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



Fair go...!

One of the prime tenets of our society is the concept of "a fair go". It underpins our social conscience and the vast network of volunteers who keep our community afloat and engaged. Some supporters belong to officially recognised organisations like preschools, sport clubs, Rotary, Fire Brigade, Scouts, Environment Society and environment groups and many, many more. Others belong to special interest groups, such as The Basin Music Festival, The Ferntree Gully Art Society, The Basin Theatre Group and Boronia & The Basin Community News.

That barely scratches the surface of our wide network of unpaid community group volunteers. There are many more who provide individual support to help neighbours, friends and colleagues when a need is perceived. This could be as simple as bringing in their emptied rubbish bins or giving them a needed lift, through to mowing their lawn or delivering, splitting and stacking a winter load of fire wood. Sometimes it's just being there when needed, delivering meals, or doing the shopping.

With this myriad of volunteer organisations and individuals we have a strong, cohesive community in which most of us can thrive through the generations, but not quite a fair go for all.

I remember the mid 1980s when we first moved to The Basin and began building a home. Interest rates climbed to around 18 percent and multiple part time jobs were needed to supplement an inadequate teacher's salary. Tough times have returned and the promise of low interest rates continuing has been disappointing. Although the rates are still well below that 1980s peak, the possibility of supplementing finances is diminished by a shortage of jobs, part and full time. For first home owners especially, the shortfall in an environment of reduced pay and escalating interest often means the loss of their home. Even more critical is the situation for the homeless who face an impossible quest for an affordable home, either to buy or rent.

So for many trying to find food or trying to find a roof, the sense of "a fair go" seems distant.

In direct contrast, we're all well aware of many towards the other end of the scale benefitting from much more than "a fair go".

Local connections established through organisations and events first mentioned above play a significant role in community connectedness.

I look forward to a time when, through such connectedness, we strive together to ensure a truly "fair go" for all.

John Mortimore

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May Issue Distrib. 27 April

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.



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CORVID CONFUSION

Page 3
Bird

That heading is not a misprint, I did not mean to write covid confusion, though there certainly was and still is a lot of confusion about that blessed nuisance. No, I'm talking about corvids, which put simply are ravens, crows and choughs. They are extremely intelligent birds which are also quite difficult to tell apart from one another, hence this month's article. For simplicity's sake, let's just say we have two species, both ravens, which are found in Victoria. Simple, huh? No not really.



Australian Raven

Ok, c'mon, put your hand up if you struggle to identify between the two, come on just be honest will you, please? I see a lot of hands being raised and, thankfully, you can't see me as I'm writing this, as I've got my hand up too! Every time I reckon I've got a handle on it, I start getting confused again, so let's just say this article is probably more for my enlightenment than yours.

The two species we have in Victoria are the Australian Raven and Little Raven (also Forest Raven but I'll discuss that later). The Little Crow has been recorded in the dry North-west of Victoria but... see how confusion creeps in! Disregard that last bit!

Let's compare the key aspects of Australian Raven and Little Raven, straight from 'Pizzey and Knight' and



Australian Raven

'Michael Morcombe' field guides.

Australian Raven (Corvus coronoides)

"Call is a loud, wailing 'aah-aah-aah-aaaaahh' which is drawn out and descending. However, a diagnostic key is to watch them calling out, their 'long throat hackle feathers form a shaggy bunch as throat balloons out when calling'.

Bill is robust and longish and the eye is white.

Little Raven (Corvus mellori)

This is a slightly smaller bird than the Australian Raven, but don't think that is a way to distinguish between the two, the difference is minimal.

Photo credits:

Australian Raven: Garry Fitzgerald
Little Raven: Andrew Allen, e-Bird

Call is a 'harsh, short and level 'car, car, car, car.' The notes are hard and clipped. Much less of a wail than the Australian Raven.

Key diagnostic feature is that the Little Raven gives a 'quick upward flip of both wings with each note.' For simplicity's sake let's leave it there for the moment.

The Little Crow is a species which favours the arid interior and is found over a large swathe of the continent bar the coastal side of the Great Dividing Range on the east coast and SW WA. The Torresian Crow is also found mostly in the Northern part of Australia but can also be found in Northern coastal areas as well as inland Australia.

Let's return to the Forest Raven which is the only corvid found in Tasmania (that keeps things simple if visiting the Apple Isle) but is occasionally found in the Otways and South Gippsland.

Well that's the five species of corvid found in Australia barring the White-winged Chough, let's leave him for another article soon. Oh, hang about there is one more corvid recorded in Australia, the House Crow, a feral species native to India and Sri Lanka which has been found in Fremantle, Geelong Melbourne and Dee Why (NSW), sneakily self-introduced from ships. This species is highly predatory of eggs and nestlings and another introduced species which is not welcome in Australia, we have enough already, thank you very much. So much so, that a friend of mine, Mark, who lives in The Basin suggests we change our Coat of Arms to the cane toad and the rabbit. No thanks!

Well now we're all corvid experts, next time I bump into you at Woolworths Boronia or Dan Murphy's Boronia I'll see if you're up to speed! Assignment/home work: What species of raven is commonly found at Woolworth's Boronia? Answer will be in next month's edition of BBCN.



Little Raven

Des Palmer

arc_up_welding@live.com.au

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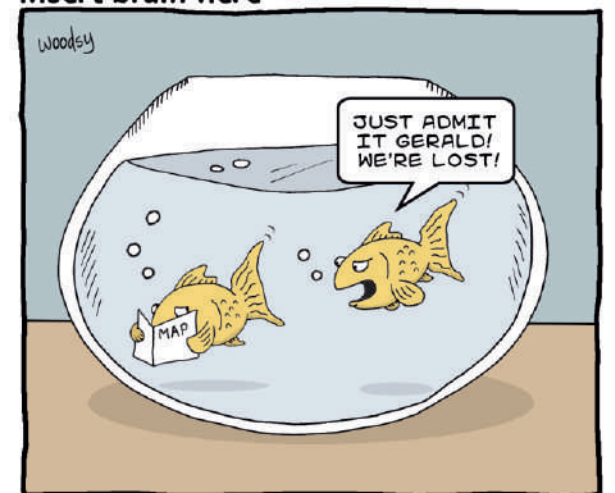


We say Thank You to Jessica and Charles, recently retired from their walking rounds.

We need a new Walker for the Donald Court area (50 papers). If you can help, please get in touch.

contact@bbcن.org.au

insert brain here



by woodsy

This is well worth reading



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LIONS ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO ENJOY DOING ORDINARY THINGS.

We are people who get involved in humanitarian efforts locally, nationally, and internationally.

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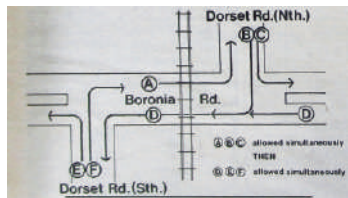
We meet every second Tuesday at Lions Den, Bayswater Senior Citizens Hall, 790 Mountain Highway, Bayswater, at 7.30 pm sharp.



To Join a Lions Club, is by Invitation, but applications are encouraged from all members of the community. To find out more, visit boronia.vic.lions.org.au

Boronia's Lost Garden

A proposal was recently made by Knox City Council to cover over the southern half of Boronia's sub-surface rail platforms and create a park in the centre of Boronia, giving Boronia a new green 'heart,' though surrounded by new tower blocks. If adopted, the old, low-rise Boronia we know will vanish forever.

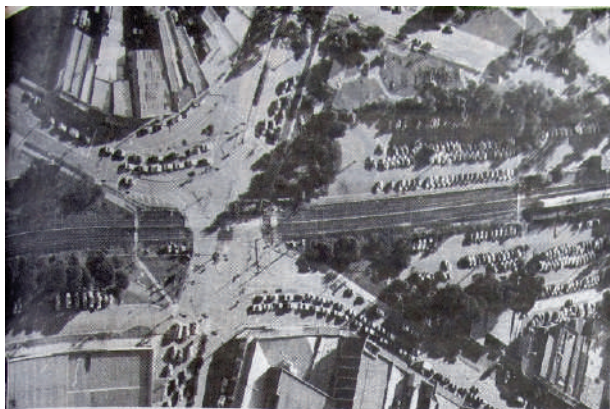


But to anyone with a long memory, this might seem a bit 'old hat.' It calls to mind the 'bad old days' when Boronia was

divided in two by the rail crossing, and some of the weird and wonderful proposals that came up before it was finally removed in 1998.

When the line from Ringwood to Upper Ferntree Gully was opened in 1889, the intersection of Boronia and Dorset Roads was provided with a set of crossing gates. But these were removed for economic reasons in 1894. At first, this didn't cause much trouble as road traffic on the crossing was sparse.

As the township grew, however, the crossing was a growing hazard. The first motor v train accident was recorded in November 1924. In April 1926, there was a terrible tragedy on Boronia crossing: a collision between an electric train and a bus killed nine people.



Boom barriers were installed in 1971, by which time it was estimated the crossing had caused the deaths of 30 people. By the 1980s, the crossing was listed by the RACV as the No. 1 'black spot' in Melbourne. Agitation began to remove this 'death trap' by putting the rail line underground. All kinds of proposals came up for this, some not very practical, such as scrapping the rail line between Boronia and Belgrave

completely and replacing it with a high-speed bus way.



The area between the station and Boronia Road (the shops on Erica Avenue and the fire station aside) on both sides of the rail line was neat green garden space: this was Maguire Park,

named for a local fire brigade captain, Laurie Maguire. There's no trace of this today. In 1981, it was first suggested an apartment tower be built on top of an underground Boronia station. This was knocked back on obvious grounds: cost.



The most elaborate plan came out in October 1993. Under this proposal, the rail line would be in a trench or tunnel for almost a kilometre. A four storey partly above-ground car park would be built directly over the station itself. The area between Erica Avenue, Boronia and Dorset Roads would remain a park, with an ornamental lake added, and pedestrian-only access between Erica Avenue and Chandler Road. Medium density apartment blocks would be built along the rail alignment as far as William Street.

This joined a long list of bright ideas for the crossing that didn't work out. The intersection we know today was developed in 1997-98. Finally, on 4 November 1998, the first train from Belgrave ran into the new Boronia station platform without boom barriers coming down, red lights flashing, and traffic banking up in all directions.

Today, traffic runs smoothly through Boronia most of the time; the trains are now out of sight, no longer a peril to errant motorists and pedestrians alike. But something is still missing: there's no green open space to be seen anywhere. Perhaps it is not before time to restore to Boronia a green area for recreation at its centre, which it has missed since the former Maguire Park was removed all those years ago.

Ray Peace, Knox Historical Society
(khs@relics.com)

Quarry Lake Water Quality Alert



Routine water quality testing at Quarry Lake in Ferntree Gully has detected the presence of bacteria known as Enterococci at levels that can pose a risk to human and animal health.

Signage has been erected at Quarry Lake Reserve warning visitors not to swim, fish or let their dogs enter the water until further notice.

Enterococci occur naturally in plants, sand, soil and sediments but higher enterococci levels may indicate faecal contamination. Sources could include stormwater runoff, sewage, dog poo or wildlife waste.

Enterococci are typically not considered harmful to humans. Still, their presence in the water may indicate other disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and protozoa which can make swimmers and people who eat fish from the water sick.

If you have experienced any symptoms including diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramps, fever, respiratory infections, ear infections or skin rashes after swimming in or eating fish from Quarry Lake please seek medical attention.

Investigations are underway to identify possible sources of contamination.

Testing will be conducted daily until the water quality returns to safe levels.

Visited the Penguins' Land

Blue and yellow and pinkish clouds
Gathered and floated around the sunshine.
Bright sun jumped up behind the horizon,
Darkness appeared upon our eyes.

Everyone, amazed watching that scene.
Is it the way to dream of heaven?
Loud applause ruined my dream,
Flocks of pelicans flew over the sand.

There were the kids, landing on the beach,
White fresh bubbles welcomed them smoothly.
Laughing and dancing, they ran to the beach,
Heard, 1... 2... they stopped and turned.

After the sunset, they seated and swayed,
Attracted our eyes, their playful games.
Penguins' parade started soon,
Except the waves, all watched calmly.

Dayangani Silva

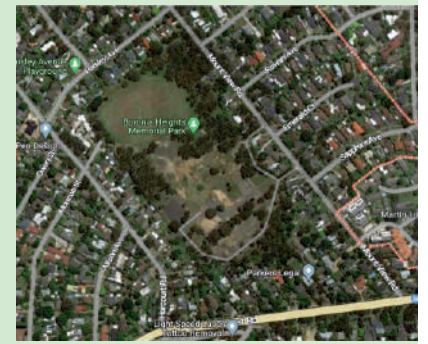
PROPOSED LAND DEVELOPMENT AT 40 MOUNTVIEW ROAD, BORONIA also known as BORONIA HEIGHTS MEMORIAL PARK

We have received a substantial written submission from “Friends for Boronia Heights Community Park” outlining their concern over the proposed development of this area of some 8ha, the site of a former high school.

The land has been selected by the State government as part of the “Inclusionary Housing Pilot on Surplus Government Land.”

To have sufficient space to adequately present the different perspectives on this issue, and to present a number of references and pictures, we have set up a dedicated page on our website to which we refer our readers.

To access this page, please go to: bbcn.org.au/mountview/ or scan the QR code



DISTRICT SCOUTING OUTING

On Saturday 25 February, 78 Cubs and many leaders/parents from the City of Knox descended on the Guide and Scout Water Activities Centre in Sandringham for a day of adventure.



Cubs got to have a go at paddle boards, canoes and yachts. Some Cubs spent time building sand castles and burying one another.

They learnt how to put on PFD (personal flotation device), how to care for their PFD and how to care for the equipment they used. They had to wash the PFDs and boats. The day of fun also went towards badge work.



Many Cubs are keen to go again.

If you are interested in trying Scouting go to: scoutsvictoria.com.au/locations/all-groups/

1st The Basin, Boronia and 8th Knox are the local Scout Groups. You can try three nights for free! So come along and join in the fun. Scouting is for youth from age 5 to 26 years and after 26 lots of fun is to be had by becoming a leader!

Nicole Klep, District Leader of Cub Scouts



WE NEED AN AUDITOR

Doug W. has audited our books since 1994, the beginning of this newspaper. We are most grateful for the wonderful service that he has provided us with, and he now moves into a well deserved retirement.



We're sure that there is someone in our local community who would be willing to do this task for us, hopefully on a pro-bono basis. It's not very onerous, it doesn't take long, and it's only once a year.

Every aspect of this newspaper (except for the printing) is run entirely by volunteers. If you, or someone you know, could help us with this task, please get in touch.



Proposed planning changes Wantirna Health Precinct

The Minister for Planning received a request to change the planning provisions at the following site owned by the Department of Transport and Planning (Transport) (DTP) and Aussie Asian Group Pty Ltd:

- 706, 750, 750A and 760 Boronia Road Wantirna

DTP has requested that the planning provisions for the site be changed to facilitate the implementation of the Wantirna Health Precinct West Comprehensive Development Plan January 2023.

The Minister for Planning, the Hon Sonia Kilkeny MP, is seeking the views of interested parties before making a decision on the amendment.

To find about more about the proposed planning scheme changes and how to make a submission see <https://engage.vic.gov.au/glps>

Documents can also be viewed at:

Knox City Council, Knox Office, 511 Burwood Highway Wantirna

Submissions close at 5pm, Monday 3 April 2023.

Customer Service Centre: Phone 136 186

NEW ROUND FOR BILL-BUSTING \$250 POWER SAVING

Every Victorian will be able to access a new round of the \$250 Power Saving Bonus within weeks as the State Government drives down the cost of living across the state.

The \$250 Power Saving Bonus will be re-opened to all eligible Victorian households from 24 March, including those that received payments under previous rounds, when they visit the Government's bill-busting Victorian Energy Compare website.

Since the current round of the \$250 Power Saving Bonus launched on 1 July 2022, more than 1.7 million households have received the nation-leading cost of living support.

Applications for the payment can be made through the Victorian Energy Compare website, where customers can quickly and easily find the best energy offers in their areas – potentially saving hundreds of dollars.

Victoria has cut its emissions by more than any other state, tripled the amount of renewable energy and created thousands of clean energy jobs – but there is more to do, and that is why we have set a renewable energy target of 95 percent by 2035.

To help meet this target, the Government is reviving the State Electricity Commission and bringing back government owned renewable energy – to drive down energy costs and help create 59,000 jobs.

The Government is also reducing cost of living stress through the new Energy Assistance Program, a free service providing energy consumers experiencing hardship with one-on-one assistance.

The Energy Assistance Program is a \$3.75 million initiative that will help Victorians struggling with power bills to navigate the energy market, apply for eligible grants and concessions, find and switch to better offers and address billing errors.

For those without internet access, over-the-phone and in-person support is available through one of our Community Outreach Partners, including Brotherhood of St Laurence, Ethnic Community Council Victoria, Good Shepherd, State Trustees and hundreds of Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria.

We are also helping Victorians save on their household energy bills through the \$1.3 billion Solar Homes Program by installing solar PV systems, batteries, solar hot water and heat pumps.

To access the \$250 Power Saving Bonus, visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au or call 1800 000 832. To speak to an Energy Assistance Program advocate, call 1800 161 215.

“We know the big, multinational energy companies rely on us not checking if we can get a better power deal, but they're out there, and

we'd rather that money in your pocket than theirs.”

“And there's no pressure to switch providers – this is \$250 in your pocket to help out with energy bills. No strings attached.”

Jackson Taylor, Local State MP



Jackson and Minister D'Ambrosio at Orana Neighbourhood House, on a visit to discuss the assistance Orana provides to folks who would like to make applications for the PSB in person. From left to right: Jackson Taylor MP, Minister Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Centre Manager at Orana Neighbourhood House and Shima Ibuki who is the President of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

POSTAL SERVICES MODERNISATION

Australia Post are asking about the postal services you need now, and into the future.

As technology has advanced, how individuals, charities, businesses and governments use postal services has changed. Your input will help them understand how to modernise postal and related services so that Australia Post remains a critical part of our national infrastructure, and delivers the services all Australians need and can rely on.



Voice your opinion at infrastructure.gov.au (search "Postal"), or post it to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.



COUNTRY COB BAKERY PIES ARE WINNERS!

Do you love a good pie? Well you don't have far to travel to find one of the best in Australia. In the town of Boronia there resides a business that is making history and winning multiple awards. I'm talking about the Country Cob Bakery at the corner of Dorset Road and Mountain Highway.

Since 2016, Country Cob Bakery has been making a name for itself in the culinary world of pies. Originating in Kyneton the Khun brothers soon opened a second store in Boronia and are now opening a store in Chadstone. Their awards tell why they're expanding:

- * 350 medals and trophies for pies and pastries
- * Australia's Best Pie Maker three years in a row in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Baking Association of Australia)



(See their impressive list of awards at countrycobbakery.com.au)

These accolades have made them the first reigning champions in the history of the Australia's Best Pie Competition. Their success story has been published at home and abroad... on BBC Travel, on 7 News, 9 News, 10 News, Sunrise, The Morning Show, Postcards, and countless radio programs, magazines,

newspapers, and online food articles.

There is no doubt that Australians have an obsession with the humble meat pie. If this has got you thinking, go and discover why they sell 500 to 800 pies daily.

Debbie Ball

THE FERNTREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY AT THE HUT GALLERY

157 Underwood Rd, Ferntree Gully

APRIL EXHIBITION "FOUR MEDIUMS"

An exciting, awarded exhibition by our members and the public, displaying their artworks done in any of the four mediums, Acrylic, Oil, Pastel or Watercolour.

Open Fridays 1 - 4 pm and Weekends 11 am - 4 pm, from 2 to 30 April. We are closed for Easter.

Official opening and presentation of awards 2 pm Sunday 16th.

ALL WELCOME, FREE ENTRY



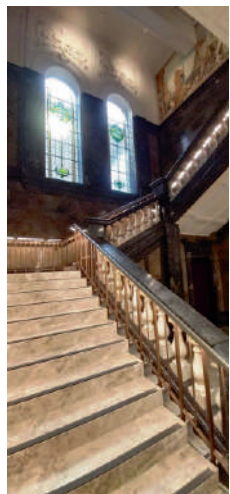
A DAY AT THE LIBRARY

four balconies/floors surrounding it filled with ancient books. A quick elevator ride up to the top floor gives you an amazing view of the room and its surroundings and a beautiful light-filled ceiling. Actually, the view from all floors is just as spectacular, just from a different height. The first floor above the reading room floor is full of displays of the library's collection of rare and historical books. These displays range from biological and natural studies to religious and popular works and it had me dreaming of just popping open one or two of the cases and turning some pages to see more. As mentioned earlier the old Museum area has been transformed into more reading and research areas. The Redmond Barry room is the area I described at the start of this piece and I find it amusing that the patron of the library in its inception, who was also the judge that sentenced Ned Kelly to hang, has Ned Kelly's armour proudly on permanent display outside the entrance of the hall.

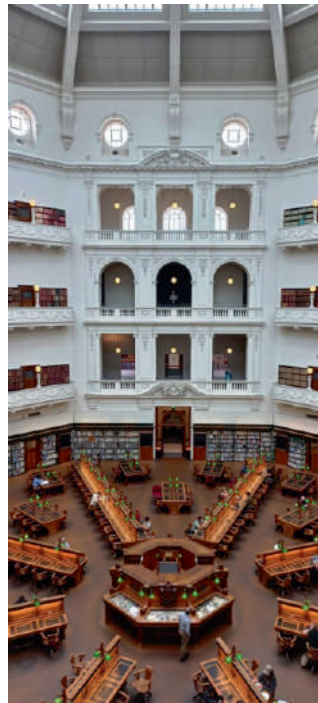
Now that I have finally got around to coming back to the library (I have been a member for a decade, but do everything online) I plan to make more visits because the resources available are just so encompassing. Since the museum moved to its location at the Carlton Gardens in 2000 I



Visiting the State Library on the corner of Latrobe and Swanston Streets in the city evoked memories of visits as a child to the museum. Memories of the marble staircases and large halls with mezzanine balconies. On the upper floor are collections of coins, guns, medals, and machinery in glass boxes, and when you look down below, arrays of stuffed animals also in glass cabinets, or canons, an FX Holden, and even a large dinosaur skull. Back in the day the library and the Museum were separate parts of the main building, these days the library takes up the whole area, or so I believe. Who knows what is still unattainable? On this visit, everything seemed so small from my memories, even the lawns and entrance. The lawns are still full of those enjoying the lush grass, mainly young people, and students on a lunch break or just soaking up the sun, many from RMIT which is across the road.



Memories aside, the main reading area, The Latrobe, or as it is more commonly known: The Dome, is probably one of the most beautiful rooms in the city. With its octagonal design and



must have made about ten visits, but it was my last where I visited the permanent Melbourne exhibit which featured many old exhibits from the original site that I felt a real need to visit again, and I'm so glad I did. Knowing that it was just the revamped library, something inside wanted to climb those marble staircases. What I found was so much more. I could get lost for months just in the newspaper archive, let alone the Australian reference section. I nearly forgot to mention the stunning art collection featuring large and local paintings from the colonial area. Lovers of design and architecture will have a wonderful time soaking up the inspiration and the atmosphere.

A trip I plan to make again soon for a much longer stay and one I recommend to anyone.

Danny Nolan

A national women's only speaking organisation, where warm, friendly women of all ages meet regularly to practice their speaking and presentation skills.



Maroondah group meets on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8 pm, Croydon Library, Glenn Frost Room, Civic Square, Mt. Dandenong Road, Croydon & on 4th Tuesday each month on Zoom.

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Sandra Warren, President & Publicity

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WHERE OUR COMMUNITY CAN GROW



fruits and vegetables finally started growing. Tomatoes still struggled a bit but most other vegetables really kicked in and are still producing even now.

Rotary Boronia joined us in January 2023 and has two plots planted out with all sorts of vegetables. We welcome them with open arms and look forward to developing a strong relationship over the coming years. If you would like to find out more about Rotary Boronia, please consult the website rotaryboronia.org.au/about.

In addition to tending our plots, we have also been very busy with other business. In January quite a few members attended our Australia Day 2023 barbeque lunch. It was a great way to celebrate this wonderful country we live in. In early February we held a General Meeting at which the committee provided members with updates on all developments at the gardens. In particular, time was spent discussing the Queensland Fruit Fly issue, which is causing us concern.

In the last month or so, we have been involved

There was a significant change to Scoresby's weather patterns, particularly rainfall, post New Year's Day 2023. Looking back to last year, Scoresby's rainfall in August was 115mm, September 51mm, October 204mm, November 161mm and December 62mm. Looking at the positives though; high rainfall means low water bills! However, in January this year only 24mm fell and in February only 30mm, both well under their long-term averages (information sourced from www.bom.gov.au). The sun finally made an appearance and our



**Knox
Community
Gardens Society Inc.**

in two offsite events. Firstly, on a hot day in February, we ran the Bunnings barbeque stall at Bayswater. Secondly, last weekend we had a stall at Knox Festival (refer photo), another hot day! Both these successful events were well supported by the public and as fundraisers, provided valuable funds for our club.

In other news, our composting system is now fully operational, producing up to a cubic metre of compost every two to four weeks. The challenge is to get your hands on some! We splashed out and bought ourselves a wheeled whipper-snipper to help maintain our five acres of gardens. We also bought ourselves a new marquee with our trademark orange pumpkin on the roof. There is no excuse for not finding us at local festivals in future!

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

Rod Felton

MY FIRST BAND - UNITED IN IDIOCY *A Strummer's Story from Rob Fairbairn*

*I've played all sorts of stages,
in a plethora of places:
School halls, country halls, town halls, concert
halls,
I've played 'em all.
In clubs and pubs, on trucks and trains,
On boats afloat and trams and planes,
On the ground and in the air,
Here and there and everywhere.
But this is where it all began,
A high school hall in my first band,
A bunch of mates, we numbered ten,
The band was called The Grindlemen.*

In the nineteen sixties, coming up with an original band name must have been a challenge. In the early part of the decade short and sweet was the norm. Two or three words were sufficient to create a name that was both distinctive and memorable. We all remember The Shadows, The Kinks, The Hollies, The Who, The Rolling Stones and of course The Beatles.

In the middle and later years of the decade, as minds were being expanded and dress and on-stage behaviour became more flamboyant, the names began to reflect a new consciousness and attitude. The Jimi Hendrix Experience said it all. Others took it to extremes. We may not remember the music of The Strawberry Alarm Clock, The Thirteenth Floor Elevators or Mabel Greer's Toyshop but we can still marvel at the inventiveness, audacity and, on reflection, the pure silliness of such names.

A less interesting but nonetheless effective method

was the inclusion of numbers. The Three Degrees, The Four Tops and Count Five not only named their groups but also told us how many members there were.

My first band, The Ten Grindlemen, used the latter approach. The name was an adaptation of a quote from John Lennon's first book, "In His Own Write," and yes, there were ten of us.

When I say 'band' it was more a gang of friends. At the core were Moonie, Ravo, Rissole, Youngie, Zeek, Bord and Finch (me), typical year 10 boys, united in idiocy. The stage was the Croydon High School Hall and the gig-a-talent quest, a fundraiser for the school's preferred charity at the time, "Community Aid Abroad."

Our high school was fertile ground for successful musicians; the Armstrong brothers went on to form "Cobbers," Australia's pre-eminent bush band and my classmate in year 12 French was Dave Hubbard who helped form "The Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band," Australia's greatest jug band. The Ten Grindlemen, however, were neither successful nor musicians. But in the 1960s as our parents frequently and cynically reminded us, a lack of talent was no impediment to success. And when it came to talent, The Grindlemen were definitely on the negative side of the ledger.

But what we lacked in musical ability we made up with enthusiasm and front, plus we had a secret weapon. Simon "Youngie" Young had a trumpet. Possibly the most brazen of us, he assured us he could play, "When The Saints Go Marching In." So, it was decided. Youngie would lead and the rest of us would, er, would what? Well, kudos to whoever came up with the idea, but it was so brilliant, so

clever and foolproof we wouldn't even have to rehearse!

Came the day, and the lunchtime school hall was packed with students, more out of curiosity than anything I suspect. And there was also the unmissable opportunity of seeing contemporaries make fools of themselves. There were the usual singers, perhaps a violinist, maybe a guitarist or pianist (it was a long time ago) then the compere introduced us. "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, put your hands together for The Ten Grindlemen!"

We shuffled onto the stage and stood in a semi-circle behind our leader. For extra comedic effect, courtesy of a sprained knee, I made my entrance on crutches. As Simon started his tune we began to clap in time. The response from the audience was totally unexpected. Amid exaggerated guffaws and giggles, they began to clap along too. By the time we had finished, bowing theatrically, the claps had turned into applause and cheering. Pure genius!

We won the talent quest; the winner being decided by popular vote. Votes were cast by donation to C.A.A., 10c per vote, much of which came from our own pockets. And as there were ten of us, it came to a substantial amount. The Ten Grindlemen never played again and Simon's career as a jazz trumpeter never went any further. But I am still in touch with Simon, Russell and Bruce (Ravo) Ravenscroft and while we agree it was one of the most idiotic things we ever did (and there were a few), we've never forgotten our fame, albeit fleeting, as members of The Ten Grindlemen.





This whimsical and amusing play rollicks about the English countryside following the fortunes and misfortunes of the Dashwood sisters, as they navigate their way through life and love, accompanied by a colourful cast of characters.

In this production by Kate Hamill, Jane Austen's classic

novel gets a theatrical reimagining of hysterical proportions. Directed by Kathryn White.

It's Sense and Sensibility as you know it, but with an energy and pace not previously seen. **Friday 14 April - Saturday 22 April, 2023**

Check the website for times and tickets
www.cppcommunitytheatre.com.au

VENUE: Chandler Performing Arts Centre, Boronia K-12 College
 Albert Avenue, Entrance & Parking at Rangeview Road, Boronia, 3155

The Basin Theatre *Two and Two Together*

Review by Peter Kemp

The Basin Theatre's 2023 opening production was Derek Benfield's Two and Two Together.

A hilarious evening of theatre with Rachel's husband never suspecting that she is keeping an assignation with a young man in the house of her good friend Georgina. Why should he? He is meeting Georgina secretly while her husband is acting in a play at the theatre.

Does this lead to some complications when Henry comes home earlier than usual?

Bob Bramble and his team of actors certainly brought this show to life leaving the audience in stitches.

Opening we see the young man, Frank, played by James Banger. Somewhat confused by his prospective, not knowing quite how to handle the matter, Banger gave a good interpretation of the character.

His prospective, Rachel, played by Adrienne George was excellently performed by George giving the audience somewhat more to think about, particularly in the matter of costuming.

Her husband, Victor was played by Andrew McIver, an actor who raised laughs even on entering the stage. Victor seemed confused about what was going on, particularly about the handbag. A good interpretation of such a role and presented well to the audience. Georgina, played by Leanne Jackson, captured the essence of such a role, not quite susceptible to the wiles of Victor but worried about Henry.

Henry, the actor, played by Brett Hyland also added to the standard of the evening with his puzzled look and feelings about what was going on.

Then we had Proctor, the Neighbourhood Watch man who took his job rather too seriously plus his ferocious sounding dog. Phil Homes was Proctor giving a good feel to the role. Then there was Mrs Capstick, played by Fiona Carter.

Mrs Capstick, the cleaning lady to both households, could not work out what was going on. Carter caught the character as envisaged giving a good all-round performance.

A great opening to 2023 by The Basin Theatre and a production well enjoyed by the audience.

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GOOD READ - WHY DID YOU LIE?

Yrsa Sigurdardottir - Hodder & Stoughton

Like so many people during Covid, I had more time to indulge my passion of reading. I discovered a wonderful site called The Brotherhood Books, along with other book sites that I tend to trawl through looking for the elusive title or topic. I have a range of topics that interest me, but my favourites are murder mysteries, not the brutal and gruesomely described type of murder story, but the story that makes you think, try to guess the outcome and who did it!

I found this gem called Why Did You Lie? by the unpronounceable Icelandic Author Yrsa Sigurdardottir. This genre would come under Nordic Noir and unfortunately to date this is the only book by the author that has been translated into English.

The story starts with what seem to be three unrelated stories and the reader is unsure where the stories are heading and what exactly we are dealing with. Is this evil, human or is this something supernatural? These three storylines continue at a fast pace; this is not an Author that spends large amounts of time on describing scenery or getting too immersed in characters' feelings. She spends just enough time for you to understand the characters without bogging down the storyline with useless information. You must read every page or you will lose some vital information. I found I did go back and reread some pages and sure enough there it was that vital piece that made it all seem logical.

Without spoiling the ending it is one of the few books I have read where I got a surprise right at the end; literally the last couple of pages.

I would thoroughly recommend this book. The only downside is trying to be able to pronounce the character's names, although the Author has supplied a pronunciation guide.

Good reading everyone! Sari Cuce



The Bilby, Nyarlki, and the pearlshell

Story told by Bessie Doonday, Walmajarri elder

In the Waljirri, or Dreaming, Nyarlku the bilby found all the jakurli (pearlshell) in the shallow waters of the big lake, Paruku. They were all sparkling brightly in the afternoon sun and looked beautiful. He put them on the edge of the lake, and he wanted to keep them for himself. He wanted to find big water, not little water.

A long way away he could see another big lake, near Broome. "I'll take them all to Broome," said Nyarlku. So he picked them all up in his arms, at night when it was dark so they would not glitter, and took them down his burrow underground, all the way to Broome. He travelled right through the desert country until at last he reached all the way to the saltwater country at Broome. He left all the pearlshell there, at Broome.



Greater bilby Klein & Hubert / WWF

Nyarlku only had little arms, and he could not pick up all the lingkarr, the small shells, so he left them behind at Paruku. Now you

can still see the beautiful jakurli sparkling in the afternoon sun on the beach at Broome.

This traditional Walmajarri story explains how there came to be pearlshell on the west Kimberley coast, and is no longer found at Paruku Lake. The track the bilby took in the story, moving the pearlshell, actually aligns with ancient rivers or streams now under the desert that connect Paruku to near La Grange on the western coast of the Kimberley, just south of Broome.

The places Nyarlku traversed in this story are now important places for the endangered bilby. Small populations of the bilby still occur in the country he went through. Traditional owners, Indigenous rangers and scientists are working together with the help of World Wildlife foundation (WWF) to save the Bilby from extinction.

Traditional bilby story from the Kimberley - WWF-Australia



Healthy Easter Snacks

Between egg hunts, parties, and Easter baskets filled with candy, Easter can be a total sugar rush for kids. But you can strike a good balance with these tasty and healthy snacks for Easter!

Ingredients

- Mini circle cheeses
- Celery – cut into "whiskers"
- Baby carrots – cut in half for ears
- A large carrot – cut into a triangle for nose
- Mini chocolate chips – for eyes

Instructions

Assemble the cute bunny faces by pushing the baby carrots into the top of the cheese for ears. Place the rest of the pieces on to make a bunny face.

Easy Healthy Easter Snacks - Meaningful Eats - Erin Collins

Bilby Word Search

Discover Bilbies: The Rabbit-eared Bandicoots

Answers below the word search.

1. Bilbies don't drink _____. They get moisture from their _____.
2. They can disappear in _____ soil within three minutes.
3. What has the ears of a _____, the nose of an _____ and the tail of a kangaroo? Bilbies, of course.
4. Bilbies have soft blue-_____ fur.
5. These small, _____ animals are about the size of a rabbit and they eat _____, fruit, nuts and seeds.
6. Bilbies, sometimes known as rabbit-eared _____, live only in _____.
7. Bilbies have a _____ to carry their babies. Usually they have one to three babies.
8. Australian children get chocolate _____ in their Easter baskets instead of Easter bunnies.

Learn about Bilbies and more here: <http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-bilbies>

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

Answers: 1. Water, Food; 2. Sandy; 3. Rabbit; 4. Anteater; 5. Grey; 6. Bandicoots, Australia; 7. Pocket; 8. Bilbies.





During the Covid 19 pandemic, when we were feeling the effects of isolation from our friends and families, a lot of people decided to get a dog. After all, we were only allowed out to exercise and a dog would get us out of the house and could keep us company at home. Dogs have become an integral part of family life and there is an abundance of products and services available for the pampered pooch. It is fairly well known that dog ownership has benefits for stress and mental health in adults.

A recent study by the University of Western Australia led by Associate Professor Hayley Christian found that having a family dog – and regularly playing with it and taking it for walks could boost young children’s physical and emotional health.

The study of 1,600 families (42% with a dog) found children aged 2–5 years from dog-owning households had increased pro-social behaviours like sharing and cooperating and were less likely to have behavioural or social problems, compared to children without a dog. The more the children interacted with the dog such as walking or playing with it, the more likely they were to have considerate behaviours and less likely to have problems interacting with other

children or have antisocial behaviour.

There are many other benefits that having a dog can bring to your child. Children with pets generally exercise more. By having a furry playmate to run around with all day, both your child AND your dog will be much happier (and you yourself will get to rest, whilst they tire each other out). A dog’s energy is much like a child’s in the fact that they will seemingly go on forever! Which makes them the perfect match. With more exercise comes better fitness and a reduced risk of obesity as well.

Dogs and Kids

Good for the head, heart and health

They are less likely to develop allergies and generally have increased immune function due to a wider variety of healthy gut bacteria.

Having pets is an invaluable aid for helping children gain pride, caring, and empathy for their own needs and the needs of others. In addition, caring for a pet builds a young child’s self-esteem. Accomplishing small tasks (such as filling up their water dish) will help them feel like they are competent and will also give them a sense of accomplishment.

Children who grow up with dogs are generally less likely to suffer from anxiety and stress. Your dog will become your baby’s best friend. They

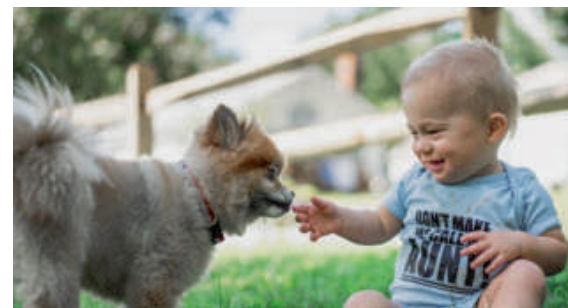


Image Source:
Zachary Kadolph on Unsplash

will play, learn, connect and explore together, your pup will protect them, and their connection will only grow as the years go by. Dogs learn to know when a baby is sad, happy, angry, stressed or frightened and will figure out how best they can help. A dog’s love is unconditional, and they will always be there for their best little friend.

telethonkids.org.au/our-research/impact/2021/research-translation/dogs-and-kids/

Joy Shelley

Colour in the Bilby





MILLER'S HOMESTEAD Cultural Diversity Week and Autumn Art Happenings

Our culturally rich and diverse Knox communities came together recently at Miller's Homestead, in joyous celebration of Cultural Diversity Week. We drummed and danced to West African rhythms led by the exuberant Super Mande Percussion and shared culture, music, dance & art from the Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Zomi, German, El Salvadorian, Afghan Hazara and West African communities at the wonderful Knox Culture-Fest.

Adrian Greenwood gathered us all as he played the didjeridoo, acknowledged Wurrundjeri country and the history of the site we were gathered on and invited people to a sharing of First Nations' stories and truth-telling. Culture was shared, smiles were wide and friends and connections were made and we thank Mayor Cr. Marcia Timmers-Leitch for officiating, Knox Council for coordinating festivities and the communities who generously shared their culture with us during the week.



What's coming up at Miller's:

Another Year in Ferntree Gully – Photography Exhibition by Barbara Oehring – 4 Apr – 30 May (Meet the artist on 27 April at 2 pm.)

Paint & Sketch Together – BYO materials and paint/sketch with other artists monthly. 18 Apr, 10am-12pm (3rd Tues of month).

Miller's Singalong with Rachel Nendick – Have fun singing with others, 31 March 2pm.

Uplifting Voices with Barb Shearer-Jones – Joyous group singing course, 11am, 26 Apr, 3, 17, 24 & 31 May. \$10 per session.

Words Aloud –Poetry & Spoken word with open mic featuring guest poet, Cameron Semmens, 5 April 6-8pm (first Wed of month).

Mindfulness at Miller's – 1 hour taster sessions on Tuesdays at 1.30pm till 4 April followed by 8-week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Course from 2 May – 20 Jun, 12.30-3 pm by Mandy Mercuri.

For bookings, visit events.yourlibrary.com.au, call us on 0438 284 989 or visit during opening hours – Mon-Fri 9.30 am – 5 pm.

See you at Miller's soon!

Michelle Kemp

EASTER FAMILY FUN AT MILLER'S from 0 - 15 year olds

Thurs, 6 Apr at 11 am - 12 pm - Family Easter Storytime - 0-6yrs - Enjoy a fun session of Easter songs, books and craft followed by an Easter hunt in the garden.

Wed, 12 Apr, 10am-12pm - Heritage Games Morning - 3yrs+ - Step back in time and enjoy some fun heritage games at Miller's.

Thurs, 13 Apr, 11am-12.20pm - Make Your Own Magical Garden Diorama - 5-15yrs - Forage through the Miller's Garden and build your own Magical Diorama.

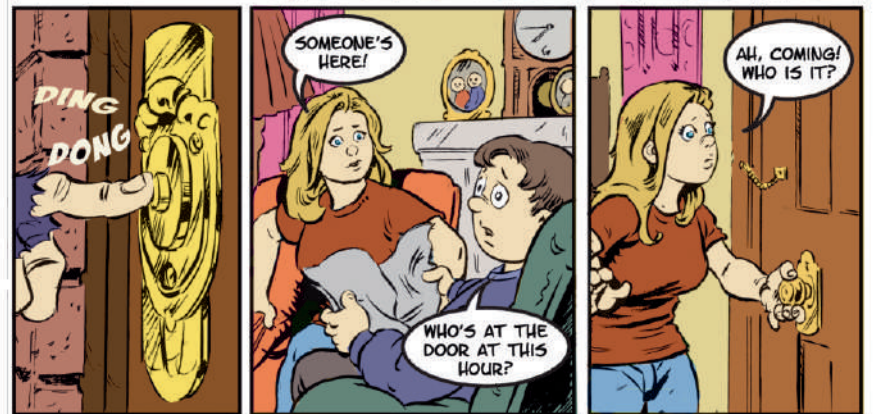
Thurs, 20 Apr, 10 am - 12 pm - Grow and Play Nature Session - 2-6yrs - Enjoy seasonal books and nature songs followed by free play and a winter veg planting session. Brought to you by Knox City Council.

Throughout the School Holidays - Autumn Crowns - Visit Miller's anytime during opening hours in the school holidays to forage and make your own Autumn Crown.



TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

It seems others desire the Magic Pencil as well...



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

TO BE CONTINUED...



Get ready for your new bin service

If you already have a green waste bin from 1 May put it out on your usual collection day, even if its empty, and leave it out all day. If we miss you put it out again the next fortnight.

If you don't have a green waste bin we'll deliver one from 20 April.

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

School holiday fun!

Check out all the theatre shows and workshops these holidays at knox.vic.gov.au/SchoolHolidays or call 9729 7287.



Chemistry Chaos Workshop

Thursday 13 April, 11am

Colour changes, smoke, fizz and foam!

Tickets: \$15
Ages: 5-8

Bunkasaurus

Friday 21 April, 11am

Theatre show with clowning, puppetry and silent comedy.

Tickets: Adult \$18, child \$15, family (4 people) \$52
Ages: 6+

Shadow Puppet Workshop

Friday 21 April, 12.30pm

Create your own shadow puppet and put on a performance!

Tickets: \$15
Ages: 7+

All 3 activities held at the Knox Community Arts Centre, 790 Mountain Hwy, Bayswater



Delivers for Boronia & The Basin

Jackson Taylor MP

Member for Bayswater

📍 Suite 2, Mountain High Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater Vic 3153
 ☎ 9738 0577 📧 @ Jackson Taylor MP 📧 jackson.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au

In good news for locals, the new intersection to be installed at McMahons Road and Burwood Highway will start construction this year. After many years of talk, I was stoked to secure funding in the Budget last year for this. Locals living around this spot will continue to receive updates as the project progresses. Keep an eye out for these and road signs to indicate works in the coming months on site to make it safer.

It's been a busy period in Term 1 for our schools and there's been lots happening with delivering better facilities for lots of local schools including:

- Construction under way on the over \$8 million in work at Fairhills High

- Major works under way to deliver a new central learning hub at Boronia West

- Architect appointed for the new double court competition grade gym and performing arts space at Wantirna College

- Over \$12 million to deliver new middle and senior school buildings at Bayswater Secondary

- Designs being finalised for the new playgrounds at Boronia Heights Primary

I'm also very happy to let you know that the much loved Liverpool Retarding Basin is getting a spruce

up! Over the next few months, you'll start to see work undertaken to plant close to 12,000 native plants, adding some new signage, controlling weeds and some general rehabilitation of the site. And yes, there will be some signs about picking up after the pooches which was a consistent issue raised with me. I look forward to keeping you up to date on this important local project.

Works to create the 'Green Heart of Knox' - the biggest environmental project in Knox in a generation has started, delivering - the activation of 33 hectares of open space, nearly 700,000 new plants, nearly 2,000 new trees, un-piping 1.65 km of water along Blind Creek from Fairpark Reserve (FTG) to Lewis Park (Wantirna South) where there'll be 3 new wetlands and lots more. We live in the most beautiful part of our state, in the foothills of the Dandenongs, so it's no surprise we love to get out and about whenever possible! And the new Green Heart of Knox will make that all the easier with over 6.3km of new paths.

Improving lighting at our local sporting venues is important to help create extra capacity that we're seeing across the board and particularly with the growth of girls and women in sport. So, I'm excited to say the State Government has provided \$150,000 for new lighting at Chandler Park in Boronia.

I know how important sport is for our youngest locals. Joining a team means making friends, developing skills, and exploring new passions. That's why we've kicked-off another round of Get Active Kids Vouchers. They'll give eligible families up to \$200 to help buy sports equipment and uniforms or pay membership fees. For more info visit – getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers

We're also continuing to support people to get the skills they need for the jobs they want with our Free TAFE program which now has over 70 courses and we've recently added Auslan to the list. Free TAFE has been accessed by thousands of Victorians and you can check if you're eligible too by going here - <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

Also, a quick reminder the \$250 Power Saving Bonus new round is now open (24 March) – you can claim yours by going to compare.energy.vic.gov.au or call 1800 000 832 for assistance. (See article on page 6)

And finally, a big shout-out to all the Knox SES Unit volunteers who I was pleased to hold my annual BBQ again for, to say, thanks! If you've ever thought of becoming a volunteer, you can email them at knox@ses.vic.gov.au

Food makes up 43% of all rubbish that goes to landfill in Knox. Soon you will be able to put food scraps in your green waste bin. Instead of going to landfill your food scraps will be turned into compost and this will reduce harmful greenhouse gases.

If you don't currently have a green waste bin, we will be delivering a new food and garden bin to you from 20 April 2023.

Bin lid replacement

If you already have a green waste bin, from 1 May we will be replacing the current red bin lids. The new lime green lids have information about what can and cannot go into the bin and will be in line with Australian standards. The old red lids will be recycled into new bins.

We will also be delivering a new kitchen caddy for your food scraps, along with a year's supply of lime green compostable bin liners, an information pack with tips on how to use the service, a handy sticker for your fridge or caddy with reminders of what can and cannot be added to the food and garden



bin and a 2023/24 rubbish and recycling calendar.

Once you get your new bin or bin lid with the kitchen caddy and information pack, you can start adding food scraps into the green-lidded bin. Bin collection frequencies will remain unchanged until the end of June.

From 1 July, the food and garden bin, with all the stinky stuff, will be collected weekly and your household rubbish bin will be collected fortnightly alternating with your recycling bin collection.

Do you already compost?

You might be interested to learn that you can put food scraps that people often don't like to compost like meat, bones, citrus and dairy in your food and garden bin.

If you already compost all food and garden scraps, you can opt out of the service by providing photo evidence of your compost set up.

If you don't currently have a green waste bin, please apply to opt-out of the service by Thursday 30 March 2023 so that a new bin isn't delivered.

To apply, please visit knox.vic.gov.au/foodandgarden

If your household has additional waste needs

You can apply for an extra 120L rubbish bin at no cost, if your household has:

- two or more children in disposable nappies or,
- person(s) with chronic illness, disability or medical condition with additional waste needs.

To apply, visit knox.vic.gov.au/foodandgarden

VOLUNTEER FOR KNOX 2023 VOLUNTEER EXPO/FAMILY FUN DAY ON SATURDAY 13 MAY, FROM 12 - 4PM



Find a volunteering opportunity that's right for you at the Volunteer for Knox 2023 Volunteer Expo/Family Fun Day on Saturday May 13, from 12 noon – 4.00 pm at Coonara Community House in Upper Ferntree Gully.

Meet with community organisations from across the City of Knox and find out how contributing your time, skills and experience can help make a valuable difference in our community.

Activities to entertain the kids include:

* Myuna Farm * Magical giant bubble blower * Music

The Cheer Toastie Truck, coffee and tea also, while you wander around the beautiful Coonara gardens.

Volunteers contributed 61,152 hours to the City of Knox over the past year with the value of their volunteering worth more than \$2.56 million.



Knox's volunteer resource centre, Volunteer for Knox (V4K), helps prospective volunteers find opportunities and local community groups to recruit volunteers.

Manager Sally Dusting-Laird said over the past year more than 1300 people have expressed interest in volunteering positions.

"We referred 196 Knox volunteers to some of our 156 registered organisations," she said.

"Half our volunteers are aged under 35, many of our volunteers have degrees, they speak 36 different languages and more than 50% were born overseas."

Popular areas of volunteering include the environment, community services, disability services and education.

"About a quarter of all registered volunteers were jobseekers or students," Sally says. "This has remained consistent over the last few years with volunteering being recognised as a pathway to employment."

For more information please contact Sally Dusting-Laird or Mandy Limb on 0429968822

Boronia & The Basin Community News has a stand at the Expo. If any of our Volunteers would like to spend a bit of time behind the counter to share about their role in the life of our paper, please contact us.

BORONIA BOWLS CLUB BATTLES THROUGH TO THE GRAND FINAL

What a fantastic season it has been for the Boronia Bowls Club Weekend Pennant 1st Side.

At the end of the 14 game season, they finished 2nd on their ladder behind Monbulk having won 9 of their games. This qualified them to enter the Section Finals, their first game being an away game against Monbulk. After a close-run game, they were narrowly beaten allowing Monbulk to progress straight through to the Section Grand Final. Boronia then had to play a Preliminary Final the following day against Donvale which they won conclusively giving them a further opportunity to play Monbulk in the Section Grand Final the following Saturday at Heathmont Bowling Club. Getting to the Grand Final meant that Boronia had gained automatic promotion to Division 2, something that the club has been striving for over the past few seasons.

The atmosphere at Heathmont on Grand Final day was electric with a superb performance from



Boronia coming from 20 shots behind to beat Monbulk by just 7 shots, no doubt helped over the line by the enthusiastic support from the many Boronia members who came to cheer on their team. Not only did Boronia gain the promotion they were after, they also won the Section Pennant (to be added to all other pennants on display at the club) and entry into the Divisional Finals commencing the following day.

The team were matched against Middle Park in the 1st Round and again won that game at Mulgrave Country Club with a significant margin to progress through to the Semi-Final the following Saturday

against Armadale at Noble Park Bowls Club which they won with yet again a significant margin. That win got the team into the Division 3 Grand Final to be played the next day against Club Sunbury at Burden Park Bowling Club.

Unfortunately, Boronia finished as Runners-Up having met their match from quality opposition but left with medals worn proudly around their necks. There were 64 teams in the 8 Sections that made up Division 3. Only 2 of those teams got to the Grand Final and Boronia were the Runners-Up. What a superb campaign.

Next season in Division 2 will certainly be challenging but the team is relishing the opportunity and very much looking forward to it. GO BORONIA!!

If you are considering joining Boronia Bowls Club, call Mike Gage, Bowls President on 0490 875 331 or feel free to pay us a visit.

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

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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KITTY RAE

Knox's own Popstar reaches International Songwriting Competition Semi-Finals

Straight from performing at Knox Festival and Moomba in March, pink-haired, dark electro pop artist Kitty Rae has just been announced as a semi-finalist in the International Songwriting Competition (ISC) for her song 'Swim with Sharks.' ISC is one of the largest songwriting and music contests in the world with judges including Mariah Carey, Coldplay, The Lumineers and Linkin Park. Out of 15,000 entries from over 140 countries her song was selected for two different categories: Pop/Top 40 and Unsigned. Finalists for the ISF will be announced in about a month's time.



really am very inspired by and look up to." She said the idea behind the track is about her move from Moorabool into the city to pursue music. "It came from leaving the warm tight-knit community we have in Moorabool for the city, which felt a little bit like being dropped in the middle of the ocean."

She explained, "The song itself is about how sometimes it can really feel like you're surrounded by sharks. I was worried I wouldn't be able to succeed because I wasn't able to survive in a world that's a little bit cold. But it's not about becoming a shark, it's about learning to swim with them..."

being yourself, being brave enough to stand your ground alongside them."

With a high-energy, engaging live show from start to finish including lights, laughs, and deep feelings, Kitty Rae has supported acts including Eliza and the Delusionals and loves connecting with a crowd through live music. She has played at many venues in Melbourne including The Espy, The Gasometer Hotel, Crown Melbourne and in 2023 hit the festival scene.

With an intergalactic attitude and warm, ever-grateful energy, Kitty Rae is emerging quickly as a well-respected pop artist here in Australia.

Joy Shelley

The Two Minute Egg

The warm, rich golden yellow yoke bursts over the side of the jagged egg shell like hot lava flow from an erupting volcano as the buttered toast finger "soldier" is plunged in. So runs the TV ad, but it upsets me every time I see it, not only because of the waste, but because I am finding the soft boiled egg to be rather elusive.

Boiled eggs for breakfast? I am in good company. Poirot is often seen tapping gently at the shell of a soft boiled egg as he rotates the egg in its cup until the shell has fully fractured and the lid is lifted to reveal the liquid golden treasure. Mind you, I don't think I have ever seen him actually take a spoonful under that carefully manicured moustache.

During the heady days of life in the bubble of the Nation's Capital, I developed the routine of having a set breakfast for the cardinal days of the working week, namely Monday, Wednesday and Friday, which required boiled eggs on Wednesday. A set breakfast for days of the week came about because I found it hard to remember what day of the week it was, and had this nagging worry that should I ever be asked what day it was, say in the back of an ambulance, I felt I could more easily recall what I had had for breakfast, and navigate from there. Because I rode my bike to work (hence the mention of ambulance) breakfast preparation time had to be short. So I developed a nifty method for Wednesday's soft boiled eggs, which, sadly, I have not been able to repeat, and while I have found there are more methods of achieving soft boiled eggs than there are sockets in a commercial egg tray, I always end up with hard boiled eggs.

Back then, the eggs went straight from the fridge

into the saucepan of cold water and onto the gas flame. Bread loaded in the toaster at the two minute setting, on the ready, water for coffee in the electric jug, coffee cup primed. The eggs were timed from 'first bounce' - that is, from the time that the water was just coming to the boil, and the bubbles lifted and gently dumped the egg on the bottom of the saucepan, i.e. first bounce - to when the toast popped up and the jug boiled. Hot toast, hot eggs, hot coffee - perfect!

The 'shorter' cooking time is due to starting with a cold egg in cold water. The egg cooks while the water comes to the boil, my 'cold/cold' method. Putting cold eggs into boiling water only gave me grief. I would too often hear the dreaded muffled "pop" sound, and breakfast would be a disaster. In the pot would be a drug affected spider's web of messy egg white and yolk, and in the egg shell, remnants of an almost inedible yolk.

Some recipes require that to ensure a soft runny yolk, the eggs be removed from the water and immediately placed in very cold water with ice blocks, to stop the yolk continuing to cook from internal residual heat. I never needed ice.

I also considered factors such as shell thickness, altitude difference between Boronia and Belconnen, even egg size; and it came down to the new toaster. A word on egg size, if I may. It seems that no matter what size egg one might buy these days, the yolk remains about the same size - small. I have this feeling that somehow the egg farmers and chooks have joined the current "shrinkflation" trend, where the packaging stays the same size, but the contents are reduced, and the price of course, is higher.

I had to leave the old toaster in Canberra, and this

Sunday 16 April from 1.30 pm

The Boronia RSL Sub-Branch conducts an Anzac Commemorative Day Service will be held on Sunday 16th April with a march starting from the corner of Dorset & Chandler Roads Boronia.



People wishing to march are required to assemble there at 1.45 pm and will march to the Boronia RSL, 198 Dorset Road Boronia where the service commences at 2 pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend so please join us to commemorate those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedom we have today. There will be afternoon tea and light refreshments provided after the service.



CWA Boronia celebrates its 86th birthday on Wednesday 12 April

Cliche Fashions will be displaying their range of clothing.

We have a general meeting at 10 am, followed by a bring your own lunch and Cliche Fashions display approx. 1.30 pm. Our regular meetings are every second Wednesday at 10 am. On the 4th Wednesday each month we have a craft meeting, to which we bring our own lunch, tea and coffee provided.

At craft this year, we are trying to make things from recycled materials.

Please let Evelyn know on 9761 1537 if you wish to come to either of these activities or would like more information.

You can attend 3 meetings to see if you like us but then you have to join.

toaster, if left on its own, is quite incapable of producing an evenly toasted slice of bread. It means the toasting process must be closely managed. For best results I swap slices between the slots like an Olympic diving sequence. An inverted double twist, back flip, and somersault. I soon realised that while doing Olympic moves with the toast I might be just that tiny bit distracted and let the time slip. So I resorted to using my mobile phone timer set on 2 minutes from first bounce. Result? Hard boiled!

I am writing this on a Thursday, and yesterday I suffered yet more partially hard boiled eggs, despite reducing the cooking time to 1 minute 45 seconds from first bounce, cold/cold method, no ice, pre-cooked toast - and I have just this moment realised that I may have cracked it.

One thing that has changed in my life since retiring has been the need for hearing aids, which I have left off for breakfast. I think I may have been missing the subtle sounds of 'first bounce.'

Anyway, I still reckon that our old toaster in Canberra was the best egg timer we ever had.

Roger Alder

THE BASIN COMMUNITY HOUSE - a dynamic contributor to the vitality of our local community



The Basin Community House provides a diverse range of programs and services in an informal, supportive and welcoming environment.

The programs vary each term and focus on the changing needs of the community.

Classes for each term can always be found at thebasincommunityhouse.org.au

These classes include:

- * adult education (nationally recognised pre-accredited vocational and further education courses)
- * recreational courses
- * support groups



The House seeks to be available for all people to use, to enhance the quality of their lives, and improve their sense of belonging and connection to their local community.

Some of the ways that it does this:

- * Education and Training, Community Connections and Partnerships & Student Placements
- * In federation style partnership with the five Neighbourhood Houses in the Knox LGA, aimed

at delivering a comprehensive suite of entry level programs that provide pathways to employment and/or further accredited training.

* Knox City Council Community Partnerships:

- The Basin Primary School – ongoing Partnership.
- Knox Infolink – providing confidential, impartial information and emergency relief to the community with the aim to empower individuals to make informed decisions which will enhance their quality of life.

- Community Halls for hire

* Partnership with Champion – Community Hub and Meeting Place offering emergency food relief and a host of practical assistance and advisory services to help people get back on their feet.

* “Be the Ripple Project” – Be the Ripple supports community members with a life-limiting illness who wish to be cared for, or to die at home, while also providing care for those supporting them.

* “Tasty Az” – a community based catering and hospitality business that provides specialist training and experience for young people living with disabilities.

* Award Winner – Victorian Learn Local Pre-accredited Program Award for large providers, 2021.

* Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place – active relationship.

* “Positive Step Forward” – employability

program, focusing on Visual Arts, for vulnerable learners, as well as making great craft items. This is in partnership with the Victorian State Government, Chisholm, JobCo, and Swinburne.



THE YARNING CIRCLE AND INDIGENOUS GARDEN ARE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION



VENTURER SCOUTS FROM 1ST THE BASIN HAVE A BLAST WHILE GEOCACHING IN THE LATE SUMMER TWILIGHT

Venturer Scouts from The Basin had an exciting evening in as they embarked on a geocaching adventure, walking between railway stations along the Belgrave Line. The late summer twilight added to the ambiance as they walked and explored the area, searching for hidden objects.



Geocaching is a fun outdoor activity that involves using GPS coordinates to locate hidden objects or containers, known as caches. The scouts worked together to solve clues and follow coordinates, leading them to several cunningly hidden caches.

One of the highlights of the evening was discovering a special cache that required pouring water into a pipe to reveal a hidden message. As they poured water from a drink bottle into the pipe, the message floated to the surface, revealing a secret clue that led them to the next cache.

The scouts had a fantastic time working together, honing their navigation and problem-solving skills

ANNUAL TEMPLE FESTIVAL 21 - 29 April

The Basin Hindu Temple (Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple) celebrates its annual festival from 21 to 29 April. **Celebrations culminate on the Saturday with the Chariot Festival at 10.30am.**



We hoped to have more specific information for this issue, but it did not arrive.

Visit mvhs.org.au

whilst exploring. They also took the opportunity to learn more about the local landmarks and history of the area.

For more information about scouting at 1st The Basin, please contact Roland Gesthuizen GL.



1stTheBasin@scoutsvictoria.com.au



Voice, Interests, and Education of Women

We are groups of friendly women who regularly meet and enjoy social interaction, whilst also raising valuable funds for The Smith Family Learning For Life program. Ladies of all ages and backgrounds are always warmly welcomed. We are groups of friendly women who regularly meet and enjoy social interaction, whilst also raising valuable funds for The Smith Family "Learning For Life" program (visit thesmithfamily.com.au).

Ladies of all ages and backgrounds are always warmly welcomed.

Boronia View Club will meet on Friday 21 April at 11.30 am at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch costing \$27 followed by a speaker. The usual book stall, trading table and raffle will be available. Enquiries to Judith 9764 8602.

Wantirna Day View Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Stamford Hotel, Rowville at 10.30 am (for 11.00am start). \$10 per meeting includes morning tea and a raffle ticket. We currently sponsor six Learning for Life students, and raise funds in a variety of ways. Most meetings host a guest speaker. Enquiries to Kate (President) 0421 650 684.



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JOIN US FOR SOME OR ALL OF OUR EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 2 @ 10 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6 @ 7.30 pm

Good Friday, April 7 @ 9 am followed by tea/ coffee and Hot Cross Buns

Easter Sunday, April 9 @ 10 am – COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

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

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

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

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

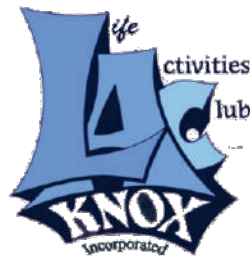


Our next meeting will be held at 10.30am on Tuesday 23 May, 2023, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch in the bistro for those who wish to stay on.

(Note, the April General Meeting has been cancelled as it will fall on Anzac Day).

We provide guest speakers, day and overnight trips, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies. If you are looking to enhance your social life, come along and join us.

Our General and Social Committees are both



Our new home, the Wattle Clubrooms, Underwood Road, Ferntree Gully, is in full use. Busy with activities, functions, celebrations, meetings you name it, and our new notice board welcomes you.

Life Activities Club Knox! BUT, not just Knox, we have members from Glen Waverley, Lilydale, Monbulk, Dandenong and other places too. And if you are passing, feel free to drop in for a cuppa and chat.

Our convener for live theatre, Lynn, is always on the lookout and for the 5 April, members will meet at the Regent Theatre for "& Juliet", which was sold out. But on the 27 April at 7:30 pm you can enjoy the International Comedy Festival at the Community Arts Centre in Bayswater, \$37 per ticket. Tickets are available for "The Rocky Horror Show in June, and in September we'll again take the train to Melbourne for Moulin Rouge! (I think Lynn knows somebody in the theatre).

For lunch (Chinwaggers) we're eating and meeting at the Wantirna Hill Club. Dine-out on the 26 April, find us at Kotajay Malaysian restaurant in Bayswater.

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

Is held 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.

working hard on planning various activities for the rest of this year. They have already come up with "The Songs of Eva Cassidy" during May; a visit to the 1812 Theatre in June to see "Waiting for God" (comedy); Morning Melodies "Night & Day" (songs of Shirley Bassey & Doris Day) during July.

Also, plans are well underway for the annual overnigher, and this year's trip will be to the wonderful Newcastle/Port Stephens area during October/November.

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.



This month the Garden Outing includes a tour of Coombe Cottage in Lilydale, \$15 pp. Seven acres of historic gardens, terraced lawns, native, Italian and vegetable gardens, even a croquet lawn and we'll also see the oldest swimming pool in Victoria!!!

MUSICAL APPRECIATION! What's this? This includes movies, musicals, famous singers of course, followed by afternoon tea. So much more to tell you about this Friendly Club and Activities.

Like, cinema, painting, craft, walking groups, cards, bus trips, outings, organ players, etc. So please drop into the hall for a cup, byo lunch, have a chat, and / or join in. First Friday every month is for Social Games, Cards, Rummicub, Upwords, Scrabble, Chess, indoor bowls, etc. starting at 11am.

Before you do, take time to ring our Membership Secretary Carol on 0419 870 639 for more details or leave a message requesting a copy of our current newsletter.

CRAFT GROUP...

Meets from 11.30 am 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 and Website or phone the church office on 9762 6732,

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