee performance, on August 3rd, and sounds like we'll be home before dark.



We're likely to spot Kangaroos and other wild life, as we walk around Lysterfield Lake with our Sunday

Walkers on the 17th. Bring lunch and a thermos if you would like to join this walk. The Friday Walkers will be in Wattle Park on 8th. then on the 22nd. Join them as they check the ongoing at Docklands. The Melbourne Botanical Gardens is the destination for the Garden outing, travelling by train.

Our hall is open if you would like to come for a cuppa and chat at the Social Games Day, 11:00am, first Friday every month. Coffee or Tea \$1:00, bring your lunch and take a seat.

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

Carol, 0419 870 639



At Knox Over50s we are a very friendly and sociable group who normally meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month from January to November. We 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.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 26th of July at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North

During June we had a visit to ACMI – The Story of the Moving Image at Federation Square in the city. Knox Over50s members really enjoy these day trips and our wonderful social committee ensures we have plenty of them to look forward to during the months ahead.

After our visit to the Karralyka Theatre for "Mama Mia" in June, we are eagerly looking forward to further musical delights later in the year. These will include "Gems of Jazz" in August and "Some Enchanted Evening" in October.

Also, later this month, we have a visit to the Jazz Museum in Wantirna, including morning tea and a performance.

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.



Boronia View Club will be meeting on Friday 15 July at 11.30am at Eastwood Golf Club Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch at a cost of \$27. The speaker will be "Yvonne the gadget girl" with all sorts of helpful items, with most items being under \$20. There will also be a book stall and raffle. All monies raised goes to The Smith Family Learning for Life program. This year The Smith Family aims to raise \$5.4 million by June 30 to provide learning and mentoring support programs to children in need. VIEW is the largest community sponsor of students on The Smith Family's Learning for Life program, which is why it's members are calling on Australians to get behind the appeal.

So ladies please come along. We are looking for ladies of all ages and backgrounds to join us. You will be warmly welcomed and have a fun day.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602

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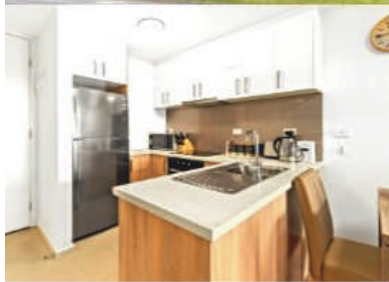
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