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COMMUNITY NEWS



Centre Pages

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Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

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FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

BORONIA MALL IS CELEBRATING ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY
- SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER -

FROM 11AM TO 2PM

See page 7

BORONIA SHOPPINGTOWN

BORONIA SHOPPINGTOWN Grand Opening Sale tomorrow!

BORONIA MALL IS TURNING 50
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH
11 AM til 2 PM
BORONIA MALL
50 DORSET SQUARE BORONIA
Market & Community stalls
Band - COVERS IN THE CORNER
Veterans Sausage Sizzle
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70s Dress-up Competition
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Free printed circulation to 13,100 households and businesses in Boronia and The Basin, also online and on Facebook.



Editorial Boronia Heights Imbalance

When I first contemplated standing for election to Knox City Council I was employed by the Bureau of Statistics, doing interviews and gathering data. On one occasion I encountered a local family who had lost their home when the landlord sold it.

A generous neighbour offered to share their home until they could find another. So, with two families sharing a house meant for a single family, they were taken off the emergency housing list because they were deemed to have a home.

This then became my first issue if I became a councillor, and the turning point of my decision to stand. Elected, I was full of confidence. Over the next twelve years I attended numerous seminars and advisory committee meetings, mostly on the environment, town planning, including housing and homelessness, waste management and community development. These twelve years took me to every state and territory in the country, but failed to provide a solution to the homeless and home insecurity crisis. I failed in my quest and can only hope that the family finally found the home they deserved.

But the homeless are still with us. So too are those who continue to search for a solution.

There is no doubt that the Victorian Government's plan to fully develop the redundant site of the former Boronia Heights Secondary College would be a significant contribution to easing the Boronia share of the housing crisis. But is it fair and practicable?

On the question of fairness, it is not fair for our local residents to be without a fitting home, nor is it fair for local residents to have their neighbourhood transformed into a more rowdy place. What is needed now is a sensible search for a sensible compromise to deliver a blend of appropriate housing and remnant bushland. I fear that the door has already been closed to such common sense.

John Mortimore

Our website
www.bbcn.org.au
is kept up to date with
the latest Knox City Council
info bulletins, and
any developments with
local issues such as
Mountview Road

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We welcome all contributions from our community but can not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit material. Email is preferred but not essential. Articles or letters that have no contact details, are abusive in nature, or contain racial or other vilification will not be published. Submissions preferably should be 500 to 800 words.

This community newspaper is run totally by volunteers. We aim to provide the people of Boronia and The Basin with an effective medium of communication, information and expression and to promote community identity, cooperation and pride. We welcome your response to published articles, and request that such responses be courteous and objective.

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

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PAGE 3 BIRD

FAIRY TERN (STERNULA NEREIS)



Photo:
Mel
Mitchell

Gull (you know that common fish and chip munching 'Seagull'), that will give you an indication of its miniscularity (that's not even a word). Some people may also mistakenly think it's a mother bird and its baby, incorrect! It was taken by an ex-colleague of my cousin Martin, Mel Mitchell, what a

bird on our Ocean beaches, it just goes to show that so many people, if informed, are prepared to do the right thing. Just remember our beaches are home to many species as well as Hoodies, always look for signage and information boards at any coastal beach.

Unless you're a crazy birdo like yours truly, this next bit may not interest you, but the Little Tern is so similar to the Fairy Tern, especially in immature plumage and in non-breeding plumage, it's flamin' ridiculous. In breeding plumage they can be distinguished by having an all yellow bill and a darker leading edge on the wing feathers. This photo was taken recently at Ricketts Point, Beaumaris, and incredibly a Little Tern has also been recorded in that vicinity at almost the same time, phew, that would do my head in!

Well no one got in touch to claim the prize about the quote, "I'll see you swinging from the yardarm" two BBCNs ago. The answer was Lieutenant William Bligh, as he was being cast adrift from the 'Bounty,' "I'll see you swinging from the yard arm Mr Christian," he allegedly said. That old sea dog! Successfully navigated from the middle of the Pacific to Indonesia, an amazing story. They oughtta make a movie about it, hang on, they have, but a long time ago.

Des Palmer

PS. On re-reading this article I declare that Des Palmer is my nom de plume, not my real name, and I live in another state.

I suffer from an affliction I have been aware of all my life, but have only recently had a diagnosis when my daughter Freya informed me it is called 'cute aggression,' whereby if you see something you identify as being cute, you just want to tear it to pieces or squeeze the living daylights out of it. It particularly manifests itself when I see my two grandchildren, Wren and Eli, both 4 -year- olds, cute as a button, both of them! I ask them both if I have permission to rip them apart limb by limb and they laugh, "No Pa, you're not allowed."

At this point believe me, I never would do anything to harm them, but gee, it's hard not to. Please keep this between ourselves, don't let DHS or the police know about it, or I'll be in all sorts. I know Woodsy is a policeman, but please, let this slide... hang on, what's that noise, who can it be knocking at my door, go away... that's enough, yep, ok.

Have a look at the photo and honestly tell me that that little Fairy Tern doesn't invoke feelings of wanting to... ahhh, I do anyway. The larger bird is the Crested Tern, a fairly common seabird which is very similar in size to the Silver

cracking photo!

Several years ago our field trip group went to Mud Island in the southern part of Port Phillip Bay, a treasure trove of wildlife abound there, but on this day we got absolutely crippling views of some Fairy Terns hunting small bait fish very close to the shore. They seemed oblivious to our presence and we put our binoculars away as they were hardly needed! What an exquisite little bird!

Still a very common bird in northern Australia, where remote beaches are accessible to these little gems to nest on, in Victoria their numbers have decreased dramatically since us white blokes got here; dogs, foxes and feral cats and human activity causing them to decline to the point that you rarely see them. French Island is one place that nesting has occurred in recent years; a lot of hard work going on there to ensure that they are successful. We can all do our bit when walking our canine friends on beaches, always have them on a leash. Education about the Hooded Plover has seen a turnaround in people's behaviour to protect this

Felicitation Ceremony

After three decades
Past and present met together,
Teachers and students had a get together.
Smiles and tears talked and told,
Really a joyous day for young and old.

Swaying little twigs and trees murmured ,
Drummers and dancers beautified the moment.
Scented flowers of the Garland proudly smiled,
What a wonderful day they all whispered.

Aged loving ones strolled in the procession,
Dreams in the minds turn into blessings,
Filling the minds , with heartiest feelings.
"Though we are old, love is not Hold."

Unveiled the past and memories are flown,
Little kids appear on our vision.
We all spent a joyous session,
Nice old memories run in mind.

Seated in the class are now fine assets,
You are the youth, that fertile our earth,
To collect a rich harvest; grow things.
God protect you, and ,You protect our land.

Dayangani Silva



We welcome new volunteer Walker Maureen C.

We need a new volunteer Driver to deliver to 9 Walkers near the end of each month, except for December.

If you help us with this task:
contact@bbcns.org.au



insert brain here



by woodsy

Prabodh - He's Doing It Again ! Walking from the MCG to SCG

AT 72, BORONIA RESIDENT DR PRABODH MALHOTRA TAKES UP AGAIN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF HIS LIFE TO SUPPORT THE MCGRATH FOUNDATION

"Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love," and "True service is not merely an external act but stems from a heart filled with love and compassion." (Mother Teresa) Inspired by the great saint of the 20th century, I would like to add: "Give your feet to fundraising walk and do something for the community."

Hi! My name is Prabodh Malhotra and I have been living in Boronia since the 1980s. This country has given me a beautiful life, and now it is my turn to give something back to the country. On Sunday 29 October 2023, I begin the walk from Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation (MF) that has been doing commendable work to help thousands of families across Australia affected by breast cancer. I plan to arrive at the SCG on the Opening Day of the Pink Test that has become synonymous with breast cancer. Last year I completed an 1100km walk from the MCG to SCG also in support of MF; however, this year's walk via Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Echuca, Deniliquin, Wagga Wagga and Goulburn is going to be longer and more

arduous. As a 72-year-old retiree, I am so pleased to avail myself of this opportunity to make a small contribution to such a noble cause.

Our target is to raise \$100,000 for the McGrath Foundation. My humble request to you is to please give generously and encourage others to donate directly to the Foundation by clicking on the link provided or scan the QR Code. Every dollar counts and even small donations add up like little droplets forming a stream. Donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

Additional funds would help place more specialist McGrath Breast Care Nurses, wherever they're needed, and I'd love your support. Every breast cancer experience is different. That's why the McGrath Foundation aims to make life that little bit easier for individuals and families experiencing breast cancer.

I would really appreciate it if you would please make a generous donation. Thank you so much!

Blog: www.prabodhmalhotra.com



Scan for walk updates and the link to donate directly to The McGrath Foundation.



AGE IS JUST A NUMBER



Boronia artist Rainie Zenith's latest track Pushing Thirty celebrates feeling fantastic no matter what age you are.

Filmed in the garage of a Boronia home, pop dance banger Pushing Thirty is truly the party anthem for all ages.

"You're never too old to feel totally freaking awesome," Rainie said. "Let's face it – does anybody really feel as old as the number of candles on their birthday cake?"

Probably not, if the impressive music video is anything to go by. It depicts a colourful and lively party scene complete with pinata, confetti, and cake, and the joy radiating from the actors' faces is genuine and infectious.

"We had so much fun filming this video," Rainie said. "Picture seven friends having the time of their life in my garage and that's pretty much what it is. And there was so much cake! Motto for life: eat the cake!"

Produced by fast-rising Melbourne artist George Charra, the track itself is a pushback against ageism, a fitting follow up to debut single Reasons To Hate Me which thumbed its nose at those who hate on others for being different.

Rainie said age was no barrier to having a good time.

"I'm so inspired by those who have clocked up the years but continue to grab life by the throat," she said. "People like Alice Cooper and Iggy Pop, and like Baddie Winkle, who gets a name-check in the song."

"Just like the song says, age is just a number and I feel magnificent!"

Check out the video at rainiezenith.com/music

Free movie event: A PLASTIC OCEAN

Adventure documentary shot on more than 20 locations from 2012 to 2016. Explorers Craig Leeson and Tanya Streeter and a team of international scientists reveal the causes and consequences of plastic pollution and share solutions. Also featuring Sir David Attenborough.

Thursday 28 September, 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Knox Community Arts Centre

790 Mountain Highway, Bayswater

This free movie event also includes:

- Pre-event tea and coffee
- Door prizes
- Bring your own re-usable drink bottle, containing your choice of drink and receive a FREE bag of lollies for the movie

Book now at: www.stickytickets.com.au

This special movie event is proudly brought to you by Knox City Council, Maroondah City Council and Monash Council.

OLYMPIC MEDALS FOR BORONIA

Special Olympics were held in June in Berlin, Germany.

BIG Congratulations to our Gold-Level Swimmer Justin Williams who has arrived back and he has WON!

Justin won Silver for the most coveted 50 metre Freestyle & Silver for the Freestyle relay. There was less than a millimetre between Justin & 3rd place for the 50m Backstroke.

A superb effort indeed; Boronia Swimming Club is so proud of him.

"Justin is very focussed in his training and he works very hard with an aim of being the best," says Coach Craig. "Justin listens well to technical advice and is unrelenting in his efforts; seeking speed for every stroke through the water."

If you see him at the Knox Leisure Centre, give your congrats to our very own Olympic Champion!

We would love any kind of endorsement or accolades for Justin and his amazing efforts.

Boronia Swimming Club
info@boroniapenguins.org

Reader's Letter

DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK HABITAT DESTRUCTION

Having grown up at the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges National Park in Boronia for much of my life I have many amazing memories from the park. Meeting echidnas walking along the tracks, observing feeding parties of pardalotes, spine bills and other small insect eating birds moving from tree to tree getting a feed and hearing the deep and load hoots of Australia's largest owl, the Powerful, echo across the valleys.

Being so close to Melbourne and the suburbs but still very much alive with amazing wildlife and plantlife, the Dandenong Ranges National Park is a special place to many of us.

After the big windstorm in 2021 much of the Dandenong Ranges were heavily impacted. Towering trees that had taken so long to grow could not withstand the unusual easterly gale-force wind, heavily sodden soil from massive downpours, and in many cases the being weakened from past development and poor tree management.

A few years on when all the roads and tracks have been cleared of fallen trees there is a nefarious plan to remove fallen trees from the national park by State logging company VicForest to be sold for commercial purposes under the guise of fire management.

The removal of the fallen trees will remove important habitat for wildlife in the area, such as small marsupial carnivore the antechinus, as well as frogs, lizards and fungi. Compaction from the use of 30 tonne machines will also compact the soil and compromise trees that survived the 2021 wind storm.

This has never before happened in Victoria and if it goes ahead will set a dangerous precedent for not just our national park but national parks across the State.

Please join us on 2nd September at Midday at Olinda Falls Picnic Ground to learn more about this nefarious plan to remove fallen trees and habitat from the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Jordan Crook

Advertisement

printed on recycled paper

PICNIC FOR THE PARK

Saturday 2nd of September MIDDAY

GATHERING
to stop rogue logging in
Dandenong Ranges National Park

Guest Speakers
carpooling encouraged

OLINDA FALLS PICNIC GROUND

BYO PICNIC

GUIDED FOREST WALK

<https://www.facebook.com/landcare.southerndandenongs>
This event is taking place on the stolen lands of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have The 39 Steps – a fast paced whodunnit.

In The 39 Steps, a man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she's a spy. He takes her home, she is murdered and soon after, a mysterious organisation called The 39 Steps is hot on the man's trail in a nationwide manhunt that climaxes in a death-defying finale.

The Basin Theatre gave its audience one of the most hilarious evenings seen for a long time.

The sets were basic and interchangeable. Using chairs and tables which represented cars, trains and hotel rooms.

The cast were excellent and hilarious. We had the bored man Richard Hannay played by Michael Jewell and Michael was also Co-director.

**The Basin Theatre:
THE 39 STEPS**

As a performer, he was outstanding, playing one character always on the run with nobody believing his story. Jewell gave the funniest performance seen for an age. An excellent portrayal.

The only lady in the cast was Bryony Wilson, who played various roles from that of the murdered spy with the thick accent to the wife of a Scottish hotel keeper, the local girl who did not believe Richard's story which led to some hilarious scenes. A superb performance and a wonderful change of accents depending on which character she was playing.

John Latham and Ozzy Breen-Carr are listed on the program as Clown 1 and 2.

Both were extremely good and their scenes were excellent. They played crooks, policemen, Latham as a housewife married to the villain. An excellent portrayal and hilariously funny.

Breen-Carr was respectively a policeman, a crook and Mr Memory. Audiences may not believe how hard it is for an actor to change characters during a play but the four actors in this play lived up to all expectations giving excellent and superb performances particularly in changing characters. Mishel Jewell was lucky he played the same character throughout but as said earlier, he was the Co-director.

The Basin Theatre produced not only an excellent evening of theatre but an hilarious evening of fun fully appreciated by the opening night audience.

Peter Kemp

Knox City Council proudly presents



Free event

STRINGYBARK FESTIVAL

SUN 15 OCT  10AM-4PM

Rowville Community Centre, 40 Fulham Rd, Rowville



- Makers market • Live music • Cooking demos
- Food trucks • Kids' entertainment • Fun activities

knox.vic.gov.au/StringyBark



Free movie event

A Plastic Ocean featuring Sir David Attenborough.
Thursday 28 September, 6.30pm – 9pm
Knox Community Arts Centre
stickytickets.com.au/d995X



Free activities

Knox Seniors Festival launch
Monday 2 October, 9.30am – 2pm
Carrington Park, Knoxfield
Bookings: 9898 8828
knox.vic.gov.au/SeniorsFestival



Find my bin days
Search your address to find out your bin collection dates.
knox.vic.gov.au/BinDay

BORONIA MALL - 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MARKET FAIR

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 11 am – 2 pm

Who would've thought that it has been 50 years since The Boronia Mall became our local hub for shopping and entertainment?

Since opening its doors in 1973 The Mall has seen many different stores, including Fashion, Butcher/Deli, Music, Department stores, Food outlets, Formal hire, Clothing alterations, Jewellery, Second hand stores, Bookshop, Newsagency, Florist, Post Office, Medicare, Hairdressers, Variety stores, Toy store and Furniture stores just to name a few. Over that time there have been many events and entertainment to enjoy held for young and old. The Mall even had a dedicated Events planner on staff for quite some time.

There's still a lot of life left in the 'OLD GAL' and we want to showcase the best bits by throwing a huge Community event for all ages. No matter your interests there will be something for you to enjoy. So make sure to mark 9 September on your calendar, and be at the Dorset Square Mall between 11am and 2pm.

With the support of The Aussie Veterans Op Shop Band - 'Covers in the Corner' and shop traders, the Boronia Mall will welcome through its doors some 37 stall holders throughout the entire centre for the local community to peruse.

Stalls ranging from New & Used Items, Creative, Quirky, Local services, Community focused and just plain FUN! - For regular updates including lists of Stall Holders & Merchandise available, please visit Aussie Veterans Op Shop VIA FACEBOOK.

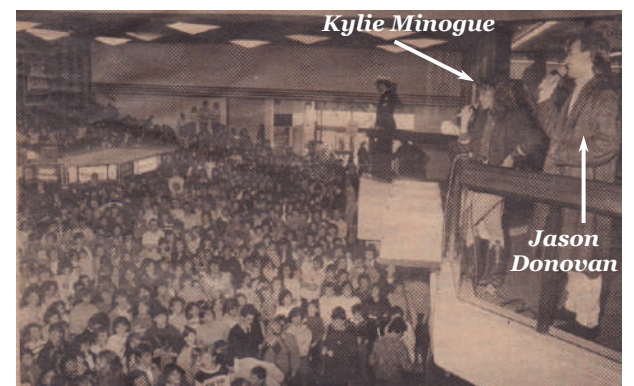
We are having a 70s Theme – we encourage everyone to get creative and dress up in their best 70s Clothing. There will be an opportunity during the event for the audience to participate in our 'BEST DRESSED 70s COSTUME' competition. Prizes will be given to the top 3 winners. Spot prizes will also be handed out during the event, including Aussie Veterans Op Shop Gift Certificates and Dodees Donuts - Free Donut vouchers.

We are all excited to welcome everyone from all walks of life to enjoy The Boronia Malls 50th Birthday Spotlight.

Let's help reignite the energy of yesteryear by encouraging people to come together in one space and focus on what The Boronia Mall could be, not what it no longer is.

COMMUNITY GETTING STRONGER TOGETHER

See you there, Kristy Harris, Assistant Manager, Aussie Veterans Op Shop



WE HAVE A JAM PACKED DAY ORGANISED CHECK OUT OUR PLANNED ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIALTY STALLS

Boronia Mall. Did you know?

Danny Nolan

September 11th of this year commemorates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Boronia Shopping Town. Primarily the Mall, which also included Kmart and Kmart Foods (later Coles).

Developer Ted Lustig was quoted: "The builders have created a pleasing but functional design... and a delightful shopping atmosphere. The deep, strong tones of the mosaic tiles on the striking feature wall contrasted with the soft white translucent effect of the high suspended ceiling to create a dramatic architectural feature."

"I was interested in building a quality shopping centre that would not become outdated in ten years. And I think we've succeeded."

The complex was officially opened by Victorian Premier of the time Sir Rupert Hamer.

The complete build was 6.5 Million dollars. (\$6.5M in 1973 is equivalent in purchasing power to just over \$73.5 million today.)

The project was completed three months ahead of schedule.

Boronia Kmart was the second built in Australia. The Mall housed 31 specialty stores.

The first Manager of the complex was Joseph Kirlen who was a local Ferntree Gully resident and was an umpire for the EFL.

Besides being fully air conditioned the centre had 40 ceiling speakers, 25 wall speakers and another 97 in Kmart and the car park areas.

The Mall's original centrepiece was a stunning light sculpture designed by Local Melbourne lighting firm Mercator and the original architects. It was 6 metres tall and consisted of three concentric circles, the outer measuring 3.8 metres in diameter, from each of these rings hung 9000 strands of coloured plastic discs each 125 mm in mauve, pink and amber.

It has been impossible to estimate how many children since 1973 were entered into one of the Mall's Baby Contests or had their photo taken with Santa.

Famous faces that have appeared at the Mall include Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan, Gus Mercurio, Robin Jolly, Humphrey B. Bear, Darth Vader & countless VFL/AFL footballers.

In 1974 whilst coming to Melbourne as a guest of the 1974 Logie Awards, famous Italian movie star Gina Lollobrigida popped into the Mall much to the delight of many a local.

The original logo is still visible above the entrance via the Dorset Square car park entry off Chandler Road.

ONE TREE HILL

*Ray Peace
Knox Historical Society*

DURING World War II, an anti-aircraft gun crewed by the US Army was placed on One Tree Hill – or was it? This story has semi-official status, appearing as it does in a local CFA document from 2012. But is it true?

The answer appears to be No. To explain that, one needs a little military history, plus knowing something about various types of guns. For those unfamiliar with the subject, high-altitude anti-aircraft weapons in World War II tended to be of 75 mm to 105 mm in calibre.

Possibly the best known anti-aircraft gun in the 1939-45 war was the German 88 mm gun that gave the type its name. (Flug Abwehr Kannonen, anti-aircraft artillery, known to the Allies and their enemies alike as flak) These weapons could fire a shell to a height of 20,000 feet (6,300m) where it would explode, set off either by a barometric pressure switch, or by a radar proximity fuse, triggering the explosive in lethal proximity to an aircraft.

The glaring problem with this story is that there was then nothing on the ground within a two mile (3.2 km) radius of One Tree Hill seriously worth

protecting. Chandler's daffodil farm would hardly be a prime military target, nor Boronia railway station, or the Salvation Army boy's home at The Basin.

United States armed forces were certainly active in the district, but not in a form that lent itself to targeting by enemy bombers. The First US Marine Corps briefly occupied the army camp at Rowville early in 1942, but left for the Pacific after a few months. In 1943, a modest lady from Bayswater was engaged in cracking secret Japanese military codes as part of FRUMEL (US Navy Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne). But that work was carried out in the city, not in the then outlying Boronia district.

The city of Melbourne would certainly have been a prime target, if not via a land-based attack then by aircraft launched from carriers at sea. The commander of Nepean Coastal Command certainly thought so; he was a Lieut. Col. George H. Knox. Melbourne then housed a number of military

headquarters, and munitions factories working around the clock. The city had some protection from anti-aircraft guns, and also searchlight batteries. But these were in and around the inner city: apart from possibly trying to intentionally start a bushfire, there was nothing worth a cracker to bomb in the Dandenongs.

So while the story is interesting, it appears to have no factual foundation: another urban myth. Only if Chandlers Hill was full of secret tunnels (it isn't) would such an effort be justified. Let this furphy rest in peace (pun intended).



Lieut. Col. George Knox (at centre) with members of the local volunteer militia in 1940

WORLD DUCHENNE AWARENESS DAY A PERSONAL STORY

Thursday 7 September 2023 marks the 10th year of World Duchenne Awareness Day. This international day is dedicated to raising awareness about Duchenne & Becker Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). The theme is "Duchenne: Breaking Barriers," the focus being bringing to light the physical, healthcare, and social barriers facing those living with DMD.

What is Duchenne & Becker Muscular Dystrophy? These conditions are the result of a mutation in the genetic DNA coding region for the dystrophin protein.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is caused by a change in the dystrophin gene. Without dystrophin, muscles are not able to function or repair themselves properly. Becker Muscular Dystrophy, which is less severe than Duchenne, occurs when dystrophin is manufactured, but not in the normal form or amount.

The consequences lead to muscle fibre necrosis and progressive muscle weakness and fatigability.

Up until March 2015, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy was a condition that I had briefly crossed paths with while studying genetics as part of my science degree. DMD is an X-linked recessive disorder, inherited via the X chromosome. This means that only males are affected if they have a faulty X chromosome; females however can be the carriers.

I remember thinking how terribly challenging it would be to carry this genetic anomaly let alone pass it on to your child. You never think it could happen to you, but it did – to us.

Given the age at which I found myself pregnant, while we didn't have any known conditions, I was always unsettled by the fact that I didn't know my



own genetic family history due to most of my own family members residing overseas. To have the genetic testing is a very personal decision; for us it just seemed like the sensible and responsible thing to do, given my scientific background.

After considering all the testing options prior, we opted for the Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) test. This is done at 10-12 weeks gestation, and samples the placental tissue. We had decided that this test would cover all the bases, as well as being able to tell us the sex of our baby.

When you decide to have genetic testing, it's always for peace of mind, a precautionary test. You never expect it to come back with a bad result. When we received a call on a public holiday with the test results, we knew that clearly there must be something wrong.

We were immediately referred to one of the most prominent geneticists at one of the major hospitals. On arrival and after a brief discussion, the geneticist proceeded to work through each of our family trees, stopping at each male and enquiring about the health of the individual. Eventually, we were told that our child had mutations on the X Chromosome in the dystrophin region.

It was at that moment I, at least, had an understanding that the geneticist was referring to DMD and how it was inherited. Even through the shock of that information, I immediately turned to my husband to see whether he had made sense of what was just said.

Information like that raises a lot of questions about inheritance, where it might have come from

knowing the huge gaps and unknowns in my own family history, replaying conversations with family thinking we may have missed crucial information.

We learned that there is a worldwide genetic database for those affected by DMD and the carriers, and a log of how each of the types of mutations affected those that had inherited them. The mutation discovered in our child was unique and very large; it had never been seen before.

Through further blood testing, I discovered that I was a carrier, and that our child had inherited the mutation from me. After looking through the database and consulting with other geneticists around the world, our geneticist could not concretely tell us how this genetic change would be expressed. Unfortunately, sometimes there are no immediate answers, but there's also the possibility that the mutation may have been spontaneous, which happens more than we know.

This diagnosis, for the both of us clearly came with a barrage of emotions attached to it, and the realisation that there was a very big difference between how I handled it and how my husband processed it. One thing that does come from such an event is that you learn a lot about yourself and your spouse. For some, this kind of thing will break you, for others you ride the bumpy road and come out stronger on the other side.

Nature is random and imperfect, and it doesn't always get it right. My studies in genetics which included DNA replication, mutations and the like had shown that although these processes are robust, they are also fragile. I drew comfort from this knowledge which helped me. That was MY WAY of making sense of the chaos.

For others, rationalising such a diagnosis comes in many different forms, whichever way you choose to make sense of it, there is no right or wrong way and what you decide to do with that diagnosis is also a very personal choice.

(contact information supplied)

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED AT OUR TABLE

A SIMPLE INVITATION AND SOMETIMES LIFE-CHANGING



DEDICATED KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Every Wednesday evening, 120 people enjoy a healthy meal, sitting down at a table with plates, knives and forks, and with each other. This may be in stark contrast to the rest of their week, especially if they are isolated or homeless or in other ways challenged out there on the fringes.

It's not only a hearty meal.

There are both shower and laundry facilities.

This happens every Wednesday in Ferntree Gully, and every Monday in Upwey.

Foothills Community Care

started this life enriching project back in 2002, when a small group, led by Stephen Barrington, had a vision and began their mission to create open, inclusive communities of love and acceptance, to overcome isolation and despair.

They are providing places where people can connect and engage as they address issues such as family and domestic violence, addictions, homelessness, poverty, mental health issues, and social isolation.

"Many of our friends come from challenging backgrounds, and we seek to create a place offering dignity and hope without judgment, where people can feel safe, valued and loved.

"Our connection often begins by providing a hearty, nutritious, home-cooked meal to all who walk in. However, it is much more than just a meal, it is a welcome into a positive and inclusive community for people who may not connect anywhere else. For many it is a hand up, not a handout."

Check out their website:

www.foothillscare.org.au - they love to welcome new volunteers.

Over 55,000 meals shared since 2002, what a great effort.



ORANGE SKY LAUNDRY VOLUNTEERS

Complementing this wonderful service:

ORANGE SKY LAUNDRY and ONE VOICE MOBILE SHOWERS

The Orange Sky mission is to provide a platform for every day Australians to connect through a regular laundry and shower service. The focus is on creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or who feel disconnected from the community. Our volunteers are not social workers or experts on homelessness - they are empathetic listeners and great conversationalists (www.orangesky.org.au). Orange Sky began in 2014 by two friends in Brisbane.

"From sitting down on our orange chairs and chatting with friends, we've learnt that although access to laundry and shower services is important, it's the conversation and regular connection that create the biggest impact in the community."

Each week, all over Australia, thousands of volunteers help to positively connect our friends doing it tough by providing access to free laundry, warm showers and genuine, non-judgemental conversation. We always partner with service providers, such as food vans or drop-in centres and make sure that we set up at locations where our friends feel most comfortable.

One Voice was established in 2012 after founder Josh Wilkins spent 6 months on the streets of Melbourne (by choice) to experience what homeless people did on a daily basis, and identify what he could do to help in a practical manner. Josh identified two concerns:

The obvious, the need for safe secure accommodation and The hidden, access to a hot shower

One Voice now has services in operation around Australia. They have helped restore dignity to over 250,000 people who experience homelessness nationally. (www.onevoice.org.au)

The Internet

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KIDS
ZONE**26 September is World Cassowary Day**

A cassowary must be one of the coolest birds out there—as tall as a person, with a helmet on its head, a vivid blue and purple neck with long drooping crimson wattles and piercing amber eyes—wow what a combination!

There are three species of Cassowaries in the world living in Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea

The Southern cassowary lives in Australia, in Far North Queensland's tropical rainforests, melaleuca swamps and mangrove forests.

It is a ratite—a large flightless bird, and is our heaviest, but is beaten in height by the emu.

It likes to eat fallen fruit, with over 283 species of plants recorded in its diet!

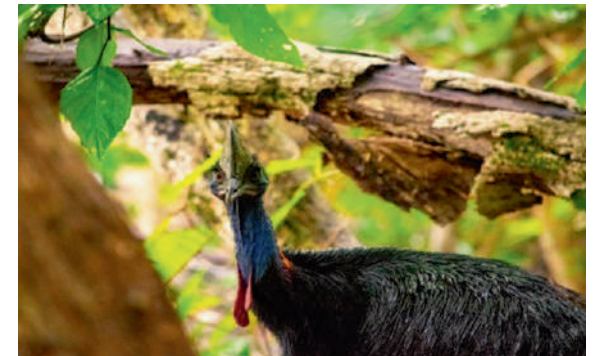
Known as a rainforest gardener, cassowaries



play a vital role in maintaining diversity in rainforest trees. They swallow fruit whole, digesting the pulp and passing the seeds unharmed in large piles of dung which can contain 100s, if not 1000s of seeds! Now they

are an endangered species due mainly to loss of their habitat.

Queensland parks are working with the community to educate and raise awareness about cassowary conservation. They also undertake the rescue, rehabilitation and release of cassowaries that require assistance, ensuring they are placed back into quality habitat where they will have sufficient food.

**Treat your dad well this Fathers' Day**

Cassowaries are great Dads too!

See if Dad knows the answers to the Quiz

1. Why are Cassowaries considered to be fantastic fathers?

A. The father cassowary incubates the eggs alone and when they are hatched he feeds the chicks by mashing up fruit and catching insects for them. He raises them until they are up to 18 months old and is very protective of them.

2. Are Cassowaries the biggest bird in the world?

A. No, but they are the second heaviest (after the Ostrich) and the third tallest (after the Ostrich and Emu).

3. How high can a Cassowary jump?

A. They can jump 2 metres straight into the air, high enough for a full grown adult to walk underneath them.

4. What is the casque or helmet on their head for?

A. The casque of a cassowary is hard and can measure up to 7 inches long. As cassowaries run through dense forests, they lower their head and the casque clears a path through branches and other vegetation.

5. Are Cassowaries dangerous?

A. Yes. They have sharp claws and powerful legs, so they can do a lot of damage if they are provoked or angered. Normally they are shy and not overly aggressive, so attacks are rare.

Colour in Father Cassowary and His ChicksKIDS
ZONE



By Father's Day my husband and I will have been parents for three months. One night, while we were washing the dishes, I began asking him to reflect on his experience. It was fitting that we chose to have the conversation while multitasking as I tease him by calling him 'Practical Pete.' He is very task-oriented and, true to form, his responses to my questions were very practical.

Starting with 'you don't need to buy things brand new,' his reflections took the form of advice for new parents. He recommended taking leave, if at all possible, and going to a private hospital for a first child, again, if possible. 'It is like having the training wheels on and you can learn a lot from the midwives and doctors.'

'If your partner breastfeeds, then pick up a lot of the slack of everything else. If your partner doesn't breastfeed then you need to share the load equally. That way you're equally tired!

'If anyone asks what they can do to help, suggest meals or vouchers for takeaway. You won't have energy for cooking.

'You think the birth is important, it is, but you gotta think past it as well. A lot of the (available) reading is up until the birth.'

When I asked about advice for our little boy he said: 'I want you to learn, hopefully, all our good traits.' (I piped in with 'And forget the bad



On Being a New Dad

by Kim Hanson

only acquaintances of Kim's). And when the baby recognises you... that's probably one of the best things about fatherhood.'

As I have watched Pete grow, I have rediscovered how dedicated and caring he is. Despite my teasing, his practical side has saved me from going insane and his willingness to learn together has made us a strong team. We've had some rough patches but Pete has been in the passenger seat as I bumped us over potholes and speed humps.

His last bit of Practical Pete advice is reassurance for expectant and new sports lovers: 'You can still enjoy the football, just maybe not all the beers. When your baby is screaming loudly, you don't actually need to listen to the commentators; in fact you'll probably enjoy it more that way!'

ones!'). 'Manliness is not always just what you think is manly, it's helping, it's doing some of the boring things as well as the fun things.'

'Have fun, you're going to regret things but I want to encourage you to do things that you want to do and not what I want you to do.'

Finally 'Practical Pete' took a back seat and he had some nice words to share. 'It has been surprising to see how excited everyone has been about Little One's arrival. We have received gifts from people that I didn't even know (and were

**READ OUR FIRST TWO
YOUNG WRITERS
INITIATIVE SUBMISSIONS
ON PAGE 15**

Father's Day Portrait Toasts

Ingredients

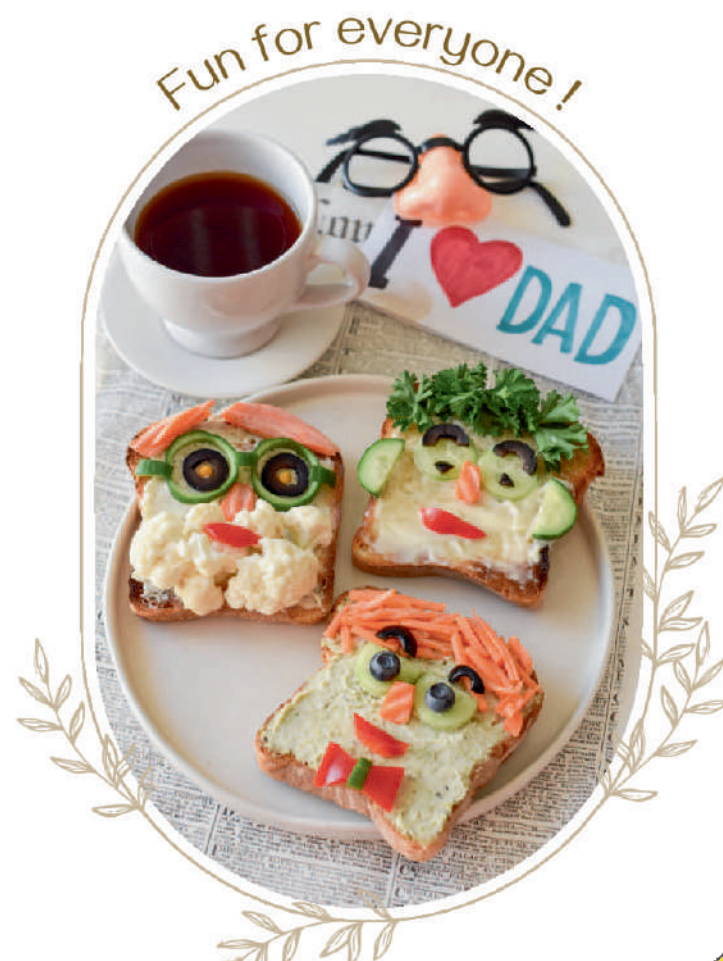
- Bread slices
- Spread of choice
- Mayonaise
- Cream cheese
- Hummus
- Avocado

Chopped veggies for the face:

- Bell peppers
- Carrots
- Cucumbers
- Cauliflower
- Black olives

Instructions

1. Toast your bread until lightly brown.
2. Coat with spread of choice.
3. Create your dad's face with the chopped veggies.



[HTTPS://WWW.FORKANDBEANS.COM/](https://www.forkandbeans.com/)



PUFFING BILLY RUNNING FESTIVAL SATURDAY 9 and SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

A new look Puffing Billy Running Festival is emerging from hibernation this spring, shaking off the remnants of COVID-19 with an adrenaline-fuelled running event for all ages and abilities.

The expanded Festival will stretch over not one, but two epic days, delivering four different courses that offer a thrilling challenge for seasoned runners or an exciting day of laughter and shared experiences for parents and their little champions.

Day one of the Festival will feature a new 1.2km Kids Dash and a new 5km Family Fun Run / Walk on Saturday 9 September at Emerald Lake Park, with the echoing toots and puffs of Puffing Billy propelling all participants forward.

Then, on Sunday 10 September, prepare to witness a fierce showdown as up to 3,000 participants take on the challenge of a lifetime, racing against two colossal steam locomotives from Belgrave to Emerald in the heart-pounding 13.5 km 'Classic' Run, or for those hungry for even greater conquests, the all-new 21.1km road and trail Half Marathon; a true test of endurance set amidst the breathtaking views and unyielding hills of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges.

Spectators looking to cheer on participants can embark on an unforgettable journey themselves, hopping aboard the iconic Puffing Billy and potentially even surpassing the racing runners!

The recently developed state-of-the-art Lakeside Visitor Centre within Emerald Lake Park will host the Festival's Finish Zone precinct for the first time, with food and beverage options, retail offerings and the breathtaking beauty of Emerald Lake Park's picturesque surroundings for participants and visitors to enjoy.

"We are delighted to announce the return of the Puffing Billy Running Festival," said Peter Abbott, CEO, Puffing Billy Railway.

"This will re-commence our proud tradition of staging an annual footrace against Puffing Billy. A tradition that stretches back to 1982."

"The new family-focused events will be a great way for families to come together and experience Emerald Lake Park. The hilly courses of the Classic and the Half Marathon - combined with the sounds and steam of the race trains - provide one of the most challenging and spectacular fun run experiences in Australia."

The event is proudly supported by Puffing Billy Railway's 350 committed volunteers, with proceeds from the 2023 Puffing Billy Running Festival donated to support vital heritage railway projects like Puffing Billy Railway's Belgrave Station Signal Box.

Whether you have been an annual participant or



are inspired to take on your first race, there is a course to suit everyone.

Limited tickets are available for family and friends joining in the excitement by train on Sunday 10 September. Early registrations are strongly encouraged to secure your spot and avoid disappointment.

SPECIAL OFFER - Double the excitement and save! Book both the 1.2km Kids Dash or 5km Family Run/Walk, along with the race train, and enjoy a 25% discount.

Entries are now open at <https://puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au/>.

Sheena Dang Communications Manager, Puffing Billy Railway

Boronia Bowls Club Pre-Season News 2023/24

What an incredibly eventful year it was at the Boronia Bowls Club during the 2022/23 season, both on and off the green. As the club enters its 73rd year, it will be a tough ask to back it up, however everyone at the club is committed to another huge season.

Much of the work that had been commenced around the club the previous year was completed. This involved a huge amount of work from the Committee of Management and the many volunteer members at the club.

The old-style lighting across the front green has now been replaced with LED floodlights that light up both the front and back green beautifully at night, allowing our members and guests to play, practice and have fun enjoying bowls for longer.

The highlight of the year on the green though

was most definitely the performance of our Saturday 1st side. Starting the year in 3rd Division the team played well all season maintaining their position in the top four, and locking themselves a top two position at the end of the season, and the double chance. In a tense Grand Final, the Monbulk team took a substantial 20+ point lead into the half time break, forcing the BBC team to dig deep in the second half, and dig deep they did.

Never tried bowls before, then come to our upcoming Come and Try Days on 24 September and 1 October. There will be expert tuition and

equipment provided, you just need to turn up between 2pm & 4pm and have some fun.

For any experienced bowls we have commenced pennant practice already, however you are more than welcome to come and join us for the upcoming season in mid-week and Saturday pennant teams.



For all membership or Come and Try inquiries please call Wayne Gunstone on 0430 451 250.

@ boronia_bowls_club



Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St., Boronia

COME AND TRY DAYS

Never tried Lawn Bowls, but always wanted to? Well now you Can!

Come on down to Boronia Bowls Club on Sunday 24th September and/or Sunday 1st October from 2pm - 4pm.

All equipment provided as well as tuition from our Club Coach and experienced Members.

Lawn Bowls has many great benefits for all ages, including the following;

Social Interaction - Lower Impact Sport - Mental Stimulation - Competitive Outlet

Physical Exercise - Enjoyment and Relaxation - Skill Development

Never been down, come and have a look. The fabulous outdoor deck and bar will be open. Drinks at great prices!

For more information contact Wayne Gunstone on 0430 451 250.

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Glengollan Village Ferntree Gully



CLUB SUPPORTERS

- Jackson Taylor MP Bayswater
Mary Doyle Federal MP Aston
Cr. Jude Dwight Chandler Ward

ALL bowlers welcome - No fees for new bowlers for the first year - Call Wayne on 0430 451 250

The Basin Celebrates Dolly Parton's Imagination Library 200 Millionth Book Milestone

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the premier early childhood book gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation has mailed well over 200 million free books in the USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and the Republic of Ireland. To celebrate this global 200 million book milestone, seven enchanting Dolly bookmarks will be randomly hidden inside Imagination Library books gifted during International Literacy Month (September) to children/families currently enrolled in the program.

The Basin program was launched in 2014 through a partnership with Bayswater Rotary, who went on to start the Bayswater program. Now Nurturing Literacy is our new partner, and we currently have 77 enrolments with over 100 graduates.

Seven random children/families in five countries who find the Dolly bookmarks in their Imagination Library books will receive, if they choose, a video chat with Dolly, a personalised signed letter from

Dolly, an autographed photo from Dolly, and four Dollywood Theme Park tickets. The Dollywood Foundation will also donate \$2000 AUD on behalf of the child to their Local Imagination Library Partner in their community as a "thank you" to those who Dolly calls the true heroes of her program.

The Imagination Library mails more than two million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to registered children from birth to age five. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading, inspiring children to dream. The impact of the program has been widely researched and results suggest positive increases in key early childhood literacy metrics. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher for the program.

This year marks our 5000th book gifted in The Basin, and thanks to a book donation from United Book Distributors, we are celebrating by giving away copies of Dolly's new Children's book "Billy the Kid makes it Big." A huge thank you to Rainy Day Books in The Basin, who are helping distribute them. For the month of September, winners will be able to collect their prize from Rainy



Day Books. All winners will be drawn from our current enrolment lists.

What local parents have to say:

"It brings joy and excitement back to reading, I love seeing the smile on Luka's face when the mail comes and he gets to open a new book that is age appropriate and relevant."

"We love receiving the books every month, Skye gets so excited and wants to read them the moment she gets them I love that this is available to us."

"My children look forward to the books we receive from the Imagination Library every month. They have provided a wide variety of books for us to read and explore and are targeted to their age group. I'm so thankful to the Imagination Library for the books we have been able to get from them and the worlds my kids have been able to explore through them."

www.imaginationlibrary.com/200-million-books

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Jackson Taylor, local State MP for Bayswater

With winter now finally behind us, let's hope we are moving into some warmer weather. I hope you've all been keeping well and as always; I appreciate the opportunity to keep you up to date on a few things happening.

Our veterans have made an enormous contribution to our state, and our nation. That's why the State Government is delivering on our promise to introduce the Veterans Card - Victoria. The card will help more than 100,000 veterans who call Victoria home with cost-of-living relief through discounts on car rego, trailer and caravan registration, free fishing licence and access to Victorian Government employment programs. Our veterans have so much to give to our state - and this is our way of saying thanks. Sign up for the Veterans Card - Victoria now at: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/veterans-card-victoria>

Fairhills High School

Work has been underway on the major upgrade at this local school for a few months now and it's looking to be completed by the end of this year. The upgrades to the school include works to upgrade the auditorium, and the science and

technology facilities. All in all, it's a massive investment to ensure locals have the best education facilities locally. Feel free to check in with the school for a tour if you're looking to enrol there.

Building a Better Boronia Continues

In the last edition, I spoke about the extra funding of \$650,000 for more localised projects in Boronia. I'm pleased to announce that \$50,000 in Community Grants have also since been awarded to groups like the Rotary Club of Boronia, Boronia Road Uniting Church, Boronia Bowls Club, Knox InfoLink, Knox Photographic Society, Boronia Netball Club, Boronia Hawks, Boronia Cricket, Church of Christ Boronia, Girl Guides Boronia and the Boronia RSL. All great groups and proud we're backing them in.

In other news

- The Boronia Heights Primary playgrounds are soon to start, and I'm pleased the State Government has provided funding to assist this project.
- The new multi-purpose undercover court at Fairhills Primary will start in a few weeks.
- We're continuing to support our multicultural community with a grant provided to The Basin Temple to support a large community event.
- I was excited to officially open the new JW

Manson Pavilion in Wantirna recently and this was thanks to \$2.5 million from the State Government.

And on another note, do you have unclaimed money sitting out there? The State Revenue Office has \$109 million of refunds, bonds, interest and unclaimed cash just waiting for Victorians to collect. All you have to do is visit the website and check if you're on the list. To check go here - <https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/unclaimed-money> or call 13 21 61 for more.

Local Shout-Out

I had a thoroughly good time at St John's Day Celebrations at Dom Polski Syrena, Rowville - the Polish House. Thank you to the President and to all the committee members for having me along at your wonderful event to acknowledge St John's Day. a



Official opening of the new JW Manson Reserve pavilion

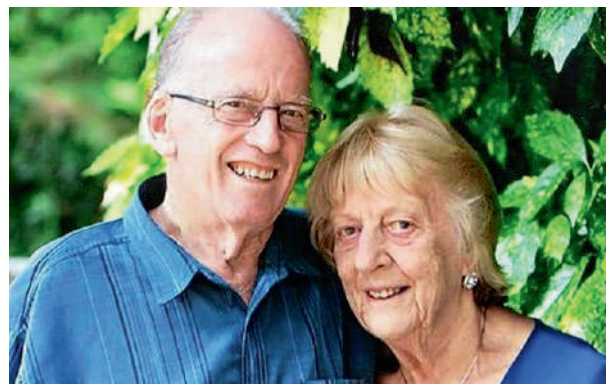
MARGARET LEWIS

A woman of loving service to her family and the local community

2 December 1937 - 10 July 2023

Margaret Lewis (nee Collings) was born in 1937, the first of three children and she lived in East Preston. She loved her childhood and had an exceptional bond with her father and her brother Max. Marg engendered in her children a deep love and respect for their father Doug too. She met and married Doug Lewis and together they built a life together as an amazing couple whose lives would touch so many within the wider community and overseas.

Doug and Marg Lewis lived in Boronia for around 50 or so years and were both active in the local community with Doug in leadership roles as a principal for many years in the region. Whilst living in Boronia, Marg had three children - Jenny, Debbie and Greg, but when she was unable to have any other children, she and Doug decided to adopt a son Geoff in 1969, followed by another son, Brad in the 80s. She had so much love to give she decided with Doug to foster. They fostered long term Martin, Sharni, Courtney, Brittany and Kayla and some 60-70 short term foster children. This wonderful loving service to the community was honoured in 2002 with the Boys Town Family of the Year award, it was a national award with 1350 nominations. This award was to be presented at



the MCG by the famous athlete John Landy but no children were allowed. Marg spoke in her own way saying in effect, "No children, then we aren't coming." So, they attended the award ceremony. With the money awarded to them they took the whole family, including foster kids, for a weekend away at the Cumberland at Lorne.

At the heart of her life was her faith and love for God and those put in her care. She expressed that love in so many practical ways including annual Clean Up Australia Days, bus trips for seniors, annual children's camps in Reefton and Dixons Creek, leadership in the Annual World Day of Prayer even into her 80s. Marg ran the People's Pantry in the local community providing food for those in need. She, along with Doug, volunteered in the Kids Hope program in a local school for many years.

In the 1990's Marg and her beloved husband Doug agreed willingly to pastor members of their church in the Solomon Islands for nine years, often traveling by dugout boats over

choppy waters to serve the 'sheep' placed in their care. There was no opportunity too big or too small to serve in the community or her church for Marg, she was at the heart of it with her passion, love and hard work.

She will be deeply missed by her much loved husband Doug, all the children she bore, adopted and fostered. A shining light has gone out but her legacy lives on in the lives of all those she touched.

She was a wonderful example of love, compassion and kindness to all who knew and loved her. Marg lived the verse in the Bible that says, "I was hungry and you gave food...I was a stranger and you took me in..." Her funeral was attended by nearly 200 people who came to honour this amazing woman.

In her son Greg's words in his eulogy, he said, "Mum was the salt of the earth... in the pages of history as an absolute bloody legend."

Excerpts from her son Greg's eulogy

Below is the link to the article about their Australian Family of the Year Award in 2002

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/boronia-couple-named-family-of-the-year-20021202-gdudv9w.html>

Lynette Hayhurst



BBCN are pleased to announce our first two awards for the Young Writers Initiative.

In each edition of BBCN, we plan to publish selected submissions from school students in our circulation area. Authors of published articles will receive a \$50 gift voucher for their contribution to our community paper. This is to encourage young people to share their ideas and stories and to build their confidence to contribute to community discussions as they progress with their education and future career.

Big congratulations to both Darcy and Ava as our first recipient so thr BBCN Young Writers Awards.

THE SPACE ADVENTURE

Once upon a time there was a family. The family's names were Darcy, Sadie, Finn, Mum (Abbie), Dad (Michael) and a dog named Scout and they wanted to go to space. So, one day they hoped in their car. It was a long drive and flight to get to NASA. They were finally there. They snuck into the next rocket. They found a lot of spacesuits they quickly put them on.

It was time to count down 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 blast off. It was so fast that they fell over. They were so far away from the sun! But they were getting closer, closer and closer, they were so close to the sun now. Their foreheads were burning so hot that they had to lay down they were about to land but there ran out of petrol.

So instead they crash landed on the moon. They had to hop out of the rocket to find some supplies to help them get back to Earth. Then a little alien came out of nowhere he said, "if you give me twenty moon rocks and I will take you back to Earth." They had no choice but to agree. They found twenty of the best moon rocks because the alien said. Then he said "hop in my UFO and took them back to earth. And they lived happily ever after.

Darcy Giles Yr 1 The Basin Primary

AN OCTOPUS 'ALL AT SEA'

Recently, in the town of Mirabella there has been a horrid flood and everyone had to stay home! Unfortunately that meant all those poor kids were stuck doing remote learning!

One ordinary morning, twelve year old Sally Connolly woke up at exactly 6:37am, to get a glass of water from the kitchen only to find an.....OCTOPUS IN THE SINK!!!!

"What is that doing in the sink and more importantly what are my parents going to say!" Sally had no idea what was happening. She ran as fast as her tiny, still asleep legs could go, to wake her parents hoping they wouldn't faint! Sally made it to her parents room and immediately screamed "THERE'S AN OCTOPUS IN THE SINK!" Sally's mum and dad looked at Sally with a confused look on their faces.

At first, they didn't believe her. She couldn't wait to get them downstairs, so she tugged and dragged her parents down the stairs to the kitchen where a large, pink smiling Octopus was waiting for them. " holy chalupas!" Sally's mum (Holly) screamed while Dave Sally's dad whispered underneath his breath "mmh calamari!" while licking his lips!

They had to do something about the Octopus? They couldn't set it free due to the floods. Dave's face went from curious to excited "we could have

calamari for dinner!" He blurted. He immediately grabbed a knife and looked at the Octopus. Its large eyes looked back, watching as he approached. Dave suddenly stopped. He softly said, "it's too hard, it's looking right at me!". "Let's just have chicken for dinner."

There was simply nothing they could do except keep it in the sink, at least until they figured things out. While the Connollys were pondering in the kitchen, the Octopus was watching them and screamed out with a funny accent, "Will someone get me some food?" Everyone immediately looked at the Octopus, stunned. "What the heck" they screamed, almost at the same time!

A few minutes passed, while the Connollys stood staring at the Octopus, With dropped jaws, in pure silence. The Octopus spoke again, "where are my manners? My name is Callum, and I just recently escaped from Mr. Fredrickson (a private collector of rare animals) and ended up here. I am very hungry." Sally quickly moved, looking for something to feed the Octopus. The rest of the Family started to chat to Callum. Eventually, the Octopus returned to the mr. Frederickson. The Connollys had the most interesting few days getting to know Callum and no one would ever believe their story of course.

Ava Yr 4 Boronia Heights Primary



CWA Boronia is having a Craft Destash Sale on Saturday 9 September in the Boronia Mall, between 10.30 & 2.30 pm.

On Saturday 21 October we will be having another Craft Destash Sale at 4 Sundew Avenue Boronia.

There are a limited number of tables available for only \$20.

To book a table, please ring Evelyn on 97611537 or 0434 722 346.

Time 10am-2pm

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The Musical OLIVER
CPP Community Theatre
6 – 14 October
Mahon Theatre, Aquinas College,
46 Great Ryrie Street, Ringwood

Bringing Charles Dickens' beloved novel to life, Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* will take you on a wild adventure through Victorian England, capturing your heart as well as your handkerchief.

After meeting the Artful Dodger, Oliver is welcomed into his gang of pickpockets, led by the conniving yet charismatic Fagin, and he finds himself a friend in Nancy. But, his troubles are far from over.

Join young, orphaned Oliver Twist as he navigates all the trials and tribulations London has to offer searching for love, family, and – most importantly – a place to belong – a home.

All that's left to ask is who will buy...a ticket? Consider yourself at home and come and see this show that will be sure to have you begging for MORE!

Ticketing link: <https://bit.ly/3pTjn40>

[Content Warning: the production of Oliver! touches on themes of Domestic Abuse and Violence.

In consideration of other patrons and cast, children under the age of three will only be admitted to the theatre for the matinee performance.]

Opening Night Friday 6 October, 7.30pm

7 Oct (1.30 and 7.30pm),

12&13 Oct (7.30pm),

14 Oct (5pm)

VIS OPEN DAY RETURNS IN 2023

This year's event will give visitors rare access to the inner workings of the newly refurbished VIS headquarters at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park. Including abundant information sessions and interactive activities from our experts, athletes and partners, the VIS Open Day offers a unique taste of what it takes to be an elite athlete and to work in the high performance environment.

Visitors will get the chance to meet and greet some of our Olympians, Paralympians and World Champion athletes.

When: Wednesday 20 September 2023

Where: VIS Headquarters at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park

Time: 10am - 2pm

The Open Day promises the complete inner-sanctum experience, and will include:

- Interactive sessions and demonstrations from our high performance experts
- Hands-on experiences in the Sports Labs with Sport Scientists

• Fun activities with VIS athletes

• Practical cooking sessions with specialist Sports Dietitians

• Opportunities to try new sports with attendance from Victorian State Sporting bodies, including Athletics, Cycling, Hockey, Netball, Rowing, Wheelchair Basketball and many more across able-bodied and Para sports

• And much, much more!

To book your free ticket(s) visit eventbrite.com.au and search Victorian Institute of Sport.

A STRUMMER'S STORY BY ROB FAIRBAIRN VLADIVOSTOK – FINAL CHAPTER - CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

In addition to my role as a wandering minstrel I had a more important duty to perform. The didgeridoo I was playing was to be gifted to the City of Vladivostok and I was to present it.

The presentation would occur during a performance at the city's opera house. A young interpreter drove me there and as we rode through rainy Vladivostok streets, I was stricken with a sudden feeling of unease. I was alone in a car with a complete stranger, in a city where there were drive-by shootings, possibly car-jackings and kidnappings. I imagined the headlines back home, "Aussie entertainer missing," "Country singer kidnapped in Vladivostok" or "Melbourne musician held to ransom in Russia." My fears of course were totally unfounded but nevertheless, I was very relieved when we pulled up outside the stage door.

The hand-over was brief but nerve racking. A few words of Russian were spoken, I mumbled a response, took a deep breath, played a short sequence, presented the didg then was quickly ushered backstage.

When the curtain fell and the cast came offstage, I felt much more at ease. I was in my comfort zone, unwinding with other musos after a gig. A chair was found for me, a glass thrust into my hand, and before I knew it I was caught up in a round of speeches and "Za zdorovyies." We all got on famously and I was treated to impromptu, heartfelt performances of Russian folk songs. When the guitar was passed to me I had to think hard to come up with something suitable. After hearing such passionate outpourings, songs such as "Give me a Home Among the Gumtrees" felt somehow inadequate, so I decided upon Eric Bogle's, "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda."

It was a wise choice, its message of the futility of war is universal.

After a wonderful time with my fellow entertainers, I was returned to the Dom Peregovorov* where I regaled my colleagues with an account of the afternoon. And to confirm it really happened, on the TV news that evening was a report of the presentation. I was feeling very pleased with myself but there was one more duty to perform.

Mike had arranged a farewell dinner, a special event with invited dignitaries, a lavish meal prepared by Craig the chef and entertainment provided by me. The guest list was impressive and included Cavan Hogue, the Australian Ambassador to Russia, the head of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation, the Mayor of Vladivostok and the Governor of Primorski Krai.

It was a memorable evening. The meal was sensational, the star attractions being prime Aussie beef and seafood. The drink was abundant, resulting in yet more speeches and many more "Za zdorovyies." By the time my spot came around the audience was refreshed, replenished and relaxed. Did everyone understand the lyrical nuances of "G'day G'day" and "Botany Bay"? It didn't really matter, but the All Star Aussie/Ruski Bush Band was an absolute winner. By that stage of the evening all bets were off as the Australian Ambassador pounded his Beer Box Bongo to within an inch of its life, while the Mayor of Vladivostok's frantic lager-phone solo brought the house down. Was this what Mike had envisioned months ago when his Russian guests joined me in the bush band at Yarra Burn? Again his instincts had been correct.

My final 'performance' on the homeward flight from Osaka, is one best forgotten.

Business Class this time included several Japanese

couples traveling to Australia on their honeymoon. I had my guitar, so someone thought it would be a good idea for me to serenade them with a couple of Aussie songs. Unfortunately I'd taken advantage of the in-flight hospitality and was still recovering from the activities of the previous ten days. What was made of my drunken attempts to teach the actions of "Give Me a Home Among the Gumtrees" I will never know, for at its completion I slumped back into my recliner and remembered no more of the journey.

I returned home shattered, two weeks of too little sleep and too many "Za zdorovyies," had clearly taken their toll. A few days later I received a call from Mike. He told me that the whole event had been a resounding success, thanks in no small part to my contribution. "You worked very hard," he said, "but I think you underquoted so I'm going to increase your fee. I told you I wasn't a nasty pastie." I immediately added 'honourable' to the list of his attributes.

Vladivostok wasn't the last time I was to work with Mike Murray and his company and there is much more to tell about my time there. If only I could remember the details...

*Footnote: The expo venue was a convention centre and hotel, built for government meetings and parties for the city's elite.



BORONIA CFA CELEBRATES 80 YEARS



The drizzle stopped and the clouds parted to reveal a gorgeous afternoon to celebrate the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Boronia CFA. The ceremony was held at its original site adjacent to the Commonwealth Bank on Dorset Road.

Boronia Country Fire Authority (CFA) life member William (Bill) Ireland introduced the proceedings by recalling the history of how in 1942 the Boronia Urban Fire Brigade was formed and the appointment of an air raid warden due to the concerns of attacks by the Japanese. It must be noted that between 1942 and 1943 Australia suffered over 100 bombing raids by the Japanese Airforce on its territory.

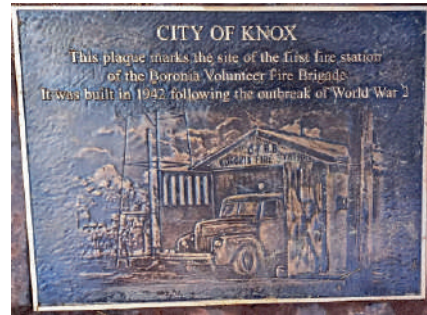
In late 1943 the first fire station was built. This was the first of three sites that the Boronia unit called home. Of course, the Boronia CFA has become integral to our community and no one needs to be reminded of the importance of the CFA and its role in protecting this and the surrounding areas.

With Bill to unveil the plaque were Mayor Marcia Timmers-Leitch, Cr. Yvonne Allred (Baird Ward), Cr Meagan Baker (Dobson Ward) and current Boronia CFA Captain Ramon Relph. (Cr. Allred also addressed the gathering.)

Bill also made a dedication to John Mcleod AFSM (Australian Fire Service Medal), a fellow volunteer who died in 2018 and served the CFA for nearly 60 years, and was the only member to serve at all three Boronia bases.



Interested in joining the local CFA? Like to find out more?



Visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au and click the "Volunteers & Careers" link. Multi-cultural volunteers most welcome.

Note: The plaque is adjacent to the Commonwealth Bank in Dorset Road, at the entrance to the supermarket car park.

Danny Nolan

KINDERGARTEN REFORMS PROMPT BIG CHANGES IN KNOX

Knox City Council will stop running standalone kindergarten services and will make its buildings available to other sessional kindergarten providers from January 2025. Council will work in partnership with the Department of Education on an expression of interest process to seek alternate providers.

Mayor, Cr Marcia-Timmers Leitch said there are kindergarten providers already operating in Knox and surrounding areas who are better equipped to grow and adapt their services than Council...

She said, "Council delivers more than 100 services to our community. We need to balance kindergarten services against every other service to determine the best way to deliver value for

our whole community.

"This makes it much more difficult to adapt to changing policy environments and government reforms, especially when funding has not kept up with the cost of providing many of the services we provide on behalf of state and federal governments..."

"Council will continue providing sessional kindergarten at the Knox Children and Family Centres in Bayswater and Wantirna..."

"Reducing our services to two sites also allows us to refocus on our role in planning for the municipality as a whole. This includes looking at the other roles we can play in supporting kindergarten, including supporting independent

providers to establish and grow their services in the Knox area, providing infrastructure to support services and centralising registrations..."

"A public expression of interest process will be conducted to identify alternative providers of sessional kindergarten in Knox."

Council conducted a thorough review of kindergarten services over several years which included consultation with staff and the community.

The decision will not come into effect until January 2025. Council-run kindergartens will continue to operate in 2024, offering 15 hours a week for three- and four-year-olds.



SEPTEMBER, such a beautiful time of year. Spring has sprung, daffodils are blooming, fruit tree blossoms creating perfume in the air, smiling faces, yes, such a lovely time. So what will we do to meet new people, find new interests, get out and about in the great outdoors. The AGM is done, the fashion show too, so what's next?? Join in on the social games on Friday 1st. Play Chess, Upwords, Scrabble, Rummikub, Cards, Carpet bowls, whichever... your choice. Bring your lunch and enjoy the fun. Then on the 5th, join us for a coffee morning at 11am. Meet up at Brontos Café in Boronia.

Perhaps you would like to walk, the Friday Walkers will carpool to Westerfolds Park in Templestowe near the Yarra River. Date for this is 8th. and they will also walk on September 22nd.

Then there are the Sunday Walks, a few K's longer, but it's a very social day. Our Bush Walkers are together EVERY Thursday, traveling by public transport to their destinations.

Lothar is planning for the Men's coffee and chat on the 2nd Tuesday this month. Simply for men to enjoy company and whatever men talk about.

A trip to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens, Olinda. Ride the Garden Explorer people mover for a guided tour of the gardens. Concession price for this is \$8.30pp. Of course walking is an option, so is visiting the café, but this will be a beautiful flowering day.

Another time to meet together is lunch, and this month the Stamford Hotel will serve us, and/or for Dinner, on Thursday 28th. The Pig and Whistle in Olinda will make for an entertaining evening.

May I remind you that we have our own hall and a lot of our activities are held there. We have a library,

kitchen, toilets, stage, plenty of tables and comfortable chairs and we invite you to join us on up to 3 activities, and after that we hope you will join us as a member. It's only \$25.00pp per year.

Please ring our Membership Secretary Carol for more details or leave a message requesting a copy of our current newsletter.

Carol 0419 870 639





At Knox & District 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 10.30 am on Tuesday 26 September, 2023, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch in the bistro for those who wish to stay on

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.

During August, some of our members will have attended the Knox Community Arts centre to see "Elvis Forever." And, during September, we are going to visit the Islamic Museum in Thornbury. Then, in October, "Those Were the Days," a tribute to the British female singers of the Beatles era.

On Monday 24 July, a group of our members travelled to the Melbourne Cricket Ground for



Knox Over 50s MCG visit

both a tour of the ground itself and the Australian Sports Museum. According to all, it was a wonderful event. thoroughly enjoyed and recommended. (See photos).

We have a monthly newsletter (*Knox Natters Matter*) which will keep you up to date with the many fun social activities available.

If you are 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.



Knox Over 50s MCG visit



Boronia View Club will meet on Friday 15 Sept. at 11.30am at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch costing \$27, followed by June Rushton speaking about "Lighthouses and living in Tasmania." The usual book stall, trading table and raffle will be available with all monies raised going to The Smith Family Learning for Life Program. The club sponsors 8 needy Australian children with their educational requirements through this program. It is a warm, welcoming club looking for new members so ladies of all ages and backgrounds come along. There are also small groups within the club e.g. book group, coffee mornings, film days and outings etc.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602.



Wantirna Day VIEW Club (Voice, Interests, Education of Women), is a proud member and supporter of The Smith Family's Learning for Life Program. The Club currently sponsors six children, raising funds to support their educational needs through a variety of activities.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except in January) at The Stamford Hotel - Cnr Stud & Wellington Roads, Rowville - 10:30 am for a 11:00 am start. Members contribute a small fee of \$12 per meeting, (which includes morning tea and raffle), towards the cost of the room, and lunch is available to order at your own cost. Most meetings also host a guest speaker/entertainment for members' enjoyment.

On **Tuesday 10 October, the Club will have a stall within the Knox Library, from 10am until 2pm (Shop 1001/509 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South).** Books in readable condition, that are no longer required by the Library, will be sold at low cost, with all monies raised being allocated towards supporting our sponsored children. For further information about this event, or about our Club in general, please call our President, Kate, on 0421 650 684. Membership is open to women of any age and from any location.

We recently celebrated Christmas in July. Everyone who attended really got into the spirit of Christmas. Our Christmas Elves, Linda and Ieva, decorated our tables beautifully, and most of our ladies dressed up in Christmas-themed attire, adding to the festive atmosphere. Linda, our wonderful Treasurer, was also Santa for the event, organising 'Christmassy' raffle prizes, with all monies raised going directly towards funding the educational needs of the six children the Club currently supports. We would love new members to join. Ladies of any age group, and from any location, would be most welcome.



Christmas in July



BORONIA ROAD UNITING CHURCH
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Sunday, 10th September 2023
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COST : \$20 per person.

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info@theevansfamily.com.au

RSVP to Irene on irenesmith2@bigpond.com / 0421769067



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cnr. Boronia Rd & Zeising Ct

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME

We have a user-friendly worship service with a message that might be JUST what you need to hear, kids activities, lots of singing, -all followed by morning tea and fellowship.

COME ALONG TO OUR CRAFT GROUP

We meet 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.

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.

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.

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

For more information about us check out our Facebook page and Website or phone the church office on 9762 6732,

www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch
Website : <https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au>

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- 1 Headspace Day
- 4-5 Yom Kippur
- 7 Odd Socks Day
- 9-17 Mental Health Week
- 16-22 National Carers Week
- 17-23 Aussie Backyard Bird Count
- 19 National Ride2Work Day
- 24 Diwali
- 27 Big Cake Bake - Red Cross

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