

COMMUNITY NEWS



Centre Pages

Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE



SATURDAY

4

MARCH

10am-10pm
Wally Tew Reserve,
Brenock Park Drive,
Ferntree Gully



KNOX FESTIVAL

See Page 5

FREE EVENT



SUNDAY 5 MARCH

Clean Up Day

See Page 4 then come and join in the Clean Up



David Stewart

Biggin & Scott

dstewart@biggin-scott.com

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SIZE MATTERS



We take our eyesight for granted most of the time. To not be able to see those we love or the beauty we admire is almost unthinkable. Our eyesight is also invaluable for conveying information, telling stories, giving warnings and sharing experiences. This paper is an example of all these through the medium of print. The printing press was one of the greatest inventions of all time because more than any other invention it enabled the majority to have access to a world of ideas and information.

So, with all those centuries of experience you might think the medium had all the kinks ironed out. Not so.

A recently prescribed medication highlighted the potential risk of small print. Trying to read the miniscule print on the bottle proved a challenge beyond my talents, even when using a magnifying glass. I could only hope that there was nothing important for me in that hidden message, those little blobs of ink. But if the information didn't matter, why was it there at all? A similar example can be found on the shelves of our supermarkets.

One thing that has always seemed an injustice to me is the way printed materials for children with young eyes and 20:20 vision got big print, while those of my generation with our tired eyes and spectacles get unreadably small print as our share.

I don't begrudge our younger generation getting printed material to match their needs and interests, including big print books. Writing that matches the reader is one of the finest gifts we have to give.

Lesson one when choosing your typeface: size matters. It is far from being the most important consideration, but if your reader can't read your meaning because they struggle to see the words then most of your message is wasted. Over the years the BBCN has changed its font size multiple times to match changed conditions. First it was 11pt with green print. Then it was 10pt on a better quality paper and most recently 10.5pt on a slightly lower quality paper. It's a never ending cycle of amendments calling for adjustments to match the printing conditions.

John Mortimore

Boronia & The Basin Community News

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Submit casual ads at:
[bbcn.org.au/place an ad/](http://bbcn.org.au/place-an-ad/)

April Issue Distrib. 30 March

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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The political policy of the BBCN is strictly non-partisan.



Visit our Website



WE VALUE THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE
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AND FROM KNOX
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**KNOX DRAFT ROADS
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FEEDBACK CLOSES

20 MARCH 2023

VISIT knox.vic.gov.au

Page 3 BIRD CAPE PETREL (*Daption capense*)

Photo credits: Neil Macumber (top), Flickr (middle), Phillip Griffin (lower)

I promised last month to write on the Cape petrel and begad, I am a man of my word, well I'll lead you to believe that even if it isn't true. In this instance I definitely am, so let's just leave it at that, shall we? Did you know that there are 27 different species of petrel that have been recorded in Australian waters? I may appear conceited and don't intend to offend when I say



most of you wouldn't even know what a petrel is. And I don't blame you because unless you're a mad birdwatcher like myself, or go to sea, or have spent time around the pack ice of Antarctica, you wouldn't have a chance of seeing one.

In 2015 and again in 2017 I went on a pelagic trip out to the continental shelf from Port Fairy. Neil Macumber will take you out on the trip of a lifetime, he takes a group out every month of the year. 'Birdswing' is the name of his tourist business, he does nature trips all over Australia. It is about a 65 km trip and takes about two and a half hours to get out there. On both occasions we saw very little in the way of bird life on the way out, though hundreds of Dolphins were following the boat. When the skipper stopped and let out the sea anchor, he told us the depth was 450 metres, we were right on the edge of the shelf, but the ocean floor dropped away steeply from there, very steeply, in fact another 500 metres further out it was 4kms deep! He then

tossed out some berley to attract birds, and within 10 minutes the boat was surrounded by all sorts of sea birds that you could imagine. Albatross, Prions, Petrels, Giant petrels, Storm petrels, you name it, they were there. And of course when Albatross is mentioned, the trump card, Wandering Albatross, made a cameo!

One type of seabird was very confiding and very approachable, several were just 2-3 metres from the vessel, these were Cape petrels, beautiful black and white birds with striking markings, about the size of a Silver gull. In some overseas countries they can sometimes be seen close to shore, but in Australia they are always well out to sea, congregating around the edge of the shelf and in the shipping lanes. They nest in Antarctica and many Antarctic and sub-Antarctic islands in the summer and autumn, and are circumpolar in their dispersal around the southern oceans of the world, migrating in winter – spring as far north as the tropic of Capricorn.



Cape petrels fly with an unusual style, Pizzey and Knight describe it as "fast, low and direct on stiff wings." It almost appeared comical to me, almost like those children's toys that are a bird on a string which goes around in circles, the wing beats seem too fast and too mechanical for a bird, but hey if it works, don't change it. And it certainly does work, as with all those seabirds who spend their lives at the whim of mother nature, it seems the higher the wind speed the happier they are!

My field guides describe them as "noisy and quarrelsome," they must have all been in a good mood the two times that I saw them, all on their best behaviour! They will dive readily from the



ocean surface or from the air when feeding, and will often follow ships. The black and white markings on their wings and back are quite a stunning pattern. Coupled with the rather odd flight, and added to the close proximity from which I viewed them, made a very strong impression on me, "That's a great bird," as Jack Black said in "The Big Year." Don't tell me you still haven't watched "The Big Year?" C'mon, get with the program will ya?

Our field trips are up and running again, I run one each month, don't sit at home getting bored watching paint dry for entertainment, come with us to discover heaps of stuff and, umm, after that, more stuff. Email me to get on the list, a lot of people just come along whenever it suits

them or if a particular activity appeals to them. Snorkelling over the Mariana Trench got zero takers, I don't know why, it appealed to me.

Des Palmer arc_up_welding@live.com.au

**Woodsy, you are a legend! Keep it up!
Your sense of humour must run parallel
to mine, love it!**

I must acknowledge, perhaps I should every month, how much information for these articles I get from my field guides, firstly Pizzey and Knight and second Michael Morcombe's field guide. Without those two reference points I would struggle.

**WALKING, PREPARING
AND DRIVING THE NEWS**

We say "Welcome" to our two new Walkers, Heather and Simon. They have joined our team of some 100 Volunteers whose efforts enable this paper to be produced and delivered to homes every month.

We need a new Walker for the Donald Court area, this is a round of 50 papers. If you can help, please get in touch.

THE HUT GALLERY
157 Underwood Rd, FTG
MARCH EXHIBITIONS

"HER"
Artists works depicting their interpretation of "Her"

"FROM BASIN TO SINK"
Works by our talented member, Travis Mc Harg
Open Fridays 1-4 and weekends 11-4,
From Sunday 5 - 26 March,
ALL WELCOME, FREE ENTRY
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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

insert brain here

WOODSY

WELL SHARON, I GUESS WE CAN SAFELY RULE OUT OSTEOPOROSIS...

by woodsy

SIX SCOUT LEADERS FROM THE BASIN HONOURED WITH SPECIAL SCOUTING SERVICE AWARDS

Several exceptional scouting members were recognised for their contributions to scouting at a special awards ceremony held in front of youth and family members at the Scout hall in The Basin. The event was an opportunity to



acknowledge the challenging work and dedication alongside their commitment to fostering a love of Scouting in the community.

Among the award recipients were two young Rovers, Ben and Erika, who were recognised for their outstanding contribution towards a major STEM activity component at a Victorian jamboree. Their enthusiasm and creativity in managing this interactive robotics activity inspired and encouraged other young people to accept new challenges. Scout Skyla received a Scout Medallion for her pinnacle work organising projects and expeditions along with Cub leaders Lorraine and Steve, who diligently kept the Cub section active and growing over the past few years. Their tireless efforts have



COMFORT AND HEALTH IN AN ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME

You may have heard that having an energy efficient home can reduce your bills, but did you know it can improve your health as well? A recent study by Sustainability Victoria showed that energy efficiency upgrades to homes can bring physical and mental health improvements to the residents. The research found that low cost upgrades, such as insulation and draught proofing, led to greater comfort and lowered health costs for the study participants.

The study used the Residential Efficiency Scorecard (Scorecard) to plan improvements for the homes. The Scorecard is a tool developed by the Victorian Government. It checks how well a home keeps heat in in winter or out in summer, how efficient the major appliances are and what

resulted in increased engagement and a thriving community of younger Scouts who are eager to learn and explore the world around them.

Scout Leader Paul was recognised for his efforts in organizing annual 4WD expeditions for youth, inspiring many young people to push their boundaries and experience the wonders of the great outdoors. Leader Sophie was recognised for her continued support of group activities during the pandemic with fundraising, and service work across Victoria. Her passion to volunteer during challenging times helped to keep a sense of connection and community among the Scouts.

The awards ceremony was a memorable event, with scouts and their families gathering to celebrate the achievements. It also provided an opportunity to meet the new local Member of Parliament, Ms Daniela De Martino, who was excited to receive a Scout scarf emblazoned with the group colours of red, green, and an image of the Eastern Rosella.



Photographs of the award recipients, the young Rovers, and the local member of parliament scarfing up, capture the joy and camaraderie of this special event and serve as a reminder of the important role that these young leaders plays in building strong, connected communities.

For more information on scouting in The Basin, please contact...

Roland Gesthuizen, Group Leader, 1st The Basin Scout Group, 0459 277 227

the likely running costs are for the home. It provides tailored recommendations for cost effective home upgrades. Scorecard is used by independent assessors who are approved by the Government, so that you can rely on the recommendations.



Be Comfy Home Energy Advice Service is a new provider offering the Residential Efficiency Scorecard to residents in Knox and surrounds. The owner Caroline Burgess is a Ferntree Gully resident who is passionate about sustainability. "As a mum with a young family I want our home to be healthy and I need to keep our power bills manageable. Our family have used energy efficiency upgrades to achieve this. I want to share



SUNDAY 5 MARCH GET INVOLVED IN THESE LOCAL EVENTS

* Boronia Railway Walking Track, Boronia Road to Daffodil Road, 0900-1100, meet Underwood Road/Maryville Way, near Boronia Hotel.

* Blind Creek Billabong, 1000-1200, meet end of Jacobus Walk.

* Koolunga Native Reserve, 1000, meet car park cnr Hutton Ave Old Forest Road, FTG.

* Old Joes Creek, 1100-1230, meet cnr Army Road and Market Street.

IN MEMORY OF IAN KIERNAN, AO (from: cleanup.org.au)



"Clean Up Australia" founder, Ian Kiernan AO, died on 16 October 2018. (PIC)

Ian believed that Clean Up belongs to the millions of volunteers who have taken to their streets,

beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to remove the rubbish that is bothering them.

More recently this has extended to the thousands who take actions such as saying NO to a plastic bag at the checkout, refusing a single use item, or who join us via our social media campaigns.

One man's vision created Clean Up Australia, the nation's largest community mobilisation effort which is now firmly embedded in Australian and global culture.

One of Ian's requests was that, rather than sending flowers, people support his passion and commitment by making a donation to Clean Up Australia. A donation in his name will assist in continuing and expanding his work to preserve and protect our precious environment.

BECAUSE, AS IAN SO CLEARLY CLAIMED, OUR ENVIRONMENT IS NUMBER ONE.

this knowledge with my community."

If your home feels too hot in summer or too cold and draughty in winter - don't sweat or shiver - there is something you can do about it. Look after your health and your hip pocket and contact Caroline today for an assessment (0493 565 778 or hello@becomfy.com.au). **See also my ad on p19.**

Find out more about the Scorecard program at www.homescorecard.gov.au.

Knox Festival

Free event



Saturday 4 March
10am - 10pm
Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully

knox.vic.gov.au/knoxfestival



Pets in the Park is back!

Free event

Come along with your family, friends and special pet to this fun, free community event.

Sunday 26 March, 10am - 4pm
Gilbert Park, Ferntree Gully Rd, Knoxfield

knox.vic.gov.au



ANNUAL TEMPLE FESTIVAL



The Basin Hindu Temple (Sri Vakrahunda Vinayagar Temple) will celebrate its Annual Temple Festival from 21 to 29 April 2023.

The celebrations will culminate on Saturday 29 April at 10:30am

with the Chariot festival. Lead by a grand procession of music, dance, colour and chanting, the Chariot will be pulled by devotees around the streets of the Basin. The Temple is proud to remain the only consecrated Hindu Temple in Victoria to pull its prestigious chariot onto the streets of Victoria.

Traditionally, it is believed that those who pull the ropes of the Chariot are granted peace and blessings from the deity, so make sure you jump in and take your chance pulling the bright, colourful chariot along. There will also be an array of activities, food and drink stalls as well as a free vegetarian lunch provided to all attendees. Please check the Temple's Facebook and Instagram pages for further details @vakrathundavinayagar.

Lots more in our April issue.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COUNCIL'S KOOLUNGA PLAN – ARE THEY REALLY LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE?

As many local residents are aware, in early 2021, Knox City Council (KCC) proposed a stormwater wetland that would have occupied almost all of the large open space at Koolunga Reserve in Boronia. They had developed their proposal over 2 years without any communication with the local community. When KCC announced their plans, the community were only allowed to provide feedback on the location of paths and seats. At that time, KCC were very clear that they intended to build the wetland, whether community liked it or not.

This angered the local community, who had used the open grassed area over decades for passive recreation, family activities such as football, and dog walking, it being one of the few local open space areas where KCC allow dogs off-lead. Residents rallied against KCC's proposal, with more than 700 people signing petitions against it. The local community formed a new group, the Stewards of Koolunga, in line with Council's policy wanting residents to become "stewards of open space," and successfully lobbied KCC to develop a Future Directions Plan (FDP) for Koolunga – the first time in nearly 30 years our local community could have a proper say on the future of our own neighbourhood open space – Koolunga Reserve.

For the last 18 months, KCC have been slowly developing this FDP, and started by asking the local community what they valued about Koolunga. The community response was very clear: the community want to keep the great mix of open space and bushland and its mixture of use, exactly as it is now, to allow active and passive recreation and protect biodiversity. The community only want minimal changes to Koolunga, such as improved paths, seats,

HEATH SNOOKS INTERVIEW

by Debbie Ball

Heath Snooks was in Brisbane for The National Cricket Inclusion Championships, for people with a disability, when he took my call. His team, the Victorian Vikings had just made history; as no State had ever before won three



Championships in a row. Heath was happy to share that he has an intellectual disability that slows his learning ability. However, this does not hold him back. With sheer drive and determination Heath has achieved this amazing result.

Heath went through a trial process where he missed the final cut on two occasions and was put on

the reserves list. Heath kept in touch with the Coach Billy Grummet and the Team Manager Chris Lane, who gave him feedback on what he needed to work on. Billy Grummet, has been a great supporter of Heath's journey; always encouraging Heath to improve and just hang on and wait for the call up. Chris Lane has also supported Heath with phone calls and messages advising him to keep trying and to remain positive and upbeat.

Heath's personal achievements are being selected and going through the tournament undefeated. The biggest thing of all, is winning the grand final and holding the trophy in his hands; which rendered Heath speechless. Heath's hard work and dedication paid off. Heath feels that he has done his State proud. Well done Heath! What an achievement!



signage and creek crossings that can be used by everyone of every age and do not get flooded. The community thought factors such as flora and fauna observation, history, interpretative signage, pest control and water quality were less important. Council's own report was clear on these themes.

The vast majority of residents' feedback about water quality focused exclusively on the creek (the Forest Road Drain) that runs through Koolunga. Most of this feedback focused exclusively on cleaning up the Forest Road Drain itself, and upstream removal of litter and pollution entering from above Forest Road. This is not KCC's responsibility and should be done and funded by Melbourne Water, as the manager of the Forest Road Drain. Only 3% of consultation responses suggested support for any wetland-type concept in the reserve.

Unfortunately, it seems KCC still want to drive a focus on stormwater management within Koolunga and claim that improving water quality in the Koolunga Reserve was one of the two top themes identified by the community. This seems at odds with Council's own report, which disproves it – "water quality" was the 10th ranked item in community feedback (14% of responses), compared to the 1st ranked item - retaining the "mixture of uses" (39% of responses). KCC now say they are developing a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) to "investigate opportunities to improve water quality within the reserve that minimises impact on the open space and bushland areas." We believe that this non-community based focus is entirely driven by KCC itself. Councils exist to deliver on what their ratepayers and community wants. The community has spoken – in Council's own report.

We have asked KCC to explain their position, and to show on what basis they claim that the priority feedback theme on water quality improvement was identified from their consultation process with residents. We estimate that the small changes the

community actually wanted will probably cost around \$150,000, while the water quality improvement focus that Council seem fixated on, likely including wetland or other water treatments, will cost ratepayers significantly more, with large ongoing costs for maintenance. We estimate that KCC have already spent millions of dollars locally on improving the water quality in Blind Creek, into which the Forest Road Drain flows, including at the Boronia Retarding Basin wetland near Boronia library, the Tim Neville Arboretum wetland and at Dorset Square. In addition there is very large wetland in development at Lewis Park behind Knox Shopping Centre to which Council will contribute over \$3 million.

Why, then, do Council want to keep spending more and more on things at Koolunga the community do not want, when community want them to spend very little, and just focus on doing the real priority items that were identified in Council's consultation report? This is especially so when the money they receive from we ratepayers should be used very, very carefully and efficiently, in this time of rising mortgages, rental crises and household financial stress.

The community around Koolunga believe that, from our observations of the process right now, we are back to where we started exactly two years ago – KCC is pursuing a stormwater improvement outcome against the express wishes of the majority of the community, which were so concisely and accurately documented in Council's own report on the community consultation for the Future Directions Plan for Koolunga.

If you want to stay in touch with broader community views on the Koolunga issue, or even find out more about the Stewards of Koolunga, please visit the website – www.savekoolunga.com

Stewards of Koolunga

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER VOICE

16 Feb Update (Source: voice.niaa.gov.au)

In 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum on whether to update the Constitution to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

The Voice will be an independent, representative advisory body for First Nations people. It will provide a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on matters that affect them.

A set of principles that describe how the Voice will work were agreed to by the First Nations Referendum Working Group.

The Voice is a body that will:

- provide independent advice to Parliament and Government
- be chosen by First Nations people based on the wishes of local communities
- be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- be empowering, community led, inclusive, respectful, culturally informed and gender balanced, and include youth
- be accountable and transparent
- work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures.

The Voice will not have a program delivery function, or a veto power.

The structure and role of the Voice would be decided by Parliament through legislation, with members to be chosen by First Nations people.

The referendum is part of the Government's commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

Read more at: voice.niaa.gov.au



TOBY AND THE MAGIC PENCIL CREATED BY GARY DELLAR. ART BY BEN SULLIVAN. LETTERS BY DARREN CLOSE.

BORONIA CWA BRANCH is at 4 Sundew Avenue, Boronia.



We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

Craft classes are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

You can attend 3 meetings to see if you like us then if you want to join, you can keep attending.

On Wednesday 22 March, we are holding an open day.

There will be free Devonshire Teas available, a display of craft and people to talk to about CWA.

It will be open from 2pm-4pm.

Come along to see us and learn more about the great organisation CWA.



Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St., Boronia

Twilight Bowls (last one on March 31st)

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 Richard on 0414 398 152 or email: twilight@boroniabowls.org

Functions and Club House Hire

Need a venue for your next birthday party, that special anniversary celebration, your company's corporate presentation & training day or any other function? Boronia Bowls Club has everything you require for a successful event.

Spacious decking area & BBQ facilities, large clubroom with state-of-the-art sound & visual projection system, licensed bar and fully equipped catering kitchen. 2 separate large gazebos for a more private feel and of course you can have a game of bowls with all equipment provided and soft rubber bowls for the kids.

There is a large car park and we are fully compliant for disabled accessibility.

Contact Richard on 0414 398 152 to discuss your specific needs and to get a quote for your special event or email: functions@boroniabowls.org.

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| Palandri Insurances Boronia | Glengollan Village Ferntree Gully |



CLUB SUPPORTERS

- Jackson Taylor MP Bayswater
Cr. Jude Dwight Chandler Ward

New bowlers ALWAYS welcome – no fees for the first year – call Mike on 0490 875 331

KNOX

Building a better Boronia



Shaping Boronia's future

Boronia is a growing suburb that requires work to revitalise the shopping precinct, green spaces, pedestrian connectivity and local economy.

Share your thoughts about the draft Boronia Renewal Strategy. Have we got the vision for Boronia right? Are there any new opportunities we need to think about?

We are also seeking your feedback on our proposed Planning Scheme Amendment (C192knox). This recommends changes to the current planning regulations that determine the height of new buildings. These changes are needed to allow for future population growth whilst protecting the views to the Dandenong Ranges.

Survey open Monday 6 March to Thursday 6 April.

Come along to our information sessions to find out more:

Tuesday 14 March, 10am to 1pm
Shop 28, Boronia Mall

Thursday 16 March, 5pm to 7.30pm
Shop 28, Boronia Mall

Wednesday 22 March, 10am to 1pm
Boronia Library

Sunday 26 March, 10.30am to 12noon
Tormore Reserve

Or visit knox.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

PROJECT UPDATES

Wayfinding

Following community feedback in 2022, we are planning locations for pedestrian wayfinding signage around Boronia.

Public art and events

We are planning a series of pop-up community events, and more colourful murals in key locations. We are also investigating future tourism opportunities for Boronia.

Street lighting

More than 90% of Boronia's streetlights replaced with energy efficient LED lights.

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.



Jobs, Skills,
Industry
and Regions

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BORONIA AND THE BASIN CENTENARY

St Paul's Anglican Church Boronia & the Basin is celebrating 100 years since its first church service!



St Pauls 1971

On Sunday afternoon 8 April 1923, a gathering of 15 people from the Aitken, Buchanan,

Green, Rudemacher, Stewart, Sutton, Turner and Zeising families met in the newly built one roomed State School no. 4081, located where McDonalds now stands on Dorset Road. The service was conducted by the Rev'd C L Brereton Glaysher from Ferntree Gully.

In 1923, Boronia was at the early stages of forming a township around the Boronia Railway station, which had opened with great community celebration in 1920. The locality name of



Daffodil Farm

Boronia had been chosen in 1915 by AE Chandler, soon to be Member of the Victorian Legislative Council



Early Congregation members

1919-1935, at the request of the fellow members of Ferntree Gully Shire Council. Previously the locality was described as 'the railway crossing between Bayswater & Lower Ferntree Gully' and no doubt the crossing near A E Chandler's daffodil and boronia farm, established 1895. (Neville Sanders' Brief history of Boronia Victoria, January 1985)

St Paul's invites the local community to step back into 1923, or reflect on the many and varied years since of St Paul's Boronia and of St Mary's the Basin, which subsequently amalgamated with Boronia (now the beautiful Hindu temple). Or just come and have fun and grab a taste of past and present!

Centenary events will take place over the first weekend in April (1st & 2nd) with a range of activities for families and history buffs. Saturday afternoon activities include farm animals, a jumping castle, face painting and crafts, with free Devonshire tea and BBQ refreshments throughout the afternoon. Displays of memorabilia and photos and a time for sharing some personal reflections on the journey of a key community hub in Boronia will also feature. On Sunday the church will celebrate with a church service at 10am, followed by lunch.



Further centenary events will occur later in the year. Enquiries: 9761 1797 Reception Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-2

<https://www.stpaulsboronia.com>

Kathryn Shedden

DOONGALLA – place of peace.

If you haven't visited this historic site in some of our most magnificent forest, so close to the suburbs, you'll see immediately how well named it is.

The mansion, originally named 'Invermay', was built in the late 1880s by well known land speculator, Sir Matthew Davies, who also built 'Highmoor' homestead in Bayswater. Sir Matthew would now be classed as an unscrupulous rogue, but, given that the Companies Act of the time was as full of holes as Swiss cheese, he was no worse than anyone else.

As construction of the mansion required a lot of heavy materials, and there was then no road through the dense forest, a rough timber tramway was built to the site. Some sources claim the tramline ran all the way from Bayswater rail station, but it's possible the tramway only started from the corner of Liverpool Road and Pavitt Lane. Either way, the steep climb with heavy loads was hard work for the poor horses.



After the bushfire

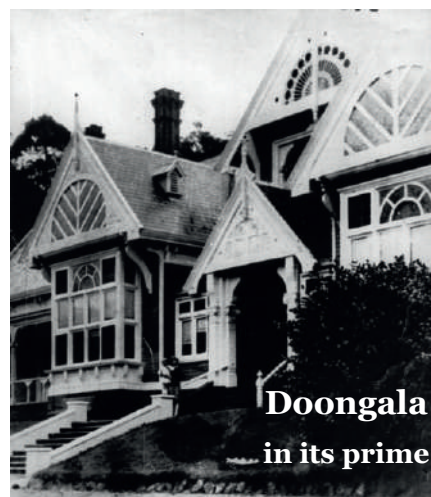
When completed around 1888, the high point of the 1880s Land Boom, Sir Matthew's summer retreat was an imposing creation, with 32 rooms, many chimneys, cellars, servants' quarters, and stables, and a sweeping front entrance, overlooking gardens incorporating exotic plantings in the eucalypt forest.

Unfortunately, Sir Matthew's fortunes went spectacularly bung when the Land Boom collapsed in 1892-93. The Bank of NSW reclaimed the mortgage, installing a caretaker until the property was purchased by Miss Helen Simson in 1908. It was Miss Simson who gave it the Indigenous name, and planted much of the gardens.

Helen Simson passed away in 1912. 'Doongalla' passed to her niece, Miss McKinnon, then to a real estate agent, Mr. T.M. Burke, after whom Burke's Lookout is named.

Doongalla in recent times.

It was Burke's daughter, Mrs. J. Byrne, who was at 'Doongalla' on 19 January 1932, when a bushfire swept in from the forest, destroying everything except the stables and the servants' quarters; Mrs. Byrne and her children survived



Doongalla in its prime

by taking refuge in the swimming pool. But the 'Doongalla' homestead was gone forever.

The state government bought the property for £8,000 in 1950; it was incorporated into the Dandenongs National Park in December 1987. The Dept. of Conservation, Forests & Lands, now Parks Victoria, developed a network of walking paths in the lush forest, many named after local pioneer families.

Visiting Doongalla in the early morning on foot is the best time to appreciate its beauty. You're likely to see much birdlife, kangaroos and wallabies, even the occasional lyrebird. Sit at one of the picnic tables and allow the silence, the rich smells, the ambience of the forest to soak in. 'Place of peace' indeed.

Ray Peace, Knox Historical Society, 9758 6722, khs@relics.com



Front steps in recent times

KIDS
ZONE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAL



observed to emphasise the importance of preserving their population.

There are 33 species of seals in the world, 10 of those are found in Australia of which 2 are listed as vulnerable and 1 as endangered.

International Day of the Seal takes place on March 22. It is a day set aside to raise awareness about seal conservation around the world. In the past these creatures were hunted to near extinction by humans. As a result, this day is



The Australian sea lion, New Zealand fur seal and Australian fur seal breed on the southern Australian coastline and its near shore islands. The remaining species breed on Antarctic pack-ice or sub-Antarctic Australian territories.

There are many places along the coastline of southern Australia where seals can be seen in the wild. Some of the best places where organised viewing of seals takes place include Seal Bay on Kangaroo Island, Montague Island on the New South Wales South Coast, Seal Rocks in Victoria, various places in Tasmania and on accessible islands around Perth and Albany in Western Australia.

Fun facts about seals

- The seals that you see at water amusement parks are usually sea lions, not seals.
- Sea lions come from the same family as seals called Pinnipeds (winged foot), but have large front flippers which help them get around on land. Seals are slow on land but are great swimmers.
- Seals vary in size from the Caspian seal at 50 kg to the Elephant seal at 4000kg
- The seals closest living relatives on land are dogs and bears.
- Seals use clicking or trilling noises to communicate.
- Male seals are called bulls, females are called cows: babies are called pups.
- Some seals migrate hundreds of miles every year in search of food.
- Seals can dive to great depths underwater and stay there for up to two hours.
- A big threat to seals is discarded plastic bags in the ocean that may be mistaken for food and swallowed.
- Other great threats are becoming entangled in fishing lines and nets, and water pollution.
- A seal's whiskers aid in the detection of prey in murky water.



Help the seals to find the fish

Colour the image to create an undersea scene.

KIDS
ZONE

Do active babies make smart kids?

Most of us grew up with childhood songs that our parents sang to us and then we sang them to our children. Songs such as “Five little ducks” and “Heads and shoulders, knees and toes” and “I’m a little teapot,” complete with actions, were all sung multiple times over the early years. People of all nationalities have similar songs. I recently watched my niece’s boy playing peek-a-boo with his French grandparents.

Interestingly, we now know that not only do these action songs keep our children entertained but that movement activities build brain structure. Research has shown that there is a link between cognitive development and movement, meaning children need opportunities to move so they can learn. Rolling, crawling, skipping, and jumping, along with a variety of other movement activities, build the brain during the first years of a child's life.

A baby’s brain grows most rapidly in the first twelve months of life, and this is a critical period for learning. As the brain grows, millions of neural connections are made. The ability of the brain to develop and maintain connections is based on new movement and play experiences of young children. Brain cell connections are lost or pruned away as a result of limited activity or stimulation. “Move it or lose it” is true for both children and adults.

Research has shown that the correct stimulation for babies can influence how well they behave, read and learn when they reach school. In



addition, they have improved confidence, communication and socialisation skills.

Early movement experiences are easy, natural and fun and any parent can do them with their babies. Parents are a child’s first, most important and best teacher. For the most part, the right kinds of movement opportunities involve good old-fashioned one-on-one parent/carer and baby interaction.

For babies it starts with tummy time where the baby develops the muscles to start gaining control over their movements. Exercises such as moving their arms and legs are good for connecting parts of the brain that help with thinking, understanding, learning and remembering. Most importantly, babies love them!

Activities that gently and safely rock, roll, tumble, bounce, swing and spin your baby help to develop balance. Bouncing your baby on your knee or leg is an age-old favourite with parents. Babies who have been given regular balance

stimulation in the early months of life display improved coordination, posture, balance, control of movement and the ability to learn new activities quickly and efficiently.

Music, dance, songs and rhymes: Music and rhythm develops a baby’s listening, speech and language skills, providing building blocks for the future development of reading and writing. Rhythm is also vital for smooth coordinated movement essential for sports and mathematics.

So, it seems that what children need for healthy development has not changed. It’s just that we now know there are very good reasons to continue with all the things we have done for generations.



St. Patrick's day: 17 March

Australians come together on St Patrick’s Day to celebrate Irish culture as about 30 percent of Australians are believed to have some Irish ancestry. On St Patrick’s Day many people dress in green or wear the Irish shamrock.



It can be fun to make green food or drinks to celebrate. These leprechaun hats are an easy fun dessert to make. They are made with store-bought cookies and marshmallows so they are easy to put together. You just have to do some chocolate dipping, assembling and decorating.

Make your own Leprechaun hats

Recipe

12 Marshmallows

12 plain Cookies

1 Cup White Chocolate buttons

Green food colouring

Black Fondant or liquorice straps

Gold or yellow cake decorations

A small fork and skewer for dipping

A cooling rack or wax paper



Method

Melt the chocolate buttons in the microwave for 30 seconds at a time.

Stir until melted.

Add green food colouring and mix well.

Dip your cookies into the chocolate and leave to set.

Next dip the marshmallows or spoon the melted chocolate over them.

Once your marshmallow is covered with chocolate gently press it into the center of the set cookie.

Let them cool completely until the coating is set.

Now it’s time to put the finishing touches on!

Pinch off a piece of fondant and roll it into shape for the hat belt. Or use a liquorice strap if you don’t have fondant.

Use a yellow cake decoration for the belt buckle and add a piece of black fondant or liquorice for the centre.

FIVE INSPIRING LOCALS RECOGNISED IN THE KNOX CITY 26 JANUARY AWARDS

Knox Mayor, Councillor Marcia Timmers-Leitch said the awards honoured amazing, everyday people who had gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in Knox.

“We pay tribute to our award recipients and celebrate their outstanding contributions and achievements,” she said.

The 2023 Knox Awards winners are:

- Citizen of the Year: Ricky Baldwin

Ricky is the driving force behind the Koorie Academy for Basketball

- Senior Citizen of the Year: Noel Addicoat

Noel has been volunteering with Meals on Wheels for 19 years

- Volunteer of the Year: John Draffin

John is an active volunteer with the TAC L2P Program in a learner driver mentor program

- Sustainability Leadership Award: Rowan Jennion

Rowan is a volunteer with the Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve, where he is the current President.

The award recipients were recognised for the generosity, passion, dedication and significant contribution they have made to the local community.

This year’s awards were held virtually, with videos of the award recipients shared through Knox’s social media channels. Visit knox.vic.gov.au and click on the “Citizenship and awards link” to view the YouTube presentations.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 SPORT & LEISURE AWARDS NOW OPEN

Nominations are now open for the 2023 Knox Sport and Leisure Awards!

The awards, held on Wednesday 14 June at the Knox Civic Centre, are a fantastic opportunity to recognise the hardworking volunteers within your local clubs.

Additionally, it’s a chance to highlight and reward the work your club(s) are doing within the community, with two club-based awards also up for grabs.

Nominations are open in the following categories:

- Club of the Year
- Best Club Initiated Program
- Club Person of the Year - Adult and Junior
- Women in Sport Leadership
- Years of Service

Nominations will be open until 27 March.

For more information and to nominate, visit Knox Sport & Leisure Awards or contact Dayna Nicholas on dayna.nicholas@knox.vic.gov.au

EMBRACING EQUITY

The International Women’s Day (8 March 2023) theme for 2023 is “Embrace Equity,” highlighting that equity isn’t a nice to have, but a must have. (visit: internationalwomensday.com)



Everyone deserves equal pay, equal retirement savings, and to afford a place to live. But too many people are still unfairly limited in opportunities, due to gender.

This year, Knox welcomes two renowned guest speakers – Author Lisa Ireland and Journalist and Feminist, Jane Gilmore, to our free International Women’s Day event, to provide insight and advice on tackling financial gender inequities.

Wednesday 8 March 2023, 10:00am – 11:00am

Room 4, Knox Civic Centre

For more information and to register, visit knox.vic.gov.au

or email: rhiannon.bennett@knox.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL TO PROVIDE MORE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

In a Victorian first, Knox City Council has entered an agreement with Australian company JOLT to install more Electric Vehicle (EV) fast charging stations across the municipality.

Knox Mayor, Councillor Marcia Timmers-Leitch said the agreement to provide up to seven public fast chargers in select shopping centres in Knox would benefit local businesses and the environment.

“We hope that more fast charging stations in Knox will attract new visitors to our local shopping centres and help people make the transition to electric cars,” she said.

“On-road transport accounts for 13% of emissions in Knox. More charging stations will support and encourage people to choose zero-emissions transport and help our community achieve net zero-emissions by 2040 as set out in our Climate Response Plan.

The first seven kilowatt hours – about 15-20 minutes’ charging time depending on vehicle model – will be free each day. This allows for 40-50 kilometres of driving range. If people want to charge for longer, it will cost about 46 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The new chargers, installed at no cost to Council, are expected to be rolled out from early 2023. The first JOLT EV charging station will be located on Station Street, Ferntree Gully (in the car park behind the bus stops). This is the company’s first entry into the Victorian market. More information about other locations of the EV charging stations will be available soon.

Learn more about Knox Climate Response Plan initiatives at knox.vic.gov.au/netzero.

DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA APPEALS KNOXFIELD DECISION

Development Victoria (DV) is lodging an appeal against Council’s refusal to grant two planning permits for its proposed Knoxfield development.

In December, Council refused two planning permit applications for DV’s proposed 105-lot residential subdivision and construction of wetlands at the corner of Burwood Highway and Scoresby Road (621 Burwood Highway). Its proposal included the removal of a dam, often referred to as Lake Knox, after the new wetlands were established.

Council received more than 1170 objections in total across both applications to DV’s proposals.

DV will also appeal to VCAT for another application currently with Council to build an access road off Burwood Highway that would support construction access.

Objectors will be notified by DV, outlining what they need to do to become a party to the VCAT appeals.



Council’s grounds for refusal included the impact of the proposals on a site of biological significance, including impacts on the Blue-billed Duck (a vulnerable species) and potential impact on the Dwarf Galaxias fish (an endangered species).



Other grounds included the proposed extensive removal of native vegetation, failing to provide an appropriate or active interface to Scoresby Road and the extent of the residential subdivision encroaching into the designated Mixed Use area of the Comprehensive Development Plan.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS BAN

The Victorian Government has officially commenced the regulation of the ban on the sale or supply of single-use plastic items as part of its recycling reform policy.

So, you should no longer see the following plastic versions of the following items in your local shops and restaurants:



Drinking straws: Cutlery: Plates: Drink stirrers: Cotton bud sticks: Expanded polystyrene food service items: Expanded polystyrene drink containers.

The ban applies to conventional, degradable and compostable plastics.

The single-use plastic items ban applies to all retailers, including:

Restaurants: Cafes and food outlets: Convenience stores: Not for profit organisations: Sports clubs: Schools.

The ban is a result of environment protection laws (legislation.vic.gov.au) which protect Victoria’s environment and wildlife from plastic pollution.

Please note, people/institutions who need single-use plastic drinking straws or cutlery due to disability or medical or safety requirements needs, can still purchase and use these items.

For more information, please visit epa.vic.gov.au

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM KNOX SHOW THEIR PRIDE

On Sunday 5 February, over 50 people from Knox young LGBTIQ+ groups and Knox City Council staff joined the annual Midsumma Pride March in St Kilda.

Knox Mayor, Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch attended the March, along with Deputy Mayor, Cr Jude Dwight.

Cr Timmers-Leitch said she was honoured to march with the young people of Knox and the Knox Youth Services and Council staff.

“As Mayor, I believe that creating safe and inclusive places for all our people is key to empowering our community to thrive. The atmosphere at Pride was vibrant and joyous. I was delighted to see so many other local councils and service organisations out in force and standing proud.”

Knox City Council has 5 groups for LGBTIQ+ young people in Knox between the ages of 11 and 25 years, as well as a group for parents and carers of LGBTIQ+ children and young people. Council is also undertaking a series of initiatives to ensure our services and culture are inclusive.

“I am proud of the work that Council and our youth team are doing to support our young people, particularly those that identify as LGBTIQ+ and their families,” Cr Timmers-Leitch said.

More information is available for LGBTIQ+ people and their families. Find out more at knox.vic.gov.au.

YOUNG WRITERS INITIATIVE

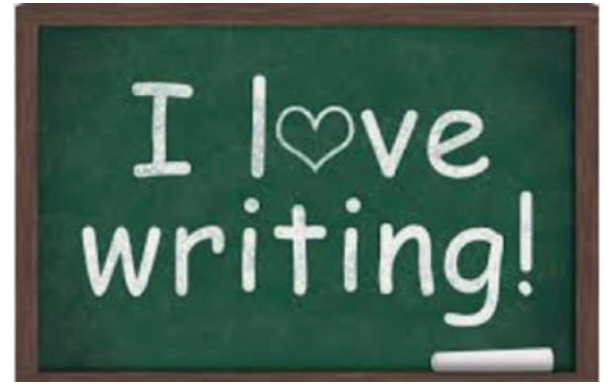
This year BBCN is introducing a Young Writers Initiative. We want to motivate young people to actively participate in sharing their ideas in a public forum and highlight their ideas in our community. BBCN will publish selected articles submitted by primary and secondary school learners in each edition this year (and possibly in future years too). At the end of this year BBCN will award prizes for both the student and their school in each primary and secondary school categories.

To get your creative thinking started, you may consider; “Why do people write?”

Writing can be for many reasons and for many different people and can take many forms. We write:

- For personal reflection and learning (e.g., diaries and student assignments),
- To influence others with your perspectives (e.g., blogs and social media posts, published articles),
- To connect with (or argue against) others and share insights (e.g., community articles, collaborative teams and social groups),
- To build reputation, and possibly profit (journal articles, commercial blogs, sales advertising).

Articles we write can be for ourselves (diaries), for a specific group of people (members of a club), for a specific profession (scientists, accountants, etcetera) or more general readership (newspapers). Of course, all writing comes with a particular perspective and purpose. Mark Twain was accredited with saying “If you don’t read the newspaper, you’re uninformed. If you do read the newspaper, you’re misinformed.” Twain’s point is everything that is written has a “voice.” This



voice can reflect the opinion of just the author, or the collective perspectives of many. When we write well, we present our voice in a clearly understood flowing manner, to influence our desired readership to respond in the way we want them to.

There are four key levels of impact of writing (or speaking) to influence. I refer to as the Four A’s: Awareness, Attitude, Ability and Action.

Awareness (A1) is simply as it states, to highlight something to someone who may not already know this. Attitude (A2) elevates the level of understanding as its intent is to shift others’ perspectives on your topic. This is often from denial or resistance, towards engagement with the concept (to stimulate motivation to make a change). Once people become aware of something, and engage in supporting it, they may think that they do not have the ability (A3) to act on it with confidence or competence. This then requires some investment in learning and capability development, before appropriate actions (A4) can be effectively taken.

We will share the guidelines of the BBCN Writers Initiative with all schools in the Boronia and The Basin to encourage your writing submissions.

We look forward to your submissions and encourage you to write in whatever form you enjoy. Thank you!

Look Sharp

See Well



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SEA TO CITY – BUSKER'S DOG

Music Release Review - Danny Nolan



Sea to City is a recent (late November 2022) release. A project written, recorded, produced and predominantly played by the Basin local Ian Thomas

under the nom-de-plume of Busker's Dog. It has taken five years to create and record the collection of 14 songs, with Ian adding: "Some songs I've had longer from other lost projects, and some were written to be a part of the flow. I wanted to make a full album in whatever time I could find around work and other commitments. The time saved from travel during COVID made it possible to finally prepare the songs for mixing."

Besides being a talented musician, Ian is a well-known artist and is highly respected within the comic book community. It's with this talent that Ian approached the project as a complete piece of audio/visual art,



including painting the cover on canvas, with various elements matching the lyrics of the songs. The sixteen-page booklet that accompanies the CD is a wonderful collection of works by Ian that ties the concept of the album together.

Though Ian has masterminded the project he has enlisted the help of many friends, family, and colleagues to complete the project, including vocals by his two daughters Jennifer and Laura, long-term friends and collaborators Darren Johnson and regular at the Basin Music Festival Stuart Cardell. Featured singers also include ex-Expression frontman Tom Haran and UK Indie artist Peter Lacey.

Ian has gone to great lengths to achieve the sound he wanted for this album and thanks to modern technology has managed to have the collection of songs mixed not only at home but as far as the USA and Sweden. To help promote and finance the physical product, Ian ran a Kickstarter campaign that ran 30% over its target due to popular demand.

Ian, who cites his influences as Alan Parsons, Mike Oldfield, and prog rock in general has managed to create a swag of original songs with a fresh adult-orientated sound. Stand-out tracks include the catchy Floating and The Great

THE BASIN MUSIC FESTIVAL - 24 TO 26 MARCH

A diverse line-up this year



The Basin Music Festival is back again after a great event last November, now in its regular time slot of mid-late March. This annual non-profit community-based music festival is run entirely by volunteers with support from local traders and sponsors, including major

sponsor Knox City Council. It provides a cultural and social focus for musicians and community members from The Basin and surrounding neighbourhoods in Melbourne's eastern suburbs as well as wider regions of Melbourne metro and Victoria. The festival welcomes and promotes



established and emerging talent to present a wide range of musical styles, from Celtic to classical, folk to funk, reggae to rock, country to punk.

With about 125 acts performing over the weekend, there is something for everyone. The festival is fortunate to again welcome young up-and-coming indie rock band Lipstereo, which is taking Melbourne by storm. Guitarist Jenna Campbell will bring her talents back to the outdoor stage on Friday night. Rockin' country artists Eddie Rawk Band, who recently released

Unknown, with the instrumental Beyond Words a short but satisfying gem. The longest track, 'The Mahogany Ship' makes you want to hit the repeat button with its shared vocals by Ian and his daughter Laura, with haunting oboe passages drifting in and out, that culminate into some beautifully layered vocals with an almost Beach Boy vibe. The song conveys beautifully in words and musical arrangement the story of the mysterious Mahogany Ship that has become a legend that was sighted near Warrnambool in the 19th Century and though heavily documented no one can seem to find it today.

If you want to support local talent, or just listen to a masterfully created album of great songs you can find Sea to City by Busker's Dog, both to purchase as CD or digitally at:

www.buskersdog.bandcamp.com and you can listen to one of the tracks.



Fred Hesse & Friends

a new recording, will close the festival twice – on the main stage in the park on Sunday evening, and then at the Oak Tree Tavern until late. These are just a few of an impressive line-up of talent this year. The festival is a great opportunity for families and friends to meet up and have a day of music and fun in the park, with a community market featuring local and hand-made goods, and excellent food and drink from the local shops. The program in the park will feature almost non-stop music on two stages, starting from 6 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, which is traditionally "family day". Musicians and audiences alike love the festival's great community vibe. Go online to tbmf.au for information, including schedule and artist details.



Eddie Rawk

The Basin Music Festival Association

MULLUM MULLUM INDIGENOUS GATHERING PLACE NOW ALSO OPERATING IN KNOX

Meeting in the HV Jones Community Room in Ferntree Gully, this marks the first time a Community Controlled Aboriginal Organisation has been located in Knox.

"MMIGP will be providing cultural, wellbeing and community support programs for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community within Knox, which represents the second largest indigenous population in South East Victoria," Knox Mayor, Councillor Marcia Timmers-Leitch said.

MMIGP services are committed to advancing health, wellbeing and community cultural connectedness, which improve and support quality of life and outcomes for First Nations peoples. Their service also provides essential supports such as food relief, art and craft teaching practices and a social enterprise.

Jackson Taylor, State MP for Bayswater

By the time you're reading this it'll almost be time for all Victorian households to access another round of the \$250 Power Saving Bonus. It's fair to say, it's back by popular demand and something we promised we'd deliver if re-elected. There'll be a range of ways you can apply, but the easiest will again be by going to compare.energy.vic.gov.au and of course I'll get updates out on digital and other platforms to ensure as many locals as possible access it to put money back in your pocket.

In some big news for the East, major works are kicking back up on the State Government's North East Link for 2023 – marking the start of a massive year for Victoria's largest ever road project. The first pieces of the enormous tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are now being built, ready to arrive later this year. This year will also see the completion of Bulleen Park and Ride, contracts awarded for the Ring Road upgrade and the first section of the Eastern Freeway overhaul, and a tender process for the remaining Eastern Freeway upgrades – which will add 45 kilometres of new lanes, saving drivers 11 minutes between Springvale Road and Hoddle Street.

And as of 1 February, we've now banned the sale and supply of single-use plastics. Our ban on problematic plastics will apply to single-use plastic drinking straws cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, cotton bud sticks and expanded polystyrene food and drink containers. These items are often only used for a few minutes, yet generate a significant amount of waste – and can be easily avoided or replaced with reusable alternatives. This builds on the Andrews Labor Government's landmark \$515 million investment to transform our waste and recycling system and divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030. This is all about creating a cleaner and healthier environment for all Victorians.

Locally, I'm excited to tell you that a further 28 world-class Country Fire Authority (CFA) heavy tankers will roll out to brigades across Victoria including The Basin CFA brigade. And I'm waiting for details to be finalised on the new CFA station for The Basin. I'll keep you in the loop as that comes to hand.

In February we saw service works occurring at the Alchester Village roundabout which will see a new signalised intersection replace the roundabout, with additional lanes and safer crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. Major construction is due to start later this year and will be complete by early to mid-next year.

In some other ways we are helping to put money back in your pocket. I'd encourage locals to check out the Victorian Government's Savings Finder online tool, if you go to service.vic.gov.au/services/savings-finder/ there is a wide range of rebates, discounts or even unclaimed money you may be eligible for.

For people looking to enter home ownership we also have the Victorian Homebuyer Fund which is a shared equity scheme, making it easier to get into the market. If you have a 5% deposit, the Vic Gov could contribute up to 25% of the purchase price in exchange for an equivalent share in the

property. This will save you money by reducing your mortgage and removing the need for LMI. For more info you can call 7020 1549.

And finally, a big shout-out to all the new student leaders across our local schools, including new captains Mitchell, Charlotte, Avril and Jackson from Boronia Heights (pictured).



NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY SATURDAY 18 MARCH



Close the Gap Day Report

Grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to be self-determining, the Close the Gap Campaign's 2023 Report will be launched on March 16 2023.

“Strong Culture, Strong Youth: Our Legacy, Our Future” highlighting the vital role of culture in achieving positive long-term health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

With a particular focus on organisations and individuals working in communities to enrich the lives of First Nations children and youth across the nation, the work of our mob is showcased in eight case studies spanning the creative arts, mentoring, justice initiatives, climate activism, LGBTQ+SB rights advocacy, language innovations, suicide prevention, and the structural reform of mental health services.

Our Report demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing, positively address the cultural determinants of health, thereby shaping the trajectory of health and life outcomes for future generations.

It also draws attention to the essential role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led decision-making and self-determination in shaping a vision of health and well-being, built upon a strong cultural foundation.

It will be available on the website March 16 (visit: closethegap.org.au)

Mitchell Wilkins

First Indigenous School Captain for Boronia Heights PS

I caught up with Mitchell a few days after he received his school captain's badge. He is excited to start his new role as a school leader and was happy to talk about the programs he is involved with in and out of school.



Mitchell is proud of his Indigenous heritage and has been doing the Acknowledgement of Country at Boronia Heights primary school assemblies since the middle of last year. He shared with me some pictures of famous Indigenous people and how their achievements have inspired him.

He has been participating in the 'Journey Tracks Cultural Health and Wellbeing Program' for Indigenous young people. It is delivered at EACH in partnership with schools Koorie Engagement Support Officers, local councils, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations.

During the workshops, he has learnt about the importance of connection to culture and identity, forming positive connections with other Indigenous youth and being an advocate for his community. There are Elders and Indigenous guest speakers and Indigenous performers paying tribute to their culture. Currently he is part of a group of students working with the Indigenous Hip hop and Rap artist Philly to create a song together.

In 2022, Mitchell was selected to be part of the BEING YOUR BEST YOU, a youth leadership program run by local councils, Eastern Metropolitan



Partnerships and youth workers. It is about raising awareness about mental health for kids. These youth leaders came together in December last year to design questions to ask their peers about how young people thrive. They decided to find out how kids' mental health compares before and after Covid. As part of this program Mitchell has had training in group facilitation, and in the next few months will be running a group session himself with the help of two of the trainers. The program is for all schools and community groups in Maroondah, Knox and Yarra ranges.

Mitchell has a happy, easy-going attitude to life and a winning smile which should see him do well in future.



Dating and romance scams often take place through online dating websites, but scammers may also use social media or email to make contact. They have even been known to telephone their victims as a first introduction. These scams are also known as 'catfishing'.

Scammers typically create fake online profiles designed to lure you in. They may use a fictional name, or falsely take on the identities of real, trusted people such as military personnel, aid workers or professionals working abroad.

Dating and romance scammers will express strong emotions for you in a relatively short period of time, and will suggest you move the relationship away from the website to a more private channel, such as phone, email or instant messaging. They often claim to be from Australia or another western country, but travelling or working overseas.

Scammers will go to great lengths to gain your interest and trust, such as showering you with loving words, sharing 'personal information' and even sending you gifts. They may take months to build what may feel like the romance of a

DATING AND ROMANCE SCAMS

Scams particularly affect older adults.
2022 reported losses: \$40,675,825

lifetime and may even pretend to book flights to visit you, but never actually come.

Once they have gained your trust and your defences are down, they will ask you (either subtly or directly) for money, gifts or your banking/credit card details. They may also ask you to send pictures or videos of yourself, possibly of an intimate nature.

Often the scammer will pretend to need the money for some sort of personal emergency. For example, they may claim to have a severely ill family member who requires immediate medical attention such as an expensive operation, or they may claim financial hardship due to an unfortunate run of bad luck such as a failed business or mugging in the street. The scammer may also claim they want to travel to visit you, but cannot afford it unless you are able to lend them money to cover flights or other travel expenses.

Sometimes the scammer will send you valuable

items such as laptop computers and mobile phones, and ask you to resend them somewhere. They will invent some reason why they need you to send the goods but this is just a way for them to cover up their criminal activity. Alternatively they may ask you to buy the goods yourself and send them somewhere. You might even be asked to accept money into your bank account and then transfer it to someone else.

Warning - the above scenarios are very likely to be forms of money laundering which is a criminal offence. Never agree to transfer money for someone else.



TOP TIPS FOR AVOIDING SCAMS

Stop – take your time before giving money or personal information.

Think – ask yourself if the message or call could be fake?

Protect – act quickly if something feels wrong. Contact your bank and report scams to [scamwatch.gov.au](https://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

HOW IMPORTANT IS UPDATING YOUR SOFTWARE?



Actually, very. From security improvements to new features, there are several reasons to stay on top of your update notifications.

1. New features

App updates often contain access to new features, many of which are in response to user feedback.

2. Bug fixes

Apps often get bugs that interfere with functionality causing crashes and other glitches.

3. Improved security

When apps aren't up to date, you are at greater risk of hackers accessing your personal information.

4. Improved performance

App updates frequently include performance improvements.

5. Compatibility

Some applications and devices only work with recent versions of system software.

Update your smartphone software to use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

At Bendigo Bank, we are enhancing e-banking security by replacing traditional security tokens with multi-factor authentication (MFA) technology.

In the future, we'll require all customers to use

MFA to ensure the highest level of security enabled. You'll need to download the latest version of the Bendigo Bank app, or update your existing version.

We'll provide you with more information on how you can upgrade to the new e-banking security in coming months.

We highly recommend that you turn on automatic updates. See below on how to manually update your apps across iOS and android phones.

How to manually update apps on your iPhone or iPad:

1) Open the App Store; 2) Tap your profile icon at the top of the screen; 3) Scroll to see pending updates and release notes; 4) Tap Update next to an app to update only that app or tap Update All.

How to update an Android app:

1) Open the Google Play Store app; 2) At the top right, tap the profile icon; 3) Tap Manage apps & device. Apps with an update available are labelled "Update available."; 4) Tap Update.

How to stay secure online:

1) Always set a passcode on your mobile device.
2) Notify your bank immediately if your device is lost or stolen, or you suspect your passcode has been compromised.
3) Delete spam emails and do not open SMS or

email attachments or click on links in SMS or emails from strangers.

4) Never leave your mobile device unattended.

5) Never allow another person to use your device to make purchases or payments.

6) Do not use our banking app with a device other than a compatible Apple iPhone or Android device.

7) Do not use the app or log in to internet banking with your mobile device or web browser if your device has had the manufacturers software restrictions removed (commonly referred to as jailbroken).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

You should never provide your one-time passcode to anyone, whether online, in person, or over the phone (even if you know them). And always remember:

1) Bendigo Bank will never ask for your personal information, such as your PIN or your password.

2) Bendigo Bank will never ask you to click on a link in an SMS text message.

3) Bendigo Bank will never ask you to log into e-banking from an email or SMS.

SINGING FOR SAUSAGES

A Strummer's Story by Rob Fairbairn

I once wrote a song which was recorded by Slim Dusty. It was called "G'day G'day"; it won several songwriting awards and helped me find work in country music.

When you are a recognised songwriter, work may come your way in the form of commissions. I knew a television producer, for example, who asked me to write and record the theme song for a travel show. Another time, a fellow singer-songwriter approached me to write for an album he was commissioned to produce, a collection of songs celebrating an annual hot air balloon festival. But the strangest request of all came from my local butcher.

Only a ten-minute walk from our place is Boronia Village, my nearest shopping centre. It has seen many changes over the years. Gone are the Venture Store, the Ladies Gym and Franklins Discount Supermarket. Dan Murphy's now fills the vast space which was once Safeways, what is now a cafe was once a newsagent and 8/163 Boronia Rd, now occupied by Not Quite Right once housed a butcher's shop which in 1995 went by the colourful name of "Siggy's Beef Shed."

Ray Siegersma was an old-school butcher who'd begun his career when specialty butcher shops were commonplace. At one time there were four in Boronia alone. When a number of competing butcher shops were in the same shopping strip, it was normal for the owners to stand out front and spruik, particularly on Saturday mornings when most folk did their week's shopping and there was stock to shift before the weekend break. And that's where I got to know Ray, at the front of his shop, shouting out the price of sausages and chops. He spied me walking past and called me over. "You write songs don't you?" he enquired, leaning over from atop his soapbox. "I've got an idea, let's have a coffee, soon."

A few days later over a couple of cappuccinos he outlined his plans. "I'm gonna make some big changes to the shop. There's gonna be a bullnose verandah out the front, I'm gonna give all the products different names and I'm gonna call the shop "Siggy's Beef Shed". I've even got a slogan "Country Fresh is Best". And I'd like country music playing in the background, do you reckon you could write and record some songs for me?" "Sounds interesting," I replied, "I'll get back to you."

I am always up for a challenge. Writing a song can be a mysterious process but when you have a concept and an idea of the possible styles in which to write, the job can be much easier. The writing, though, was only one part of the project. There was the recording to consider. I would need to find a studio, an engineer and other musicians to help me. Fortunately, I knew two fine players, both multi-instrumentalists, in Ian and Lionel who were well versed in country, folk

and bluegrass. And as luck would have it, Lionel also knew of a studio in Bayswater. Armed with this information I was able to get back to Ray with a proposal. He was happy to pay for studio time but, "Would it be alright if I paid you in meat, rather than money?" Well, I'd been paid in wine more than once but in meat? This was a new kind of currency. "I'll talk to the lads, Ray," I replied. It has been my good fortune to have shared stages with musicians who were not just great players but easy to work with and both enthusiastically accepted the gig. Luckily, Ian, who was a vegetarian, had a wife who wasn't.



Over the next few weeks I wrote a handful of songs, sourced a number of others then we went into the studio to record. I have a cassette copy of the results in front of me now, it's dated August 1995, TLC Studios. Of the 17 tracks, 6 are originals, 5 are covers, the rest were lifted off the original recordings. Ray was true to his word, he paid for the studio, we played outside his shop for the grand reopening and for the next few months we all enjoyed 'free' meat.

It's been years since Siggy's Beef Shed existed. One day it was there, the next it was gone and so was Ray. The bullnose verandah fell into disrepair and was eventually pulled down. Although Siggy's Beef Shed, "the album" was a one off it wasn't a total waste of time. "Down on The Farm," one of the songs I wrote for it, found new life as a children's song and in 1997 it was published in a primary school arts resource which is still available to this day. And all because of a butcher.

"WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL"

Ducks and Swans waddle early morn,
They all stroll along the lane.
Welcome their friends on the way.
They all greet, "Have a nice day!"

Chat and smile and jump and fly.
Flutter the wings like birds in the sky.
Hold their books and pens in bags.
See them schooling bathing sun rays.

Some with parents, some with friends,
They go together hold their hands.
Cheers and smiles go a long way...
Kids to the school say, "A wonderful day."

Grannies at the doors say, "What a nice day."
Parents enjoy watching their funniest way.
"WELCOME TO SCHOOL" all the kids say,
They thank God for giving a Happy day!

Dayangani Silva

TROVE AND ITS FUNDING

What is Trove?

Launched more than a decade ago, Trove is the place to explore all things Australian.

It is a single point of entry to a treasure trove of artefacts, curiosities and stories from Australia's cultural, community and research institutions.

On Trove you can find more than 6 billion digital items on any topic.

The content comes not just from the National Library's collections, but from almost 1,000 contributing organisations around the country, including libraries, museums, galleries, the media, government and community organisations and more. Many of these organisations also provide funding to Trove, subsidising more than 40% of its current operating costs.

Visit the National Library of Australia website (nla.gov.au) to find heaps more information.

TROVE FUNDING IS UNDER THREAT

From the National Library of Australia

"A Future for Trove"

The Library has sufficient resources to maintain Trove until June 2023. The future of Trove beyond July 2023 will be dependent upon available funds. To achieve the full strategic vision will require substantial investment. More modest investment sustained over a longer term would enable achievement of the strategy at a measured pace. In a limited funding environment, Trove may reduce to a service focused on the National Library of Australia's collections. Without any additional funds, the Library will need to cease offering the Trove service entirely."

(nla.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/corporate-strategies/trove-strategy)

FUNDING PETITION

For many people – and not just academic researchers – Trove is now part of their daily lives. The service boasts more than 22 million visits per year: around 63,000 a day on average. Trove is one of only two Australian government websites in Australia's top 15 global internet domains – the other is the ABC.

change.org has a petition addressing the Trove funding situation. To find out more about this petition, enter "change.org trove" in your search engine.



Echidna, spotted in Underwood Rd near underpass by one of our Walkers



EAST CITY SOUND CHORUS

– great for your well-being **

East City Sound is a dynamic chorus (choir) of women singing four part “a cappella” harmony in barbershop style. We perform regularly throughout the community for a wide variety of audiences, led by our talented director, Robyn Westwood.



Colourful costumes and lively choreography contribute to a musical and

visual entertainment of the highest quality to suit any occasion. Our repertoire includes traditional ballads, classic songs, popular show tunes, Australian songs and mainstream music.

We rehearse in Boronia with members from all over the eastern suburbs.

You are invited to our “Open Rehearsal Night” - come and see what we’re all about.

Thursday 30 March at 8pm at Boronia West Primary School, Tormore Road.

You can just turn up, or even better, register your attendance through the Contact link on our website: www.eastcitysound.org.au

** A Vic Health study found that singing in groups is one of the most popular arts activities in Victoria. There is growing evidence that it facilitates the development of social capital which positively impacts on physical and psychological well-being at individual, relational and community levels. Benefits for individual mental health that are associated with singing in groups include increased levels of social connection, increased sense of belonging, physical and emotional benefits, and reduced personal stress.

[Read the report at vichealth.vic.gov.au, search for ‘Group Singing’]



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 at 10.30 am on Tuesday 28 March, 2023, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch in the bistro for those who may wish to stay on. If you are looking to enhance your social life, come along and join us.

Apart from our normal monthly activities, members will be attending the Yarra Glen Harness Racing during March, including lunch and a race book. Not sure if any winners will be backed, but a wonderful time is always had at this event.



This Club caters to all in this community. So, if you find the time and want to do “something else,” give Carol a call. Carol is our Membership Secretary and ready to give more details about the many activities listed in our Newsletter. Carol

will also send to you a copy of the current newsletter. For only \$25 pp annually, you can take part in as many activities that suit you, but before that, we invite you to give us a try up to 3 times, and only then, will we ask you to join us. Most activities are free, but when entry fees, or public transport or car-pooling, we can’t pay for this. Car-pooling is very handy for those who don’t drive, and there is a small donation to the driver.

Now, what can I offer you? Men’s and Ladies Coffee Mornings, Lunch somewhere local, Dinner somewhere else, social games, Garden visits, Cinema with a meal afterwards. And each of these are monthly. But wait, there is more! Social Outings, and this month, we’re visiting the Holden Museum in Trafalgar! Nostalgia here Holdens of all shapes, colours, years. Bring your own lunch or purchase in Yarragon. Sounds like a great day, and this Museum has an entry fee of \$10 pp.

Other activities include Armchair Travel, Music Appreciation, Craft, Painting, Water Aerobics, Badminton, Cards i.e. Bolivia, Canasta, and “500”. Live Theatre: Lyn is organising tickets for Moulin Rouge and Rocky Horror Show; we also have our local Amateur Theatre Group the 1812 in Upper Ferntree Gully, and The Basin Amateur Theatre; most of the productions here are great. This month, Thursday 16 March is our the second “Picnic in the Park.” There was a good turnup in February, you might like to join us this time. We meet at the Arboretum in Francis Crescent around 5pm, with our dinner, drinks and a chair, sitting together, socialising, catching up, some might like a BBQ. The weather is usually kind to us. We enjoy the Picnic every year in February and March, so nice.

All activities are listed in our quarterly newsletter. All new ideas are welcome. For more information about meetings, receiving a newsletter, activities, how to join, etc. contact Carol, 0419 870 639

Coming up during April is a visit to Overnewton Castle in Keilor. Overnewton Castle is a Scottish baronial style homestead built-in 1849 and situated in Keilor Village, just 20 min drive from Melbourne CBD. Visitors can spend the day exploring 4 acres of immaculate gardens, after taking a guided tour to learn about the history of the castle and its first pastoral landowners in Victoria.

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.



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COME AND JOIN US for WORSHIP at 10am every Sunday, or for ANY of our ACTIVITIES.... YOU WILL BE MADE MOST WELCOME!

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EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon. EVERYONE can be assured of non-judgmental and friendly support.

OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET...

Saturday, 1 April from 10am – 2pm. All stalls will be indoors or under-cover. No need to be concerned about the weather! To book a stall or make enquiries contact irenesmith2@bigpond.com

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

each Friday from 9.20am during school terms.

The 45 minute session is followed by a BYO morning tea when the carers get the opportunity to get to know each other. Leaders of this program are always on hand to offer support and encouragement. Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

PLEASE NOTE...

All our appointed leaders, employees and volunteers have completed the required Safe Church Training and have current Working With Children Checks.

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.

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



Boronia View Club will meet on Friday 17 March at 11.30 am at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch at a cost of \$30 as it is our birthday and there will be a few extra goodies. As it is also St. Patrick's Day feel free to come dressed in green if you wish. The usual book stall,

trading table and raffle will be available and all monies raised go to the Learning For Life program through The Smith Family.

So ladies of all ages and backgrounds come along and join us for an afternoon of "merriment and mayhem."

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602

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