



Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE

Season's Greetings

godt nytt år Chag Sameach срећна нова година परिवार और दोस्तों के लिए नये साल की शुभकामनाएँ

gott Nytt År head uut aastat 새해 복 많이 받으세요 hyvää uutta vuotta नववर्ष की शुभकामनाएँ

परिवार और दोस्तों के लिए नये साल की शुभकामनाएँ šťastný nový rok godt nyttår athbhliain faoi mhaise

laimīgu jauno gadu ШИНЭ ЖИЛИЙН МЭНД سنة جديدة سعيدة Shinbun no watashitachi kara, akemashite omedetou gozaimasu

Feliz Navidad, paz y alegría para su familia bonne année ! boldog új évét

sanad wanaagsan з Новим роком

szczęśliwego Nowego Roku feliz Ano Novo felice anno nuovo

BBCN全体社員，祝福您和您的家人新年快乐，恭喜发财 an Nou Fericit

gleðilegt nýtt ár ta'ū fo'ou fiefia с Новым Годом

з Новым годам! gelukkig nieuwjaar happy new year po mwaka mpya wenye furaha

manuia le tausaga fou හැමෝට ම සුභ අලුත් අවුරුද්දක්! ευτυχισμένος ο καινούριος χρόνος

Thay mặt tạp chí Boronia & The Basin xin chúc các bạn và gia đình giáng sinh ấm áp và hạnh phúc. Chúc năm mới 2023 mọi sự tốt lành!

နှစ်သစ်ကူး မင်္ဂလာပါ frohes neues Jahr!

yenî Yılıınız Kutlu Olsun สุขสันต์วันปีใหม่

sretna nova godina честита нова година

ngā mihi o te tau hōu su naujais metais (שנה טובה (עברית) 新年快樂，恭喜發財

vakanuinui vinaka ni Yabaki Vou selamat Tahun Baru blwyddyn Newydd Dda

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LJ Hooker
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Free printed circulation to 13,000 households and businesses in Boronia and The Basin, also online and on Facebook.

The Big Wet...

In 1956 I was a 12 year old boy living near Robinvale on our vineyard, locally called a "block", during the record breaking flood of the Murray and Darling Rivers. My dad hired men to do his work while he went with many more locals to sand bag the levee that protected the vital pumping station on which the district depended. It was hard work for the mostly ex-service men from the recent hardships of World War II. Too hard for a mere boy.

When the swollen river slowed and the radio reports on river levels declined, dad took me out in his boat, rowing across the upper branches of the big red gums. I stared in childish wonder at the massive size of the bloated river. Across the river in Euston a local church was tied to a huge red gum to stop it floating away. A couple of local lads went out in their "tinny" to do a bit of fishing where the mighty Murray joined with the overflowing Darling. They were lost for three days on the seemingly endless panorama of sluggish water. All this in an area receiving about 30 cm of rain per year.

It was said at the time that when the Snowy Mountains project was completed mankind would never again see such extensive flooding of our river and its tributaries. Global warming was only of interest to scientific climatologists and unknown to the general public. So when the flood had gone, it was assumed that it would never return on such a scale. But it did... and still there are voices claiming that global warming is not real, or just a cyclical event. This undercurrent of "she'll be right" does not bode well for the united effort needed to save the "Merry Christmas" of our grandchildren.

So "Merry Christmas" for you.

John Mortimore

KID'S DREAM / KID'S THOUGHT

Spring has come and still rains,
The sun is hidden and darkness seen,
Trees get fresh and meadows green.
How I play with Lily and Liam?
Floating cloud, "Send my message,"
"Tell my friends that I'm alone."
Twigs and branches sway and twist,
Sky cries and tears fall.
Let's watch raining through windows,
Shall we draw some thin shadows?
Sansa says then, "How funny? Look!"
I was sad and erased them quick.
Mum will make us cookies and cakes,
I smell them, go and taste,
Eat and sing and dance in gay,
"SPRING, GIVE US ANOTHER NICE DAY!"

Dayangani Silva



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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 500 to 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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CITY COUNCIL



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current issue.

You can also find and
download previous issues.

PAGE 3 BIRD AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WANDERINGS

Photos by Garry Fitzgerald



*Australian
Pelican*

As a child my father took lots of photos, he had a Nikon camera with two types of lens, I never understood it, apertures, depth of field, blah blah blah, yes Dad. He would often have the ones he liked turned into slides, and with the old Bell and Howell projector up against the kitchen wall we would sit for hours looking at

them. Well done Dad, ledge, they were always interesting shots of family and friends and holidays and stuff. But sometimes we'd get dragged along to a relatives slide night of some holiday overseas they'd been on, boring as the back of a bus ticket, fair dinkum, as my Grandfather Jack would sum up at the end of the night, "You've seen one photo of a castle you've seen em all." Where am I headed with all this, you may wonder, well I'm going to tell you about our recent trip to South Australia. And if you find it boring just keep it to yourself, huh, because I've got feelings too you know.

At Robe we just happened to drop in to the bird hide, oh really, and I quickly spotted six Latham's Snipe, just quietly one of my favourite birds, camouflaged as all get out in the Samphire. I proudly reported back to Le wife my observations when she smiled back and said yes but you missed one, it was literally 20 metres in front of me! We proceeded to get the best view of this cracking bird through the binoculars, I had never seen one that close before! The intricate markings and rufous bars on the tail were superb.

The Coorong, many of you may say, never heard of it, but wow, Australia's best kept secret. Have you seen the old movie Storm Boy with David Gulpilil, it was shot at The Coorong. The main character Mr Percival was a Pelican, and if you want to see Pelicans that's the spot to go. They were everywhere, big flocks in the water, flying overhead in massive flocks like a squadron of bombers in tight formation, we must have seen thousands. Let me at this stage point out The Coorong is a long narrow strip of water 130 kms long, running from Kingston SE to Lake Alexandrina. I got other cool birds there too, Purple-gaped Honeyeater and finally, Southern-scrub Robin, been on my bucket list for a long time now, has the sweetest call you'll ever hear.

Next Victor Harbour, pretty spot on the big drink, got out of the ute and a Peregrine Falcon flew over with a Silver Gull in it's talons, nature can be so cruel but that's just how things go. We also got a juvenile Black-tailed Godwit on the beach in front of where we were staying, a single bird on it's own. Do the walk over the causeway to Granite Island, very interesting spot, big Fairy Penguin colony there, we also got a Brown Quail, not a rare bird by any means but still a good get.

Hindmarsh Island is a good spot too, I wanted to see the mouth of the Murray, where our mightiest river enters the ocean. The bird life was off its head, Pelicans and all the cormorant species were feasting on what must have been a shoal of fish the size of three MCG's, one Little Pied Cormorant caught a fish so big I didn't think he'd be able to swallow it but he persisted and juggled it until it went down the hatch, seemingly as stunned as I was it took him some



*Little Pied
Cormorant*

time to recover, then continued feeding. Caspian and Crested Terns were also diving and coming up with smaller bait fish, it was action plus! One sad sight here though was 3 big dredges which run 24/7 pulling silt up and spewing it onto the shore, without these the river would silt over and block the river entrance. Imagine the bill for the diesel fuel for that!

Wallaroo is where the ferry crosses the Spencer Gulf, saves 320 kms of driving up to Port Augusta and down the other side as we were heading for Port Lincoln on the Eyre Peninsula. Arrived there on the Saturday night with the intention of doing the ferry crossing the next morning. Unfortunately a big southerly buster blew in off the Southern Ocean, it was blowing that hard it would've blown your uncle off your aunty believe me. As Adrienne gets really butchers hook from sea sickness we drove instead. Suited me I love that dry country, saltbush and wheatfields, Mallee scrub.

Next stop Cowell, sleepy hollow but top spot, Tumbly Bay hooray! On to Port Lincoln, big city, famous for its Tuna fishing, massive Great White sharks and an enormous wheat terminal! Got Port Lincoln Parrot here, variety of the Australian Ringneck, and the jewel in the crown, Blue-breasted Fairy-Wren, similar to our Splendid Fairy-Wren, google a photo of one, real showstopper!

Port Lincoln National Park was the great hope for me to get Mallee-Fowl, dipped out big time. (Play sad music). We did get loads of Emus. Next stop Coffin Bay, known as the Oyster capital but could be renamed the Emu capital, they make themselves at home there I tell you. Males with chicks roaming around the town, right opposite the Post Office, and one silly bugger thought the main street was made for him, 8 cars waiting patiently driving behind him until he decided to deviate off the road again!

Homeward bound where we stopped in the Adelaide Hills for the night with a mate, Bill 'Wolf' Adam and his wife Wendy. He took us to Mt Lofty lookout, what a view of Adelaide, detour to the prestigious Mt Lofty House for a quick look around, check out the expensive cars in the carpark, every luxury car you can name, then back to Melbourne. Back to reality. (Play that sad music again, can you?)

Des Palmer



**WALKING
THE
NEWS**

At the conclusion of this year, with sincere thanks, we farewell three of our long term volunteer Walkers:-

Michael, Richard and Christine. Between them they have walked up many km over the years, and in doing so made their significant contribution to the local community through distributing our newspaper.

What we'd like to happen now is for three new volunteers to step forward to deliver this paper on a monthly basis (except for January).

These are the rounds which are vacant:

Forest Road area in The Basin, 95 papers.

Hilda Avenue area in Boronia, 145 papers.

Sycamore Crescent area in Boronia, 53 papers.

Papers are usually delivered from our printer on the last Thursday of the month. A number of volunteer Drivers distribute the papers to our Walkers, who then deliver to letterboxes as soon as convenient.

When Walkers are away or unwell, someone else will cover their round.

Our next issue will be delivered on Wednesday 25 January (26 January is a public holiday).

**Please get in touch with us if you would like to help
(contact@bbc.org.au)**



The Basin Music Festival 2022

Byline: The Basin Music Festival Association

The Basin Music Festival 2022 happened on 4-6 November, after what seems like months of rain leading right up to the day before the festival, when the weather cleared beautifully all weekend. With the vital support from Knox City Council, local businesses and other key

MARIO AND FIORELLA CATALANO PURCHASED THE BASIN BAKERY IN FEBRUARY 2004. Mario has been a baker and pastry cook since he was 14 years old and comes with lots of experience.

In 19 years they have seen lots of changes in owning a community supported business.

Supplying and sponsoring sporting clubs and schools in the area has given them broader community support with a regular customer base established.



They pride themselves on customer service and customer satisfaction, constantly improving training skills for their staff.

The quaint premises that it has evolved into over the years turned the focus on realising that they needed to expand. When the empty building directly next door became available Mario and Fiorella saw the opportunity to expand and after 12 months of planning and building, it has finally happened.

Fiorella wanted to keep as much of the heritage of The Basin as possible by including memorabilia from as far back as 1875 when The Chandler Family Tree was planted. She also collected vintage cooking items to house in the new shop for added character.

Fiorella Catalano

sponsors, plus great volunteers and performers, the festival presented about a hundred acts across six stages.

Organisers received positive feedback from all involved. Guests, performers, volunteers and venue managers really enjoyed having the festival back. The high quality music and production, excellent outdoor setting in the park, and the outstanding bands in the pubs contributed to an overall great vibe.

This year's songwriting competition prize was something different from long-time sponsor Sachar Amos Guitars: It was a bespoke guitar that father-son songwriting duo, Walter and Davide Musolino, will help to design.

November was not the usual time of the year for the event; it was the "make-up" for the cancelled March 2020, 2021 and 2022 festivals. The small team of organisers had continued working through Melbourne's restrictions to present a live-stream event last year and an afternoon concert in the park last March.

Now the committee is working on more improvements to the festival, with TBMF 2023 on track for mid-March. Go to the website (tbmf.org.au) for news and information, musician and vendor registration, to send your valued feedback, or to become a member of the association and volunteer.

Dan Goldfarb



INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS COMMITTED TO HOLDING A referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in this term of parliament, and work is continuing in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about what will go forward to the Australian people.

A Voice to Parliament will give Indigenous communities a route to help inform policy and legal decisions that impact their lives. Giving people a say will lead to more effective results.

Find out more

The First Nations groups campaigning for a Voice have created some excellent new educational resources for everyone.

The interactive digital learning platform produced

in partnership by From the Heart and the Uluru Dialogues helps you learn and understand more about the referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The content covers the key points you need to know, takes about 15 minutes to go through, and includes videos and interactive questions - visit fromtheheart.com.au/education/

You don't need to be an expert to advocate for constitutional recognition.

Reconciliation Australia believes the country is ready to take this positive step forward.

From local community groups to sporting clubs, students to business owners and everyone in between, we need to work together to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can inform the policy and legal decisions that impact their lives.

More information also at reconciliation.org.au

Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch elected Knox Mayor

Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch has been elected Mayor of Knox City Council, with Cr Jude Dwight to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

Cr Timmers-Leitch said it was an honour and a privilege to be elected Mayor.

"I feel I am ready to take on this challenge and look forward to working with and leading this councillor team as we enter in to our third year," she said.

"I know we have some serious decisions to make this year on many issues.

"I'm looking forward to good quality decision-making and working together as a team to

deliver for our community."

Cr Timmers-Leitch was first elected to represent Collier Ward in a March 2019 by-election. She has lived in Wantirna for the past 15 years, spent over 10 years volunteering and been involved with many local early years facilities and sporting clubs. She runs a franchise with her husband Geoff, with whom she shares three children.

Cr Timmers-Leitch thanked outgoing mayor, Cr Susan Laukens, for her service to the community in 2021-22. Cr Laukens was acknowledged for her tireless service, bringing renewed energy and zest to the role, giving from the heart and being a model of strength.

Cr Dwight, who was first elected to represent Chandler Ward in 2020, has lived in The Basin for 18 years with her husband and their growing family. She strives for transparency, integrity and a genuine partnership between Council and the community in her role as Deputy Mayor.

Knox Community Christmas Support “Sharing the Joy” Project

The Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS) program is designed to assist Knox households at Christmas time. To date we have supported 5,523 people since the program's induction in 2010. Christmas can be a difficult time for families. Especially those that have lost their jobs or people who are on a low income struggling with the increasing cost of living.

Last year was no exception. The challenge was set for our Working Group for KCCS which is made up of 7 Community Organisations: Coonara Community House, Knox Infolink, Rotary Club of Boronia, Restore Community Care, Raft Anglican Church, Volunteer for Knox and the Wantirna Seventh Day Adventist Church. We worked together to deliver another successful “Sharing the Joy” project for 2021 with 540 festive food hampers given out to support 885 Knox residents in the community. 1,094 gifts were given out as well as \$3810 gift vouchers. \$5690 meat vouchers were given out to individuals and families also.



The KCCS acknowledges the valuable support of Knox City Council through their support and participation on the Knox Community Welfare Fund Governance group who fund the operational side of the project. This important project would not be possible without this crucial funding support. We would like to thank the many businesses in our community that supported the project last year.

You can join the “Sharing the Joy” volunteer team – packers, sorters and drivers are needed.

To apply, visit – volunteer.com.au/volunteering/170491/apply

Client Feedback 2021:

“Thank you so very much for the kindness you have all shown me.”

“You have given families in times of need the best Christmas and I am so very thankful.”

“This is an amazing gesture. There are so many families that appreciate this, and I know that this has helped us out more than you know.”

Lori Dudley, KCCS Project Coordinator

Julie Hanman, KCCS Partnership Development Coordinator

**Knox Infolink, Monday-Thursday
10am-3pm**

**136 Boronia Road, Boronia 9761 1325
kccs@knoxinfolink.org.au**



A HOUSE WITH AN OLD GRANDPARENT HARBOURS A JEWEL

~ *Chinese Proverb*

Ambleside is rather like that. It's full of jewels, and it's just up the road, Olivebank Road.

Ambleside is home to the Knox Historical Society. Not visiting may well deprive your awareness of some of the rich heritage of where we live.

The house itself has a great story, set originally on 210 acres (85Ha) and built in 1899 by Lena and Ephraim Hansen. Italianate style of multi-chrome brick, it is a reflection of progressive building techniques of the time. The house wasn't built on foundations.

Inside you'll find rooms with 19th and early 20th Century décor, with period furniture, historic displays and local art works.

There are over 20,000 photos, from 1870 onwards, of staff and students from 50 schools in Knox. You might just find one of your grandma.

There's so much to see inside the house, before you even begin to see what's outside.

The Tool Shed displays tools and equipment from early families in the area.



The Machinery Shed and Garages have farming implements and machinery from the rural days of Knox, including horse drawn carts and even a Furphy water carrier.

There's the two-roomed stone cottage, there's the wooden entrance porch to St Bartholomew's Church, there's the Cellar, a Wattle & Daub Hut, a TB Isolation Hut and even a beautifully restored 1928 Chevrolet truck, in running order.

Then, of course, there are the beautifully maintained gardens. The plot is only 2Ha now, and the last private owners donated Ambleside to the City of Knox in the 1970s.

Interested in visiting? Well Ambleside is open on Thursdays and Fridays between 10 am and 1pm, 1 pm to 4 pm on Sundays, or by appointment for research and group visits.

For more information, just give them a call on 9758 6722 (answering service), or go to the Knox City website (khs.relics.com).

“The memories of our past can open new doors to understanding today.”
Nancy B. Urbach

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Sharp
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CHRISTMAS IN MOOROOLBARK 1969

A Strummer's Story by Rob Fairbairn

There's a soft 'tap tap' at my bedroom door and Mum's gently beaming face suddenly appears. "Has he been?" It's a scene that would be played out in the Fairbairn house every Christmas morning for years, even through my late, "Too Cool For Yule", teens. Mum's excitement at Christmas could light up not only our tree but also those in every house in Mooroolbark. She loved Christmas, she loved us and she loved to see our reactions as we opened our presents. My parents weren't well off but they worked hard and always made sure to spoil my sister and me at Christmas. And given the care and thought that went into choosing our gifts there was always genuine joy in their giving.

At the age of eighteen, I may have appeared indifferent towards Christmas but that didn't prevent me from searching my parents' room for hidden gifts. And in early December 1969 I thought I'd hit the jackpot. At the back of their wardrobe, carefully concealed behind the shirts, coats and skirts, cocooned in a black vinyl bag was the unmistakable shape of a guitar.

On Christmas morning as we gathered in the lounge room for the ritual opening of gifts I somehow managed to feign surprise on unwrapping this new treasure but in reality, I could barely contain my joy. A small bodied "Spanish" model with nylon strings, it wasn't one of the Gibsons or Martins I'd been reading about and was probably mass produced in a factory in Japan but I didn't care, it was the best present I had ever received and a gift that started me on a lifetime's journey of strumming, plucking and picking.

It came with a pitch pipe tuner and a book of simple exercises; chord progressions in different keys and with different time signatures. I took to it like a duck to water and while I was neither anti-social nor reclusive it provided me with the perfect excuse to spend countless hours in my bedroom, practicing and even attempting to write songs. While my parents gave me the tool, my younger



sister, bless her, supplied the materials. For every birthday and Christmas for the next few years she would present me with a song collection from artists such as James Taylor, Neil Young and Crosby Stills and Nash, acts that the budding acoustic singer guitarist was inevitably drawn to. I was on my way.

I kept that old nylon string for over thirty years and was sad when it finally met its tragic, untimely end. In 2002 when my mother, my sister and I took an epic journey around the world it came with me. At every stop I would bring it out and play a few songs for the many relatives and friends with whom we stayed along the way. In Scotland, in England's north and south, in Canada and the United States of America our hosts would be treated to renditions of "A Home Among the Gumtrees", "G'day, G'day" and any song by Paul Kelly, Eric Bogle or John Williamson. It was the perfect ice breaker. Prior to each flight, before my guitar went into the hold I would carefully loosen its strings, except for the last leg of our journey, a trans Pacific flight from Hawaii. Once home, as soon as I unzipped its vinyl bag I realised my foolish mistake. The tension of the strings coupled with extreme temperature variations in the hold had caused the neck to bend up from where it joined the body to such a severe angle that it looked more like a miniature hammock than a guitar. It was unrepairable and was consigned to the hard rubbish.

I now own seven guitars, four ukuleles and many more have passed through my hands. For over 50 years a guitar has been my accomplice, my

traveling companion, my tool of trade and my inspiration. I'd be lost without one. Without a guitar I would not have been where I've been or done what I've done and I sometimes wonder what might have happened had my parents not bought me that small bodied Spanish guitar in 1969. And when they walked into Robinsons Music Shop in Croydon and chose a Christmas present for their eighteen year old son, did they have any inkling where it would take him? I never thanked them for starting me on the road to a career in music but I can thank my little sister for being an unwitting accomplice.

I should call her...



THE SINGALONG THINGY:

The Basin Community House was delighted to host a Community Singalong event on October 14th.

Our House Treasurer Agnes, along with a friendly and talented bunch of musicians volunteered their time to entertain us all. Everyone joined in singing some old favourites from the Beatles, Kenny Rogers and many other classic songs and singers.

We also enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea and catch-up with friends.

Check out the many diverse courses, services and community activities at your multi award winning Community House. You will always be welcome.

John Mortimore

K.I.C.C NEXT GENERATION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Special Olympics
Australia
Melbourne Eastern Ranges

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For KICC Member bookings call
Joe Furno 0417 389 185

Congratulations to a very happy Melbourne Eastern Ranges Special Olympic Bocci team.

They competed in the Special Olympic Games in Tasmania and came away with:

23 Gold medals, 23 Silver, 22 Bronze and 13 4th placings.

They are joining with the Knox Italian Community Next Generation group to raise funds, as they aim to compete in the World National Games in Germany in June 2023.



Carols by Candlelight is back live!

Saturday 10 December

Wally Tew Reserve, Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully

Free event



• Family activities from 4pm • Carols show 8pm-10.15pm • Fireworks finale

Find out more knox.vic.gov.au/carols

HAVE YOUR SAY



Kindergarten in Knox

Share what you value about kindergarten as part of a review into Council's future role in providing kindergarten services and ensuring access to services locally.

knox.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Respect women

Call out sexism, sexual harassment and disrespect towards women.

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence help is available.

knox.vic.gov.au/familyviolence



Relocatable pools and spas

Make water safety a priority for your family. Find out what you need to do for relocatable pools and spas.

This may include registration and installing a compliant safety barrier.

knox.vic.gov.au/pools



For weekly updates to your inbox subscribe now

knox.vic.gov.au/enews



DAHLIA LOVERS – WE'RE EASY TO GROW!



Cosmic Light

Gardening has emerged in recent years as a great hobby for many people. What other reason do we need to spend time in our gardens, tending to our bright and cheery dahlias?

Growing dahlias has long been a way to "plant" some colour in the garden and now is the time to think about getting these beautiful blooms in YOUR garden! Dahlias make a great cut flower and what is even better, the more blooms you cut, the more they flower! A win-win for any gardener.

Many people say that Dahlias are a showy plant that makes heads turn. They usually are the biggest and brightest bloom in any garden. Dahlias are an easy bloom to grow once you know what makes their hearts sing and their petals shine. Like all plants and vegies that we grow, with a little bit of food, water and sunshine: Dahlias really do thrive and are easy to grow! With the right care,

they will reward you with many blooms over the growing season, which is usually January and all the way through to May.

Dahlias grow well in containers or in slightly raised beds. In pots is a great way to grow dahlias if you only have a small space or a balcony.

There are so many options and resources to learn about growing dazzling dahlias available online. The Dahlia Society of Victoria, Australia has recently redesigned their website and shared many

great tips that are easy to follow - see below. If you have never grown dahlias, now is the time to get planting.

Save the date - The 2023 State Dahlia Show is on 25th and 26th February at the Mount Waverley Community Centre, Miller Cres, Mount Waverley. Dazzling dahlias will be showcased from all over Victoria.

Come and see the amazing array of dahlia colours and forms. The show includes a pop-up store of dahlia potted plants and cut dahlia flowers to take home with you. Why not plan for a great day out? We would love to see you there! Don't forget to bring your camera!

Growing Vibrant Dahlias - a great reason to enjoy the outdoors this season!

For more information on growing tips, events, upcoming shows and becoming a member: Visit: <https://dahliasocietyofvictoria.org.au>

Article and photos, **Anna Cameron.**



Café au Lait

ELSIE STREET BORONIA GETS A MAKEOVER

The weather wasn't wild, but it still took its toll. After all the rain, wind and flooding during most of October, we finally had a relatively peaceful night. But it was all too much for this gum tree that gave up and collapsed in the early hours of the last Sunday morning of the month. The main casualty was the driver's side of a car, but thankfully the owner of the car was standing at the passenger side when the tree fell.



By first light, the ever-vigilant Knox SES were on-site clearing the main section of the tree that had blocked Elsie street to all traffic. The base of the tree was so wide that it blocked two driveways and it took nearly eight hours to clear enough of the tree to access the properties. Thanks again to our great volunteer services.

Danny Nolan



Where our Community can grow

The weather has been so cold and wet lately, I have been asking myself if we are in Spring heading into Summer or regressing from Spring back into Winter. I have been a KCGS member for over 30 years and I can't remember so much rain over a long period of time. It was certainly wet in 2010 at the end of the drought but that rain was over a much shorter period of time! Please continue to pray for our fellow Victorians who have been inundated with flood waters.

Many of our seasoned gardeners are reluctant to plant out their summer crops for fear of fungal diseases and the like. This is especially true for tomatoes, which are supposed to be planted out by cup day. Rain and humidity is not a good combination at this time of year. Our new hot house (pictured) is the only place where anything is currently growing. But enough of the doom and gloom, a few sunny days and our gardens will be booming!

In spite of the weather, there has been lots going on. The committee held a member's General Meeting on 8 October with many members in attendance, and it wasn't raining (much). The theme for the day was Big Blue Table which aims to raise funds and awareness for mental health. Our special guest from the Victorian Department of Health gave a presentation on current programs aimed at improving mental health across the community.

KCGS participated in the KES Spring Open Weekend on 9th October, selling strawberry plants, herb starter kits and a variety of flower and vegetable seedlings. The following weekend, KCGS had a stall at the popular Stringybark Festival. Many children benefited from our free activity – a

home-made paper pot filled with soil and a herb, flower or vegetable seedling. We sold lots of seedlings to budding gardeners, but it was very muddy under foot by the end of the day (and no rain)!



As mentioned in an earlier article, KCGS has formed a relationship with Eastern Access Community Health (EACH). Six sessions are planned, the first of which occurred on 18 October. Forty children from a local primary school spent several hours running around the gardens having a wonderful time. As usual it was magnificently organised and run by headmaster John and his group of helpers.

Just this week, the garden group from Orana Neighbourhood House came to the gardens for a tour and were most impressed by what they saw. I think it may have been raining! Orana offers a range of programs including adult education classes, hobby and leisure courses, exercise classes, social and self-development groups for people living in our community. So get involved, even if it is raining!

Further information about KCGS is available on our website knoxcommunitygardens.org.au, facebook @knoxcommunitygardens or email knoxcommunitygardens@gmail.com

Rod Felton

CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Is it summer yet?

That is what most cricketers have been thinking to themselves over the past month. With wintry conditions, most junior and senior cricketers have spent more time training than playing and pondering when the weather will take a favourable turn.

With on field action being scarce, there is always plenty to do off field. Sporting clubs provide a great environment for people to come together, find common interests and feel a sense of belonging. So even without competition, there is still plenty of competition happening.

For those that have been part of a local sporting club for a long period of time, it becomes second nature. It is a part of your DNA, you know people, know how to fit in and make relationships very easily.

The Basin Cricket Club has been a home for myself and many others. So, as someone who has had a club entrenched into my DNA, the next challenge our club faces is bringing through the next generation and

helping entrench the Basin DNA in them.

Over the past four years, the club's junior program has grown from five teams to twelve; 38 junior players to a now record 122. As great as this is, it means more of everything; time, tops, coaches, parents, equipment and costs. With all of this, the biggest challenge is how do we keep players coming back each year, integrating them into the club, creating a great environment and most of all, getting children from juniors to seniors?

Senior sport progression is the goal of all sporting clubs; nurture the youth, make them as good as they can be from year to year, help them achieve their potential and see them become long serving members of your club. It means that over time, you will eventually have the next president, secretary, treasurer and junior coaches to nurture the next generation. This is why it is so important that we make the club feel like a community and give our juniors the best experience possible. Every interaction goes into making it enjoyable, every training session goes into making them better and every match they play helps

them learn more about themselves and their team-mates.

When you are eight years old, the reality is you never think about the future and where you will be. You simply want to play every sport possible and your heroes are normally the best in the world.

For sporting clubs, the future is always at the forefront of your planning as standing still normally means you are going nowhere. As one season ends, the focus turns to the next. Promising signs are treated like gold and when you progress a child from their first season to their last, it is a moment to celebrate.

The Basin Cricket Club has a huge future. The next five years will see us transition many kids from junior players to senior players and with that, parents from casual members to active members. For every career that comes to an end, there is one that is just starting to blossom. Our club has a future that is ready to explode and if we make good on what we have done over the past four years, then we will turn The Basin into a home for many for decades to come.

Joel Clarke

Make a difference to local sport

Calling all local sporting lovers and active community members – Knox are now recruiting for our Recreation and Leisure Committee (RLC) for 2023-24.



Across the two-year period, the RLC will be required to:

- Provide advice and input on the development of Council's leisure plans, policies and sport-related processes and projects
- Engage in discussion on 'special interest' topics
- Participate in the ongoing consultation, review and implementation of sporting and recreational policies.

For more information on committee objectives and eligibility requirements, visit Recreation and Leisure Committee.

Or contact Cesar Ortiz on cesar.ortiz@knox.vic.gov.au or 0407 247 612.

Applications close Friday 9 December.

insert brain here



by woodsy

BBCN AGM 7 February, 7pm

The Basin Community House
Guest Speaker: Heather McTaggart,
Co-ordinator, The Basin Community House

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

Twilight Bowls

Come and join us for a fun night at Boronia Bowls Club every Friday night from 6-9pm. The bar will be open, sausages will be sizzling and dim sims simmering. Come on down and challenge your mates. \$12 per head (children under 12 free).

See you there - no need to book. For large groups, please contact Val on 0490 841 065 or email twilight@boroniabowls.org

Junior Roll Up Programme

If you have 10-17 year olds who can't seem to find a sport that suits them, why not let them see what they can do on the bowls green? This initiative through Bowls Victoria will run on a Friday afternoon from 4.30 - 5.30pm for 6 weeks and will be based on fun circuits. Interested in joining this programme? Contact Mike on 0490 875 331 for more details or email president@boroniabowls.org

MAJOR SPONSORS

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- Glengollan Village Ferntree Gully



CLUB SUPPORTERS

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

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

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

International Migrants Day is celebrated every year on 18 December. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was ratified by the General Assembly on 18 December 1990. International Migrants Day is a United Nations-affiliated agency's opportunity to recognise the contributions of the 272 million migrants, including more than 41 million internally displaced individuals, and the problems they encounter.

History

There are several forces at work to keep people moving across the world. First, as a human being, you need to feel safe and secure. Leaving one's comfort zone is not an easy choice, especially when the path ahead is fraught with peril and can even be fatal. Although the day was proclaimed official in 2000, the observation of this day dates back to 1997, when various Asian migrant organisations designated 18 December as a day to lobby for the respect, rights, and protection of migrants.



Do you know? On 4 December 2000, the UN General Assembly established 18 December as International Migrants Day to respond to the growing global migrant population. In addition, it ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on the same day a decade earlier.

To ensure the well-being of those fleeing persecution, the United Nations General Assembly approved the New York Declaration for Refugees & Migrants on 19 September 2016, during the first-ever summit dedicated to large-scale migration

and refugee movements. As a result of this proclamation, member states have reaffirmed their commitment to improving the global migration system for those who are on the move.

Immigrants' tales are both heartbreaking and inspiring. Donations for the worldwide refugee issue are always welcome by humanitarian groups. Every little bit helps people in need, even if it's just a dollar or two. At all costs, we must ensure that all people's human dignity and rights are protected at all times. To guarantee that no migrant is left behind, humanitarian activities are critical.

The migration crisis might affect any part of the world in the future. You can only welcome migrants and refugees if the correct processes are in place. Every day is a good day to show a little humanity. Observances like these, which are promoted by the mainstream media and other groups, bring attention to important topics and problems on a broader scale.

Fun Fact: How many children around the world have migrated in the last 10 years?

Answer: Over 34 million children have migrated in the last 10 years.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: THE SIDE BENEFIT OF DOING SOMETHING YOU ENJOY - MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

Debbie Ball

Friendship: A state or association, feeling or disposition amongst like minded people

We all handled the lockdowns in a myriad of different ways. One of the recurring themes I hear people talk about is how those two years had an effect on their friendships. So much so that I felt compelled to write an article on 'moving on.'

Some of the comments were absolutely wonderful; how people missed their friends so much that they now make it a priority to catch up more often. Some of the other comments I have heard are about how some friendships have changed or been lost altogether. If this has happened to you; I want you to know that you are not alone and there is a fantastic way to move on from that place.

However you handled lockdown and isolation; now is the time to reconnect or connect with others. This could be a challenging thought after what you have experienced over the last couple of years. Yet there has never been a better time to get out there, with so many options, to meet like

minded people such as yourself, in activities that interest you; possibly right in your own neighbourhood.

Workshops or volunteering are a great starting point!

Here are a few suggestions to help you on your way:

The Hut Gallery – workshops for all ages and all levels of skill in many art genres – painting, printmaking, pastels just to name a few.

The Men's Shed – turn your hand to woodwork or building something small or large – a blackboard for the grandchildren, decorative water wells for the front yard. The list is endless.

Volunteering – From Animal Shelters, Foundations or Missions to Op Shops. The choice is yours.

Joining in helps you feel better by finding a sense of purpose, a sense of community. You can improve your self-esteem and confidence by sharing your talents, learning new skills, and meeting new people. Let's kick loneliness, social



isolation or depression that has crept in. Bring fun into your life while helping others.

One of the more well known benefits of volunteering is the impact on the community. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a

better place. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and organisations in need.

As a starting point, contact Volunteer for Knox: www.volunteerforknox.com.au



ATTENTION MEN - HEARD ABOUT MR PERFECT ? IT'S MORE THAN A BBQ



WHAT IS IT?

A community organisation connecting men across Australia over a relaxed free BBQ to chat about all things life. but we are more than a BBQ. Online we provide quality resources for the good of men's mental health.

WHY DO IT?

Conversation (and listening) always helps.

Weather, work, footy, family challenges and life changes.

Getting outside in the sunshine is healthy.

An antidote to the COVID-age isolation, meeting a welcoming bunch of guys.

Meeting new mates.

Our community has met outside of the BBQ, to cycle, have coffee and form a support network.

The BBQ is run on the last Sunday of every month at Tim Neville Arboretum, Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully. It is free to attend and advertised on the group's Facebook page. There is signage and t-shirts so the group stands out to help newcomers find them.

Please visit mrperfect.org.au for more information.

David Edwards



Festivities, Art and Family Fun at Miller's Homestead

As we enter the Wurrundjeri season of Guyang (Kangaroo Apple Season) we offer you the following inspiring programme of events (bookings required for all events apart from

Exhibitions - events.yourlibrary.com.au/0438 284 989):

Art Exhibitions, Music, Author's talks and Art Workshops.

Knox Photographic Society – Group Exhibition – till 30th Nov.

· Heather King (President of the Ferntree Gully Art Society), paint/collage artist – Solo Exhibition – 1st Dec to 9th Jan '23.

· Heather King – Faux Stained-Glass Collage Workshop – 5th Dec, 2-4pm, Free. Join Heather as she demonstrates how to make your own Faux Stained Glass collage piece.

· Uplifting Voices – Group Singing Session with Barb Shearer-Jones – 30th Nov, 11am-12.30pm, \$10.



Barb Shearer-Jones and the singing group

Franklin nominated, Andrea Goldsmith, author of *The Prosperous Thief*, *The Memory Trap* and *Invented Lives* at this inspiring talk.

Social Events

· Festive Afternoon Tea with the Boronia CWA – 6th Dec, 2-4pm, Free.

Join us for afternoon tea in the parlour and enjoy a cuppa, a chat and a delicious spread with live background piano to help us celebrate a year of community service by the dedicated members of the Boronia CWA.

· Crafternoons – 14th & 21st Dec, 1-4pm, Free. Craft with others at our last

Lift your spirits as you learn to sing simple songs together with others in a supportive, relaxed environment.

· Meet The Author – Andrea Goldsmith – Passion, Patience, and Smoking Volcanoes – 30th Nov, 2pm, Free. Join Miles

two gatherings for the year.

· Miller's Matinee – 9th Dec, 1pm, Free. Film Lovers are invited to join us in the parlour for a screening of the fabulous 'Jean De Florette'.

Events for Children and Families

· Festive Family Storytime with Santa! – Thur, 8th Dec, 11am, Free. Looking for a relaxed, quiet place for Santa photos? Come along to this fun storytime and craft session for children from 0-6yrs.

· Little Ones Playgroup and Book Chat – 7th & 21st Dec then fortnightly from 11th Jan '23, 9.30am, Free. Encourage a love of reading and share favourite books with families of 0-2 year olds at this relaxed, fortnightly playgroup, with free play after circle time.

· Beyond Sparkles and Superheroes Family Storytime – 1st Dec, 11am, Free. A fun session of books and songs that challenge gender stereotypes, followed by craft.

· Regular Storytime sessions are on Thursdays (Family session for 0-6yrs at 11am and Tiny Tots session for 0-1yr at 2pm) during term time (last session for '22 is 1st Dec, recommencing in Term 1 in '23).

· After School – Make Your own Nature-Inspired Earrings – 24th Nov, 4-6pm, \$15, Ages 8+

· Join environmental educator and Artist, Laura Barraza as you design and make two pairs of earrings, inspired by leaves.

· After School – Card Making with Cricut – 15th Dec, 4pm, Free. Ages 6+. Make your own Festive cards using a Cricut machine.

We thank you all for your incredible support in our first year at Millers, send you warm, festive greetings and wish you a 2023 full of connection, inspiration, learning and most of all, love.

Michelle Kemp

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www.williammatthewsfunerals.com.au



It may come as a surprise to some people who read my bird articles in this paper that I actually do have other interests in life apart from birds, mammals and plants. The other interest in my life is learning public speaking, and the best place to do that is at Knox Toastmasters!

If you have a fear of speaking in public or just want to build up a bit of self confidence and belief in yourself, this is the place for you. I've been a member now for 3 years, and just quietly, it's not as addictive as birds, but it's pretty good, it runs a close second.

We meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month at St Paul's Church, Boronia. Arrive at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, sharp like. It is a very encouraging atmosphere with great camaraderie between all the members.

Email me if you're interested and I will get our secretary to email you an agenda, I guarantee you'll love it!

Des Palmer arc_up_welding@live.com.au

KIDS
ZONE

Healthy Christmas Recipies



Fruit canes

Slice 2 bananas and 8 strawberries.

Arrange on platter alternating a strawberry slice with a banana to make the candy cane effect (see image).



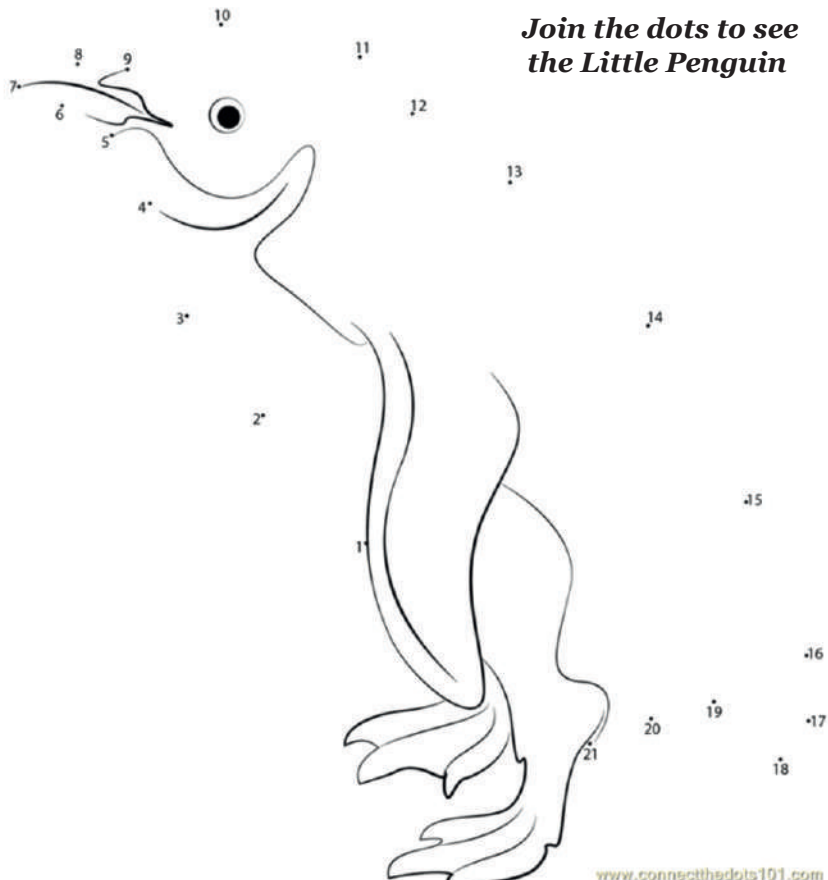
Christmas Tree

Slice 2 apples and 2 pears and a triangle of watermelon (see image).

Arrange in the shape of a Christmas tree with a watermelon slice as the trunk and the apple and pear slices as the branches.

Use cookie cutter to make star for tree topper.

Decorate with cherries as baubles and sprinkle with desiccated coconut for a snow or tinsel effect.



Fun facts about Little Penguins

Australia has eight types of penguins in its territories, but only the Little Penguin lives on the Australian mainland. The rest live on Australian islands to our south. Little Penguins also live in New Zealand. January 20 is Penguin Awareness Day.

Here are some fun things that you might like to ask if your parents know about Little Penguins:

1. They're the only penguins that are not just black-and-white. They have a slight blue colour on their back, in fact, even their eyes are blue. Young chicks typically exhibit a brighter blue than their parents.
2. Little penguins are birds, but they swim instead of flying. They spend up to 18 hours a day in the water, only coming to shore to sleep during the molting and breeding seasons. While out at sea, they consume their body weight daily in krill, squid, and small fish.
3. They are very noisy. These social animals have special throat structures that help them to squawk, which is how they send messages to each other on land.
4. Each Little Penguin has around 10,000 feathers. These tightly packed and oiled feathers keep them warm and dry as they "fly" through the water.
5. Their poo is glittery because of all the fish scales they eat.

KIDS
ZONE



The Kids' Holiday Survival Kit

With the Festive Season fast approaching and many families planning for holidays, I thought it was an ideal time to get the 'Kids Holiday Survival Kit' input from families going on their family holidays.

It is often thought that the travel to the holiday destination sets the tone of 'fun' for children. Therefore, it is imperative to keep that in mind when loading the car or the bag of goodies for keeping kids entertained on the trip; whether it be in a car or on a plane.

The must haves for travelling:

1. Markers and paper for drawing, writing stories and playing simple games like naughts and crosses.
2. Books to read that they love.
3. One toy each that must be agreed upon by the parent i.e. nothing too noisy or big.
4. Snacks.

5. Music.
6. Audible books or tv shows (downloaded on phones or iPads - ready to go). Also great for downtime when you arrive at your holiday destination.
7. Fun facts or maps about where you are going (great idea to look these up together so the kids are already involved and their interest sparked). These will be referred to during the holiday as well to engage the children in where you are going each day. A great tip!

The must haves for while you are on holiday:

1. Thermos water bottle each.
2. Spare shoes for walking.
3. First aid kit.
4. 1,000 band aids.
5. Stop-itch cream.
6. Hats.
7. Bathers.

8. Bucket and shovel.
9. Ball for a game of your choice.
10. Sunscreen.
11. Sun shield to get out of the direct sun if you hit the beach.

The aim of a holiday is to be a time for special bonding between siblings and re-connection of parents outside busy routines; loads of new experiences and fun. No matter whether you are off on a caravanning trip or flying to a kid-friendly destination overseas; no holiday runs 100% to plan or as smooth as it is played out in our minds. However, with these handy hints and 'survival kit suggestions'; you are well on your way! Wishing you a New Year of peace and joy, days full of warmth that family brings. Here's to wonderful memories that you and your children will look back in years to come, with great fondness. Have a great holiday everyone! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Debbie Ball

Holiday Word Search



Find the following holiday words:

BARBECUE, BEACH, BIKING, HOLIDAY, POOL, LEMONADE, SUMMER CAMP, TRAVELING, VACATION, HIKING, HAMMOCK, GAMES, CAMPING, COTTAGE, CANOEING.

Monsterwordsearch.com



HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY KIDS ZONE

We are pleased to announce that Kids Zone has been published in BBCN for 12 months this edition.

We hope you are enjoying the fun as much as we are.



TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

Starting with the first issue in 2023, we announce an exciting new addition with thanks to the generosity of Australia's longest-running independent comic publisher REVERIE.

Operating since 1983, founder Gary Dellar of REVERIE has graciously given the BBCN permission to print in serial form their best-selling comic Toby and the Magic Pencil. Written by Gary and drawn by one of Australia's most in-demand artists Ben Sullivan, Toby and the Magic Pencil is a fast-paced action tale about a young man who inherits his family's magic pencil that can bring anything he draws to life. And as Spiderman was once told, and Toby discovers, "with great power, comes great responsibility," and we'd like to add, excitement and adventure.

Toby will appeal to all comic book lovers from eight to eighty-eight.

I personally find this news thrilling because as a child I would impatiently wait for my father to finish reading the paper so I could read the

... coming soon

"funnies" that took up almost a full page of the newspaper. This led to a lifelong love affair with comics that started me on a journey of collecting, and writing for and about comics both locally and internationally as well as publishing over the last 35 years. I dearly hope that Toby and the Magic Pencil being made available in serial form (and free) can spark in some young person the same passion I developed all those years ago.

In an age when newspapers are disappearing, and major papers have dropped the "funnies" from their pages it feels great to buck the trend and make our community paper even more enjoyable.



Danny Nolan

MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR LOCAL RESIDENT ALEC DOHERTY, TEACHER AND MUSICIAN

Recently the Doherty family held a memorial concert for teacher, musician and local Boronia resident, Alec Doherty. Alec died of natural causes at Holmwood Aged Care in Healesville on 2 November 2021. He was 101 years of age. He died on Melbourne Cup Day. The date could not have been more fitting.

My father was a keen punter, but always justified his "punting" with the quote, "I would never put the house on a horse race."

Dad was a self taught musician and qualified teacher, reaching great heights in his musical career as a saxophonist and flautist.

Many friends in his long life included Sir Edmond Hilary, the mountaineer and philanthropist, who along with Sherpa Tenzing Norway, reached the summit of Mr. Everest. (They climbed the mountain, Dad didn't.) They met when Dad had a seat next to him on an flight from Morocco to Australia and became good friends.

For many years he gave lessons and befriended musician and actor Wilbur Wild who appeared on 'Hey, Hey, It's Saturday' for many years, alongside Darryl Sommers, and was good friends with John Wood, the actor who appeared as Sergeant Tom Croydon on 'Blue Heelers' and the character of Stipendiary Magistrate Michael Rafferty on Rafferty's Rules.

His endearing nature and eccentricities led him



to a life of endless possibilities, but with life being contrary, there were a few detours along the way.

I have written his life story. The title: "Swimming for Scotland" (or the Audacity of Hope) is another story of this amazing man.

Copies of the book "Swimming for Scotland" are available at lizainsworth@ozemail.com.au (or 0408 08 1767)

Liz Ainsworth



HELP YOUR CHILD TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Join our free online information session about transitioning from primary to secondary school. This webinar is for parents, carers and young people.

- Tuesday 6 December
- 7-8:30pm
- Free
- Bookings essential – register through the Knox Council website knox.vic.gov.au

The change from primary to secondary school is a significant change for all students.

Learn how to help your child prepare and make a positive and smooth transition.

This information session, presented by Kate Wilde from the Human Development Workshop, covers:

- Getting ready for secondary school – the 'easy' stuff – routines, public transport, homework and more
- Getting ready for secondary school – the 'tricky' stuff – friends, bullying, anxiety and more
- A parent / carer only session for the last 30 mins on managing technology, anxiety and supporting your child's resilience.

For more information contact:

Michelle Pascoe, Community Youth Worker, Knox Youth Services

9298 8000

Michelle.pascoe@knox.vic.gov.au

COVID-19 Medication

Some people can get medicine when they have COVID-19.

These medicines are also called 'early therapies' or 'antivirals'.

They stop people from getting so sick that they need to go to hospital.

Medicines do not replace vaccination. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19.

How to get COVID-19 medication

- 1) Get tested as soon as you notice symptoms, to confirm you have COVID-19.
- 2) Report your positive result (coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report or 1800 675 398).
- 3) Ask your doctor.
- 4) If eligible you will be prescribed medication. For the medicine to work best, you must **take it within five days of getting sick.**

Proposed Changes to the Future of Kindergarten

Kindergartens throughout Victoria will begin a ten year transition to a 30-hour per week program for four-year-old children. The new curriculum, called Pre-Prep, will roll out over the next decade. It is set to be play-based and universal.

From 2023, kindergarten will be free for both three and four-year-old children.

A 15 hour per week program will be available to four-year-old children and a 5 to 15 hour program per week will be available to three-year-old children.

These new arrangements will present challenges to some existing small kinders, such as the Alchester Village Preschool. This preschool operates out of Council property but only has one main room. In order to accommodate the new arrangements in 2023, they have needed to be very creative.

As the new arrangements evolve over the coming years, and the class times increase, without more space small kinders will face uncertainty for their future, which of course will impact staff job security. Many existing staff have been in the industry for a very long time.

Reader's letter in response to Council Considers its Future in Kindergarten

In relation to council's review into the provision of Kindergarten services, I would like to offer a perspective from someone who is both a Knox resident and long-time employee at Alchester Village Pre-School (AVPS).

AVPS has been operating as a thriving, viable and successful early childhood service for over 50 years. The Kindergarten is an independently-run service (governed by a committee of parent volunteers) operating out of a council- owned facility. The Kinder has worked co-operatively with council for many years to remain a necessary and important educational and care service for local families. In an era of local Kindergarten closures due to government reforms, AVPS has found a way to continue operating successfully into the immediate future. The hope is to continue to be able to do so for many years to come.

I would hope that services in a unique position like AVPS will factor in council's review and be given a voice as to their future viability. The Victorian government has realised the value of rich learning environments for our youngest citizens; let's hope local council will do its utmost to help deliver on these reforms.

Christine Ruff

Visit: vic.gov.au/free-kinder-guidelines-services-2023 for more information.

Kindergarten has great benefits for children's social, emotional and cognitive development and Knox Council has a long history of providing sessional kindergarten. Council currently operates 29 sessional kindergarten sites at a cost of \$3.3 million a year.

Council is reviewing its future role in providing kindergarten services, and is seeking the views of the community.

Community members are invited to share their thoughts on Council's "Have your say" page, at drop in sessions, or via postcards available to collect from council kindergartens, libraries and the Knox Civic Centre. Kindergarten children will also be invited to draw or share what they love about kindergarten.

Feedback on what people value will be considered by Council, and a community panel will be independently facilitated to consider Council's future role.

Feedback to Council closes 18 December.

haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/kindergarten-service-review



The Ferntree Gully Friends of Red Cross thank all the local people who supported us at our stall held at Ferntree Gully Plaza on the 22nd October.

We raised a grand total of \$1,392.20 most of all a very Special Thank You to the lovely gentleman who came past and donated \$500 what a selfless act and a wonderful surprise!

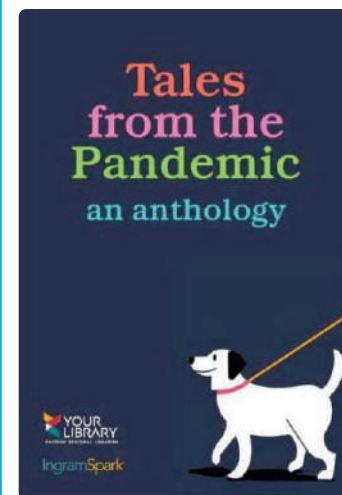
Maxine Lane (Contact/Chair)

**THERE IS NO JANUARY ISSUE OF THIS PAPER
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON**

TALES FROM THE PANDEMIC: AN ANTHOLOGY

Between December 2021 and March 2022, Eastern Regional Libraries ran a short story competition titled Tales from the Pandemic. People entering were asked to write about their experience of Covid-19. The brief was to capture 'the tempo of the times' so it could be recorded for future readers.

Close to 400 entries were submitted and the team was overwhelmed by the response. After judging, 5 entries were selected as the winners. Another 40 authors were congratulated and invited to include their entry in the book to be published.



On Thursday 17th November 2022, the anthology was released. The published authors were invited to a book launch with the competition winners and the team from Eastern Regional Libraries and publisher IngramSpark

Australia proudly distributed copies.

Tales from the Pandemic: an anthology is now available at Eastern Regional Library branches or online.

Kim Hanson

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Bringing art to the streets

New street art is lighting up laneways and arcades connecting Boronia station and Dorset Square.

Five murals celebrating our natural environment, community life and First Nations history are located at key entry points to the shopping precinct for maximum impact.

The art projects have been funded by the Victorian Government and delivered by Knox City Council.



Lupton Way

Upgrades to Lupton Way will be completed at the end of November. Changes include making it safer for pedestrians, and new landscaping, tables, chairs and shade umbrellas.



Erica Avenue

The new path is now complete. Work on the bike lane will start before Christmas and landscaping will start in February 2023. Work will be complete by April 2023.

We are working on lots of exciting initiatives to renew Boronia. These projects are made possible through funding from the Victorian Government. To find out more visit knox.vic.gov.au/boronia or call 9298 8000.



PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AMONG OLDER WOMEN

The Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance, auspiced by Knox City Council, has received \$180,000 in Victorian Government funding for a project to prevent homelessness among older women.

Knox Mayor Cr Susan Laukens said the project aims to prevent homelessness among those who are most at risk.

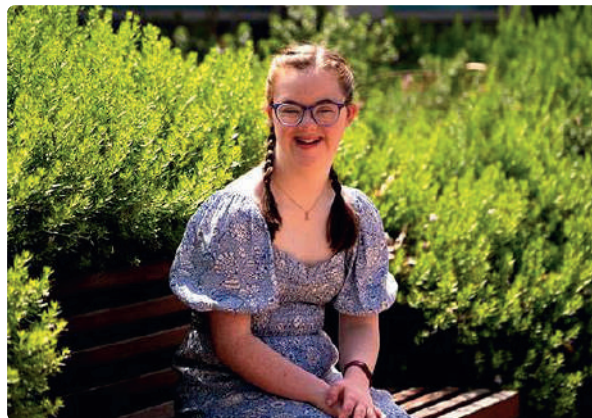
“Single women over 55 are the fastest growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness in the eastern metropolitan region,” she said.

“This project will explore lived experiences of women over 55 and identify service gaps in the region. It will help identify critical points at which intervention may help keep older women safe from homelessness.

The project findings will be used to inform all levels of government about preventive approaches and alternative housing models for women over 55 that could be delivered locally and across the eastern region.”

Rising rents in the private rental market, living alone, working part-time, having little savings, and being from a non-English speaking country or Indigenous are among the factors placing older women at greater risk of homelessness.

The \$180,000 was provided under the Victorian Government’s Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund.



NOMINATE AMAZING PEOPLE IN KNOX

Help us honour everyday people who make a positive difference in our community. Nominations for the Knox Australia Day Awards close 2 December 2022.

Our Awards recognise those who reach out to help others, volunteer in the community, or work to preserve the environment.

Sophie Ashdowne, our 2022 Young Citizen of the Year recipient, was honoured for her volunteer work at Pinchapoo, a not-for-profit that redistributes hygiene products to people in need.

Her volunteer work ranges from packing

essential hygiene items in boxes and bags, to teaching new volunteers that joined Pinchapoo.

During COVID, Sophie started a mini Pinchapoo warehouse from her home with her mum to keep the organisation’s production work alive.

“I love volunteering with Pinchapoo because I know that my work helps lots of people.” said Sophie.

If you know someone that deserves to be recognised, nominate them for this special honour.

Nominations are open for 6 Award categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Local Hero
- Sustainability Leadership
- Volunteer of the Year

Nominations can be made by completing the online form by 2 December 2022.

Further information about the Awards, including eligibility and past recipients, is available on our Australia Day Awards webpage.

PEREGRINE RESERVE JUNIOR BMX TRACK

Construction of the Junior BMX Track at Peregrine Reserve, Rowville has been finalised. Visit with family and friends and encourage your child to bring their bike to try out the track. Perhaps learn some biking tips and tricks from the skilled team at Knox BMX.

For further information, contact the Open Space Team on 9298 8000 or email openspace@knox.vic.gov.au.



STUDY INTO REUSABLE SANITARY AND INCONTINENCE PRODUCTS

Knox City Council will lead a study conducted by seven councils to research and understand how to implement a reusable sanitary and incontinence program to reduce waste to landfill.

After food waste, disposable nappies and sanitary and incontinence products going to landfill is becoming one of the most significant waste issues, comprising between 5 and 15 percent of waste in household bins.

Approximately 660 million disposable sanitary and incontinence products end up in landfill per year in Australia and it can take up to 800 years for the plastic products to break down.

The feasibility study will engage with people who use sanitary products and incontinence aids to understand current barriers to using reusable products and will benchmark existing programs from other councils to reach target audiences, meet user needs, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs to reduce waste and change

behaviour.

The collaborative project between councils hopes to understand and break down barriers to using reusable products in different age and health demographics, and allows for the sharing of costs and resources, increasing the likelihood of an ongoing reusable program.

It will recommend a best practice model to achieve waste reduction and assist and support people who use sanitary products or incontinence aids, to increase the circular economy and to create the basis for behaviour change across Victoria.

The study has been awarded \$80,000 from Sustainability Victoria, through the Victorian Government’s Recycling Victoria Councils Fund. The other participating municipalities are Whitehorse City Council, Hume City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Maroondah City Council, Stonnington City Council and Yarra Ranges Council.

RECYCLING YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHING

Clothing, textiles, or shoes must not go into your recycling bin because clothing gets tangled in the conveyor belts and causes all kinds of issues for our recycling facility.

Consider giving clothing in good condition to a friend, your extended family, your local opportunity shop, or a social enterprise retailer. There are also many services that will collect from your front doorstep or letterbox.

If you have clothing that is not in good repair and not really wearable, you can order a box from Upparel for a nominal fee and post it back to the company to ensure that you will prevent your clothing from ending up in landfill.

The World Resources Institute notes that one garbage truckload of clothes is burned or sent to landfill every second around the world. Australians are the second highest consumers of textiles in the world after the United States on a per capita basis. By recycling your used clothes and shopping at charity shops and social enterprise retailers, you can help make a positive environmental impact.

BENDIGO BANK COMMUNITY GRANTS

Bendigo Bank facilitates a wide range of grants to assist eligible charities and not-for-profit organisations across Australia to invest their time, energy and money into their local communities. So far, \$292 million has been returned to communities and initiatives Australia-wide.

Every day the Bank's customers help change lives, and save lives. Their home loans are building skate and sports parks, hospital wings and classrooms. Personal loans, business banking and credit cards are funding ambulances, rescue boats, disabled and aged care facilities.



This year, Boronia and The Basin Community News has been successful in receiving two Bendigo Bank grants. One is from the Ferntree Gully Bendigo Community Bank (part of Knox Community Bank), and the other from the Bendigo Bank Boronia (part of Ringwood/Bayswater/Boronia group).

Our successful applications for these grants were to provide regular publicity space for not-for-profit groups, as well as for a wide variety of local contributors through their articles, photos, letters and poems, and also for both public and general interest journalism.

We thank the grant application teams that considered our applications, and all of our



many Volunteers whose commitment ensures that we can continue to serve the community in the creative way that we do.

Along with many other local community organisations, we were presented with cheques recently at two really positive award nights, the first at Boronia Bowls Club, and the second at the Ringwood Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Other organisations which received grants:

Knox Community Banking Group:

Gayles Community Share Space - Shed and Printer, Foothills Community Care - Volunteer Video Promotion Project, Ferntree Gully Footballers Cricket Club - Cricket Balls, Boronia Bowls Club - replace Boundary Markers, Upper FTG Football Netball Club - laptop refresh and club wifi internal and external club-rooms, Rowville Cricket Club - Maintenance of grounds, Melbourne All Abilities Lions Club - Update of Club logos/ Polo shirts due to name change, Ferntree Gully Tennis Club - Tennis Equipment for all abilities, Saint Pauls Boronia - Christmas Lunch, Simple Steps Solution - Kids Mental Health Program, Glengollan Village - Internal

Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch in the bistro for those who wish to stay on. If you are looking to enhance your social life, come along and join us.

In an earlier issue, we mentioned that Club members took a ride on Puffing Billy to Emerald in October. Always a magical day out!

On Cup Day a group of our members lunched at the Wantirna Hill Club and enjoyed a great meal and a lot of fun and hi-jinks. Not sure if anybody backed the winner, but it didn't seem to matter much.

Our Christmas Luncheon is to be held on Tuesday, 13th December at the Churchill-



Maintenance prep work, Knox Italian Community Club - Elvis Impersonator for their Elvis fundraising night, Knox Villages Services Association - Exercise Classes, Knox United Soccer Club - Aluminium Goals for Karoo Rd, Knox Info link - Client Fees Uniforms and equipment.



Ringwood/Boronia/Bayswater Bendigo Bank Group:

Heatherdale Tennis Club LED floodlights, Temple Society - Mates Matter local men's social group, Mitcham Cricket Club - Sponsorship, Fair Park Junior Football Club - towards electronic scoreboard, Rangeview Pre School - New outdoor play equipment, Rotary Club of Traralgon - Shine on Awards, Trinity Netball Club - Sponsorship, Bayswater Junior Football Club - new female friendly change rooms.



And if you want to talk banking, you can call 97560332 (FTG) or 9762 6499 (Boronia), you might just land a Manager's interest rate special.



At Knox Over 50s

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 24th January, 2023, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15

Waverley Golf & Bowls Club in Rowville. Music, meal and lots of fun all included.

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.

Best wishes to one and all for a very Merry Christmas and

Boronia receives \$983k funding boost

More than \$983,000 of Victorian Government funding was announced recently for six projects that will further revitalise Boronia.

The funding will go towards delivering Council and community projects, including bringing traders together for arts, cultural and economic development activities, improving streetscapes through artwork, signage for the town centre, lighting upgrades to Chandler Park sports field and grants for not-for-profit and community organisations.

Council will contribute a further \$342,400 towards these projects.

Council recently celebrated artwork created under the Boronia Arcade and Laneways Upgrade project, enlivening the walls around the shopping precinct with colourful murals and light boxes. This adds to five large murals recently created in the heart of Boronia, which include artwork depicting the Dandenong Ranges and First Nations history.

The projects were developed with the community and funded through the Victorian Government’s Suburban Revitalisation program as part of the Building a Better Boronia initiative.

“More than \$500,000 in funding and in-kind support will go towards working with traders to deliver arts, cultural and economic development projects, while a further \$250,000 will be used

for new pedestrian signage in the town centre.

“Arts and cultural projects have the power to transform public spaces and we hope that artworks and murals delivered by Council will help to restore civic pride and contribute to positive visitor experiences.

“We’ve long heard that Boronia is old, tired and in need of significant investment. With all levels of government working together, we can create a contemporary and vibrant retail and commercial centre to breathe new life into Boronia.”



\$375,000 funding for local community groups

Community playgroups, emergency relief networks, disability and carer support services, Indigenous and multicultural groups, environmental organisations, sports clubs and arts and culture groups are among those to

share in \$375,875 funding from Council’s annual Community Development Fund grants program.

A total of 48 grants were awarded under the 2022-2023 round.

Knox Mayor Cr Susan Laukens said the annual grants awarded to local not-for-profit organisations aimed to encourage and support community activities and initiatives of Knox residents.

“This year’s grants support the upgrading of sports club equipment, community reconnection activities, cultural celebrations and early years’ play space revitalisation.

“They are also supporting several community welfare projects responding to mental health and family violence issues in Knox, sports programs for First Nations children and youth and migrant communities, gardening and sports programs for people living with disability, and local environment and community theatre groups.

Many worthy and recognisable local organisations will receive funding, including Boronia Bowls Club, Fab Nobs Theatre Inc, Knox Environment Society, Knox Infolink, Koorie Academy, Rotary Club of Bayswater, Rowville Men’s Shed, The Basin Music Festival and many more.

Over the past five years, this Council grants program has provided over \$1.5 million to community organisations.



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Real Action For Knox



SHARE THE CHRISTMAS JOY WITH LOCALS IN NEED

One of the best aspects of Knox that I've had the privilege of seeing over the years is the many local volunteer organisations that support those in need in our community.

Throughout COVID, these organisations played a critical role in providing care and that all important human connection to those who needed it the most. It was amazing to see, and a real example of the Australian spirit in action.

Now, with Christmas just around the corner and the rising cost of living having such an impact on many, they are continuing to do an amazing job providing food and supplies and being that frontline connection for support services.

Christmas is a stressful time for many but for those doing it tough already, it can be overwhelming. If you are considering giving during the Christmas season there are several programs being run by these organisations to ensure families can enjoy a Christmas meal and kids can have a present to unwrap on Christmas morning.

One of the biggest is the Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS) 'Share the Joy' Appeal which is organised by Denise and the team at Knox Infolink and involves RAFT Anglican Church, Coonara Community House, Wantirna Seventh Day Adventist, Restore Community Church, Volunteer for Knox and the Rotary Club of Boronia.



The appeal aims to reach families, individuals and children that are in financial crisis, in providing festive food hampers and quality gifts for children.

Another worthy cause is the Foothills Community Care Reverse Advent Calendar. The donation drive collects non-perishable food, toiletries and Christmas treats and distributes them to those in need in Knox and throughout the Dandenong Ranges.

Thank you to all these organisations and their volunteers for the kindness they have shown throughout the year. You are making a profound impact on the lives of many.

If you would like to support these programs you can donate to the Share the Joy Appeal by visiting: www.givenow.com.au/knoxsharethejoy and find details for the Foothills Reverse Advent Calendar by visiting: www.foothillscare.org.au/christmas/

ACE OF SPADES

One evening a few years ago I was trudging home through the Boronia drizzle, I forget the immediate circumstances, when I spotted a playing card on the footpath in front of me, face down in the wet. Always a card player, I couldn't help myself and picked it up. It was the Ace of Spades. A bit dented and stippled from previous encounters with shoe leather, but otherwise intact. I was pleased. Someone's going to die, I thought, and threatened my acquaintances with it. None of them died, I'm happy to report.

But I couldn't throw it away. I tucked it behind my driving license in the see-through pocket of my wallet, where I rarely saw it, for it wasn't often that I had to get the license out. Then I went and lost the license (yes, yes, I looked behind the fridge) so now I cover it up with my metro card. Every time I take public transport I have to slip out the ticket and show the Ace of Spades the light of day. I try not to let anybody else see.

Wasn't it Freud who said that when you dream about trains it means death? Cobblers to all that, but the coincidence disturbed me for a while. To catch a train I had to come face to face with Death. I thought about turning him over but I knew it wouldn't help. He'd still be there, giving me the back of his neck. Of course I could always throw him back in the road, and several times I've come close to doing it. Face up this time on another rainy day, let the tyre rubber do a proper job. But I repented each time. Somehow it's better to know where he is than to have to look for him in every gust of wind. I don't worry about it any more. I laugh when I fold him away, safe in the leather. His time will come one day, but it's not today.

Billy Keen



Boronia View Club

will meet on Friday 16 Dec. at 11.30 at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch at a cost of \$27. Ladies of all ages and backgrounds come along and join us for an afternoon of "Christmas mayhem and madness." There will also be raffles and a book stall. All monies raised go to The Smith

Family for their Learning for Life program. View Clubs raised more than \$1.1m last year and sponsored 1,550 students. They also volunteered 70,000 hours of their time to help young people in their local communities through homework, reading and mentoring programs run by the charity.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602



Breannon Anna Cameron

SCAM ALERT *from Bank Australia*

Scammers are making contact more frequently than ever, and it's become so 'normal' that most of the time we just ignore and forget. Scams are evolving as quickly as technology. Scammers can imitate legitimate businesses or financial institutions with well-planned strategies to trick their victims.

They often prey on common fears by lying about a fake problem that needs action ASAP, for example 'payment to the tax office'.



Three common flags to watch out for:

1. Unexpected

Phone calls, text messages or emails that you weren't expecting and that ask you to click a link or provide personal information.

2. Urgency

'Urgent' seeming messages about debts, the risk of being arrested or a loved one in trouble.

3. Requests

To download a program onto your computer or phone, give your bank details or one-time code, or make a payment.



KEEPING IT LOCAL:

Artist films second music video in Boronia

Local singer-songwriter Rainie Zenith has made it two out of two, choosing to film her second music video in Boronia too. In contrast to debut video *Reasons To Hate Me*, which was filmed in the beautiful surrounds of the Tim Neville Arboretum using a professional camera crew, Rainie filmed her latest offering *Black Wet Dream* on her phone in front of a gritty urban graffiti scene.

"The song is ostensibly about coffee cravings, but those cravings are driven by an intolerable environment of corporate nonsense, as demonstrated by the video," Rainie said. "Nonetheless, it's a really fun song, great for singing and dancing along to!"

The park behind the Knox Basketball Stadium also features in the video, as does a brief cameo of the murals on the wall of KC's music store.

"I really enjoy picking out film locations close to home," Rainie said. "I hope to continue doing this, with four videos planned for 2023."

The latest video can be viewed on YouTube and the song streamed on Spotify, in both cases under the name Rainie Zenith.

If you'd like to show your support for Rainie's art, simply hit 'follow' on her Spotify and 'subscribe' on her YouTube.

"These two small, simple actions are a massive help and mean the world to me. Many thanks for your support!" Rainie said.

She is looking forward to performing locally in 2023, including the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival in March.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

reveals top 5 reported phone scams

The scam most reported to the ACMA in the last three months has been an Amazon impersonation scam, which sees scammers call to collect people's personal details under the guise of an issue with their Amazon account. Similar scam calls purporting to be from banks, NBN Co, Telstra and eBay make up the rest of the top five.

In December 2020 new rules were introduced requiring telcos to identify, trace and block scam calls. To the end of September this year, more than 800 million scam calls were stopped.

New rules to combat SMS scams were introduced in July this year. Early indications show promising results, with nearly 48 million scam SMS blocked from July to September.

The ACMA's scam telco action taskforce is also coordinating effort across industry and government on scams minimisation strategies.

Top 5 scam calls

1. Amazon impersonation: Scam calls about an issue with your Amazon account. They claim funds will be taken from your account if you do not act immediately by providing personal information.

2. Banking/finance impersonation: Scam calls, emails and SMS claiming suspicious activity, unauthorised debits, or that your account has been suspended. They request personal details to verify your identity.

3. NBN impersonation: Scam callers posing as someone from technical support. They claim there is a fault with your internet to get access to your computer and personal information.

4. Telstra impersonation: Similar to the NBN scam. Callers pose as Telstra technical support and claim you have issues with your service or internet to access your computer and personal information.

5. eBay impersonation: Scammers use a recorded message to claim you have made a purchase that requires a charge to your account. This is to get you to provide to personal information.

HOW TO AVOID SCAMS

Do not provide your personal information to an unsolicited caller or sender of a message.

Do not open links in any unsolicited messages you receive.

If the brand has an app you can use instead of receiving messages, consider whether this will work for you. Messages you receive via the app are much more likely to be legitimate.

Even if a message slips into a legitimate message stream on your phone, double-check it's from the brand concerned.

If in doubt, always contact the business via their publicly available contact details (or the details on your regular bill or transaction record) rather than the details provided by the caller or in a message.

Scammers target everyone. Learn more about how to protect yourself from phone scams on the ACMA website and the Scamwatch website

For more information, please contact ACMA Media on 0438 375 776.



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BORONIA UNITING CHURCH

cnr. Boronia Rd & Zeising Ct

OUR CHURCH IS AN ACTIVE AND FRIENDLY SPACE : COME AND JOIN US...

ON SUNDAY, 4th DECEMBER @ 1.30pm

for a FESTIVAL OF FAVOURITE HYMNS & CAROLS followed by a delicious Afternoon Tea.

Cost - \$15 per person (proceeds to go towards the cost of installing Split System heaters/coolers).

AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES –

December 14 @ 7.30pm – a Blue Christmas Service – for anyone who finds celebrating Christmas difficult.

December 18 @ 10am – Chocoholic Christmas!

December 24 @ 6pm – Join us for a BYO Picnic tea, followed by a short carol service at 7pm.

December 25 @ 9am – Celebrate Christmas with us.

WORSHIP IS HELD EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM...

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

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon.

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.

For more information about us check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch or phone the church office on 9762 6732.

ENERGY KITS FOR LOAN

Due to high interest for borrowing the My Energy and Water Saver kits, we have introduced 3 more kits at our libraries.

A total of 6 kits are now available for loan through the Eastern Regional Libraries network.

The kits are designed to help households save energy costs, by identifying causes of high electricity and water usages, such as water leakages, inefficient fixtures, and usage behaviours.

Each kit consists of the following resources:

- thermal imaging camera,
- power meter,
- stopwatch,
- thermometer,
- CSIRO Home Energy Saving Handbook,
- instruction guide

The kits come with a step-by-step instructional guide on how to use the various equipment to measure electricity and water usage.

This initiative is a joint partnership between Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges Councils.

Knox households account for 18% of total greenhouse emissions in our community. This initiative is supported by our Climate Response Plan 2021-2031, which aims to help our community lower emissions, and reach net zero by 2040.

Place a reservation to loan the kit at Your Library website.

*If you don't live the way you think is right,
 you'll end up thinking the way you're living is right.*

David Stewart



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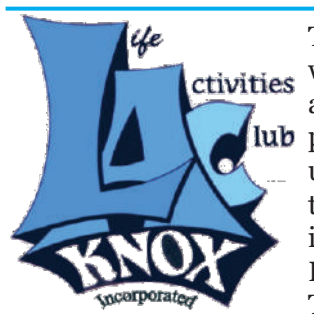
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The 8-day Tasmania trip was well planned and attended by 35 happy persons. And unfortunately, I missed this. The itinerary included Devonport, Kaydale Garden and lodge, Table Cape lookout where

the tulips bloom, then to Stanley and the Honey Farm, the Tarkine Forest and the Nut. Sheffield and its wonderful murals, Deloraine too for the artworks in Silk and Folk Museum, Grindelwald, Beaconsfield, Salamanca, and then a Dinner Cruise on the Derwent River, and so much more, including fun, friendship, meeting new members, and it was great!

December activities will continue throughout the holiday time, as will happen in January. We still have games day, men's coffee and chat, girls' coffee and chat, card groups, walking groups, cinema outings, etc. etc.

On behalf of this friendly social club, I wish you a very joyous Christmas with family and friends, and good health, happiness and safety in 2023.

Of course, if you find some time, join us on any 3 activities and see if you like us, request a newsletter and something might just interest you, and it is

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free. There are 4 card groups for those who play: Bolivia, Canasta, "500" has 2 dates, Monday evening @ 7pm, and Tuesdays from 1pm to 4pm.

So many activities, so many places to go, people to meet, and we'd like you to join us. Feel free to participate in 3 of our activities, and only after this will we ask you to become a full member for a yearly \$25:00 pp.

All activities are listed in our quarterly newsletter, and if you would like to add a new activity, all ideas are welcome.

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

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

God has given a message of Hope for all people and an invitation to His future Kingdom.

For further information write to

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