



Visit our Website

Boronia & The Basin

December 2023 Issue 328

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE



Centre
Pages

How can I help?

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE
FERNTREE GULLY
8711 8677

BEN'S PLACE
THE BASIN
0425 635 412

KNOX INFOLINK
BORONIA
9761 1325

SALVATION ARMY
THE BASIN
9762 7604
ALLAN 0438 254 311



Artwork - Nicole Zhang

David Stewart

Biggin & Scott

dstewart@bigginscott.com

Let's discuss Your Home

Call
Anytime
0411 655 611



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

Published by Boronia and The Basin Community News Inc., ISSN 1321-3164



The Basin Time Capsule

While time capsules are uncommon in this mega recorded era, they continue to provide a dynamic and entertaining bridge between the present and the past from which we grew. This supports a more nuanced and tolerant view of the world and our place in it, reflected in our love for our community. Our communal attitude is based on tolerance and respect. Ideally, we go beyond mere tolerance of our differences and celebrate the diversity of our community. Just imagine our neighbourhoods with most non-Anglo shops gone, including most of the restaurants, coffee shops and cafes. It doesn't bear thinking about!

We live in a compassionate community of very diverse individuals who readily help each other when needed, usually without being asked. I encounter this on an almost daily basis. Some support is personal, some is through involvement with community based groups and services. These include disabled transport, food support, community houses, library, sport clubs, emergency services, scouts, environment groups, religions, op shops, music festivals, this community paper and much more.

Each of these individuals and local groups have made their mark on the fabric of our community. Each of them has contributed to the sense of belonging to this place we all call home.

Considering the social network and its almost total coverage of events, big and small, is there space for print and time capsules? Well, one major difference is that print is fixed once published. This means no manipulation of content. Trapped in time, the capsule is a bridge between the present and the past.

I look forward to the next chapter in the saga of The Basin Time Capsule.

See p.8

John Mortimore

insert brain here



by woodsy

Boronia & The Basin Community News

Published by Boronia and The Basin Community News Inc.

PO Box 141, Boronia 3155

www.bbcn.org.au contact@bbcn.org.au



FEBRUARY CASUAL AD PAYMENT DEADLINE: FRI 12 JANUARY

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

where ad sizes and costs are displayed

FEBRUARY COPY DEADLINE: SUNDAY 14 JANUARY

Submit all copy through contact@bbcn.org.au

February issue distribution: from Thursday 25 January

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

AND TELL THEM WHERE YOU SAW THEIR AD.

THIS IS HOW WE PAY OUR PRINTING COSTS.

ADVERTISING IN THIS NEWSPAPER IS EASY.

Visit our website bbcn.org.au and open the "Place an Ad" link.

You will find size and cost details, and Ad submission forms.

We value the support we receive from:



**Boronia & Ferntree Gully
Branches**

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. All photos should be submitted as separate jpg, png or pdf files.

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.

Advertisements and articles are not endorsed by and do not necessarily reflect the views of the committee of Boronia & The Basin Community News Inc. and the Association has no knowledge of and makes no representation as to the accuracy or truthfulness of any advertisement or article published and expressly disclaims any liability as far as it is able.

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



**Like us.
Follow us.**

**Read and/or download our current
and previous issues at bbcn.org.au
or scan the QR code.**



Visit our Website

Association Office Bearers

President	John Pernu
Vice President	John Edgley
Treasurer	Doan Vo
Assoc. Secretary	Ben Furlong

Indexer: Vicki Court

To view index to previous articles,
back to the 1990s, search
localhistory.yourlibrary.com.au/local
Bound editions at Boronia Library

Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

Page 3 "Bird"

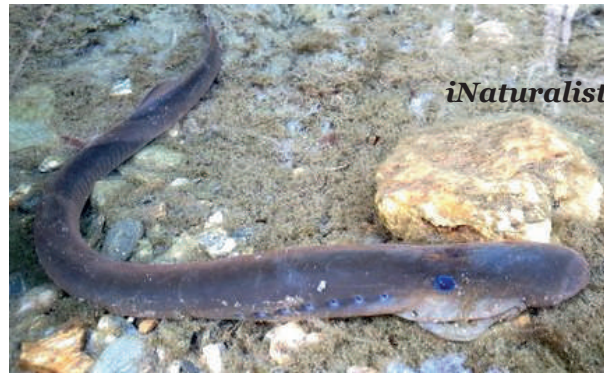
Here we are at the end of another year of bird articles by yours truly, and I will forever be truly yours. It seems the older we get the quicker time travels. Of course, that's a fallacy, time goes at the same rate no matter what is happening. Time does seem to go faster when we are undertaking pleasurable activities and vice-versa, as we all know too well.

Why am I referencing time you may wonder. Oh, hang on, I should have mentioned at the start we won't be looking at a bird this month, instead we'll be having a squiz at a native fish found in our rivers and streams, as well as our oceans.

This creature, the Pouched Lamprey, is an ancient form of life, they pre-date the dinosaurs! Fossils of these fish have been found up to 360 million years old! Very similar in appearance to the Short-finned Eel, lampreys are common creatures in streams in Victoria, and like the Short-finned Eel, have a fascinating life-cycle.

After spawning in the headwaters of rivers, adult lampreys all die. The eggs which they lay soon hatch in to the larval stage (these are called

POUCHED LAMPREY (GEOTRIA AUSTRALIS)



ammocoetes) which then drift downstream in the current where they settle in to muddy sediments, feeding on small invertebrates.

Metamorphosis occurs several years later when they emerge into the adult stage, about 100 mm long. They then migrate downstream to estuaries and oceans. It is here that things start to get interesting.

Once in a marine environment, they then parasitize on larger fishes, attaching themselves onto their prey with a sucker like mouth, where they feed off the muscle and tissue of the victim. Eventually they reach full maturity, about 600mm long, before returning to freshwater streams to spawn and die, the cycle beginning all over again.

Successful life forms are the ones which haven't changed much over time. Evolution suggests that all life forms change and adapt, and indeed are adapting all the time. Not so the lamprey, whose fossilised remains from 360 million years ago show it to be exactly the same as they are now! Crocodiles and sharks are similar, having changed very little over hundreds of millions of years.

Close inspection of lampreys prove their ancientness (that is definitely not a word - but you get the picture). Their body's structure is not supported by bones but by cartilage (like sharks). They have a single nostril and seven pairs of pore-like gill openings.

About a month ago my friend Mark (who has already had enough air time in this column) went camping down at the Powlett River caravan park (just before Wonthaggi) and the lady who runs the caravan park showed him an amazing video on her phone (which he sent to me). It was of hundreds of Short-finned Eels crossing the sandbar at the mouth of the river and entering the ocean, beginning their epic migration to breed and spawn in the Coral Sea to the north of Australia. Wow, what a head spin, how much would I love to see that!

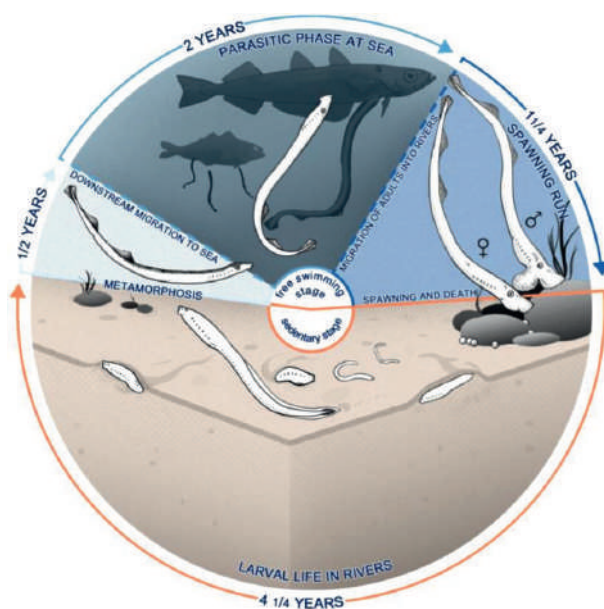
I started this article talking about the passage of time so will finish on the same topic. If these fish have been on the earth for 360 million years, doesn't that make you feel a little insignificant? Well, it does me. Us humans have only been on this planet for a click of your fingers, and unless we start looking after it a bit better than we've been doing, well, for how much longer can we survive? I'm pretty sure the lamprey will still be doing its thing long after we're gone.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas,
see you in the New Year, Des



Source: Museums Victoria, Field guide to Victorian Fauna. It is a free app.

Des Palmer arc_up_welding@live.com.au



Harry Butler Institute



pic: Nathan Dumlao
Unsplash

OVER 90 VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN DELIVERING YOUR PAPER RELIABLY EACH MONTH. WE NEED FIVE NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR 2024 - ONE OF THEM COULD BE YOU.

We have five Walking Rounds which need to be filled for 2024. This voluntary work is about one hour each month (for the February to December issues). It usually takes about an hour to deliver your papers into letterboxes, it provides a bit of exercise and also sometimes the chance to chat with the locals.

The rounds which we need to fill are:

- Academy Drive, The Basin area – 85 papers
- Bayview Cres, Mercia Av, The Basin area – 52 papers
- Moncoe St, Harcourt Rd, Boronia area - 130 papers
- Central Avenue, Boronia area – 160 papers
- Bambury Street, Boronia area – 140 papers

Contact us if this is something that you would be able to do on a regular basis. If ever you are unavailable, we have other Walkers who are always ready to assist with an extra round for that month.



Knox City Council
proudly presents

Free
event

Knox Carols by Candlelight

Sat 9 Dec • Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully

- Pre-show entertainment & free kids' activities from 4pm
- Main show 8pm • Fireworks 10pm

knox.vic.gov.au/carols



Subscribe to Knox eNews
For the latest news, events and opportunities to have your say.
knox.vic.gov.au/enews



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



Discounts on composting products
Join the compost community and save up to 60% on compost bins, worm farms, bokashi bins.
knox.vic.gov.au/composting

knox



KNOX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is having a Christmas Fair & Craft Market at 'Ambleside' homestead & museum, 3 Olivebank Rd, Ferntree Gully, on Saturday, 9 December from 1 – 6pm. Enjoy the beautiful gardens of this historic homestead, built in 1889, and stalls for crafts and Christmas gifts, sausage sizzle, and other hot food and drinks. There are free games and activities for the kids, and a special visitor arrives at 4 pm. Entry is by gold coin donation. Details: 9758 6722 (answering service), or khs@relics.com



WALK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE MONDAY 4 DECEMBER Lilydale Lake 10.30am - 1pm Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service

BWAHS will convene a Walk Against Family Violence on Monday, 4 December 2023 at Lilydale Lake and we would like to invite you to join us for this important event and ask that you to start designing banners with the messages that your organisation would like to promote on the day.

Meet at the Community Centre, 289 Swansea Road. BBQ lunch and refreshments will be provided. We are planning to invite a couple of guest speakers.

The 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign led annually by UN Women and it runs every year from 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

This year we're encouraging Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Community Organisations to get involved: from amplifying the voice of survivors and activists to supporting Aboriginal Organisations by strengthening the messaging, we can all act to empower survivors, reduce and prevent violence against women and girls and protect women's rights. Our message to the community for this year is 'Aboriginal Communities Against Violence Towards Women and Girls.'

BORONIA ON PARADE

FOR MANY years, Boronia staged a mammoth Christmas parade through the shopping centre along Dorset Road. This is now history, but it's an appropriate time to look back on the event.

Boronia had a progress association even before it had a shopping centre. Indeed, the name 'Boronia' came about when local residents were casting about for a name for the proposed new rail station in 1915, opened in June 1920. The first retailers, in the 1920s, staged clean-up days around the Boronia/Dorset Rd intersection and rail crossing in an attempt to improve the amenity of the district.

The progress association lapsed in the 1930s, but in the 1960s a Boronia Advancement Association was formed by the traders of Boronia to attract more shoppers to their doors. After a number of attempted promotions, in 1974 the traders hit upon the idea of staging a Christmas parade.

The event was an immediate success. By 1978, the Knox Sherbrooke News was reporting the annual event attracted 45 floats and was watched by hundreds of spectators. Unfortunately, it hit something of a snag when the Boronia Chamber of Commerce was dissolved early in February the same year, though it was revived twelve months later.

However, the annual parade did not immediately improve retail trade in Boronia. One problem was the uniquely horrible rail crossing dividing the shopping centre in two,

notorious for accidents and fatalities, literally driving potential customers to alternatives such as the new Knox City shopping centre, opened in November 1977.

Another issue was changing shopping patterns. The first 24 hour 'convenience' store, the 7-11 adjoining the rail line on the west side, opened in 1980. The days of 'open all hours' were still some way in the future, however; for years, learner drivers practiced in the Boronia Central car park on Sunday mornings as there was no-one there.

The Christmas event was revived in the mid-1980s. It was reported by local media that the 1987 Christmas Fair attracted over 40 parade entries, 48 stall holders at a market in the main car park, and thousands of local residents. The event also raised more than \$25,000 for charity. The following year, 1988, the crowd was estimated at 12,000 onlookers.

The Boronia Christmas parade was still running in 1993, with stock cars added to the other parade entrants. Ironically, nemesis for the annual event was approaching, in the form of a state premier notorious for favouring private transport over public, and the very improvement shoppers and traders alike had so long wanted.



Pic: Boronia Rotary Club

After years of excuses and procrastination by all concerned, Premier Jeff Kennett finally took long-standing proposals to 'grade separate' Boronia rail crossing seriously, to excavate the area to place the rail line under the road. The final Christmas parade featured in the Knox Leader in December 1995. And so, starting in 1996 with preliminary borings, 'Victoria's No. 1 Black Spot,' which had claimed the lives of more than thirty people, became a construction site.

The Christmas parade lapsed when the tunnel and new Boronia station were opened in 1998 and was not revived. So, the 'blot on the landscape' that was the old Boronia crossing indirectly resulted in the demise of the district's main Christmas event. Is it time for restoration? Maybe.

Ray Peace, Knox Historical Society

khs@relics.com

Cr Jude Dwight Elected as Knox Mayor

Cr Jude Dwight has been elected Mayor of Knox City Council, with Cr Sorina Grasso to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next year.

Cr Dwight said she was honoured and humbled to serve as Mayor.

"It is indeed a privilege but I also understand the responsibility. In wearing these robes, which represent a tradition and rich history of local democracy, leadership and decision making



Knox Mayor Jude Dwight with Deputy Mayor Sorina Grasso

here in Knox, I commit to staying grounded and remembering who I am," she said.

"I am a resident, a ratepayer, a mum, a worker, a member of the Knox community. I am a custodian of our land and Council assets, for the benefit of this community.

"I recognise that being Mayor of the City of Knox is a privilege and a duty; an act of service, which I will undertake to the best of my abilities. I remain one among equals and encourage us all to work together for the benefit of the community that we represent."

Cr Dwight was first elected to represent Chandler Ward in 2020. She has lived in The Basin for 19 years with her husband and their growing family.

Cr Dwight thanked outgoing mayor Cr Timmers-Leitch for her service to the community in 2022-23.

Cr Timmers-Leitch was acknowledged for her unwavering commitment and efforts to bring about change, passion, energy and genuine concern for the wellbeing of the community.

New Deputy Mayor, Cr Sorina Grasso, was first elected to represent Dinsdale Ward in 2020. She lives with her partner and daughter who was raised in Knox and is passionate about advocating for local jobs and making a difference in the community.

Lost Magpie - Boppy



Sadly, our much-loved neighbourhood magpie has disappeared. As it has now been several days since she last visited our house, I am sure she is deceased. I know she hasn't flown off to be somewhere else because magpies are territorial; they stay with their mate for life and stay in their own territory.

I have looked for her around our neighbourhood within her territory. I would have liked to have laid her to rest under one of her favourite trees and had closure on this very sad event, but it's too late now for this to happen.

Her mate and her three-year old daughter (yes! her 3-year-old still lives with them) have been distressed and uncommonly quiet and anxious. I know they miss her; magpies grieve for their departed.

Perhaps someone in the Baldwin Avenue area has found an adult female magpie? I would like to know where she is and bring finality to this unhappy situation.

Her name was Boppy and she was tenacious, friendly, outgoing and unique, and I miss her.

Lisa Reid

Move local

The best is in the heart of
Wantirna South

Balmoral is a community within a community. Enjoy safety, security, low maintenance, landscaped gardens with beautifully appointed apartments and villa units.

03 9800 1333

Call us today to make the move to Balmoral.
Balmoral Village, Ridge Road Wantirna South 3152. www.balmoralvillage.com.au

Balmoral
OVER 55 LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

JACQUI LEUNG INTERVIEWS SAMUEL LUKE OF SEEDTIME AND HARVEST WHOLEFOODS

Looking for a local small business to support? If you've never visited Seedtime and Harvest in Boronia, this is your reminder to drop by and chat with their lovely owner, Samuel. This boutique store not only takes care of our planet by avoiding single-use plastic but is also family run. While I enjoy shopping for my everyday products there, my favourite moments are the great chats I have with Samuel.

Below are some questions I asked Sam as he shared his story about himself and how he started up his business.

Jacqui: Tell us a bit about yourself, Sam.

Sam: My name is Samuel. I am originally from India. I served in the Philippines for five years as a missionary for a church, which is also where I met my wife. After one year of marriage, my wife woke up one day and said 'Hey, I had a dream about Australia.' She saw the Australian flag in her dream for a week. I said, 'Okay, maybe it's a sign.' Then after one week, I went to my mentor's house for breakfast. He asked us out of the blue, 'What do you guys think about moving to Australia?' Without knowing about my wife's dreams. We both felt that it was a sign for us to move to Australia, so within six months' time, we packed our bags and moved here by faith.

Jacqui: Why have you decided to open up Seedtime and Harvest?

Sam: Both my wife and I believe that it's important to take care of our inner-selves – our spirit, body and soul. We've always been conscious about what we put inside our bodies, from how we eat and do everything. And I think in the last five years or so, I have become more conscious about how we can take care of our environment and to think about what we leave behind for our kids. I live by the principle of what we sow is what we reap. Whatever we sow we get back a hundred fold. I believe in giving. So with our store, I want to give back to my community, to give better food choices, healthier options and affordability.

Jacqui: Why in Boronia?

Sam: When we first moved to Melbourne, we lived in Boronia and Bayswater for a number of years. I just love the place, there is something nice about it, next to the hills, plus the people are nice. I just love the location. I always told my wife that there



is a lot of potential here. Why aren't more businesses coming here? Why do people keep saying that it's a struggle? You know, we have to make the effort to make things work.

We need to be the change we want to see, so I took it as a challenge, I know it's possible. If you have good service and good prices and make your shop look nice, people will recognise the value you provide. We need to believe in the vision with all our heart.

Jacqui: What do you sell in your store?

Sam: We sell everything - organic, biodynamic and conventional products such as flour, rice, lentils, seeds, nuts and spices. We have an entire spice range, and yeah, if people want to add some spices that we don't have here, I'm happy to bring them in as well. We also sell gluten-free products, snacks like lollies for kids and different kinds of chocolates with vegan options. We also source some products from local family businesses, such as honey from The Basin Backyard, St. David's milk from Fitzroy, Silva coffee beans from Warburton and many more!

Jacqui: How does your store contribute to sustainability?

Sam: So, for example. I stock a Mornington Peninsula granola made by Rachel - one of the best I have had. Rachel and I have a loop system where she sends me 5 kilos of granola in a bucket, I dump it into my bucket and send the bucket back to be refilled. So that means there is absolutely no wastage of packaging at all.

Jacqui: What do you like to do when you are not running the shop?

Sam: I love music. I play the drums, guitar and the

**PRABODH IS ABOUT
HALFWAY ON HIS
MCG TO SCG
1325 km WALK FOR
THE McGRATH
FOUNDATION**



Prabodh has raised some \$75,000 so far, and his goal is \$100,000.

Scan the QR code, and your donation will help to provide for more specialist breast cancer nurses to be available wherever they're needed.

keyboard. I'm also an ordained minister of the Christian faith, so I teach and preach at our Church in Boronia every week. I'm also actively involved in missionary work in the Philippines. I like art - sketching and drawing, my background is actually interior design. I also have two kids that keep me busy!

Seedtime & Harvest Wholefoods is located on 1/230 Dorset Rd, Boronia VIC 3155, opposite the Commonwealth Bank. You can find them on Instagram @seedtimeandharvestorganics or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/seedtimeandharvestorganics/>.

****Secret tip: Don't forget to try their coffee. Their hot chocolate is heavenly!**



Merry christmas to our community
We wish you a blessed season of faith, hope and love

SEEDTIME & HARVEST WHOLEFOODS
1/230 DORSET ROAD, BORONIA
PH: 03 7064 4770



THE BASIN TIME CAPSULE

A small group of residents of The Basin attended a special morning tea on 13 November to celebrate The Basin Time Capsule being on public display in its permanent home at The Basin Community House.



These included Rick Coxhill, author of *Fire on the Hill* Flowers in the Valley, Barbara Stephens and Ray Peace (President) both longtime members of Knox Historical Society, Allan Small who has over 50 years of volunteer service in The Basin CFA and Jude Dwight, Deputy Mayor of Knox City Council. Others included Heather McTaggart, manager of The Basin Community House, Pat Hetrel, Bruce and Caroline Chandler, and Lyn Grant.

Lynette Hayhurst, who rediscovered the lost object, retold the amazing story behind The Basin Time Capsule, planted in 1967 and meant to be opened in 2017. She told how time and locals had forgotten the time capsule and that it remained unopened until she read Rick Coxhill's book mentioning this time capsule during the lockdowns. After much research in 2022 she was able to prove its existence and location which was inside the Bert Chandler Cairn/Monument. This event was celebrated by a community picnic displaying the capsule and its contents.

On discovery, it took long hours on two separate evenings for the time capsule to be recovered. The capsule itself was composed of a milk bottle and foil covering the opening.

The contents were restored by Lyn Grant, a retired Monash University archivist, and will be on display in the special glass cabinet donated by Kyle Bell of Barry Plant Boronia. A new time capsule will be installed in the glass cabinet soon, to be opened in 2042 which will be the 175th anniversary of The Basin.

Ex longtime Knox Councillor/Mayor & founder of the BBCN John Mortimore was unable to attend but sent a wonderful message saying, "While time capsules are uncommon in this mega recorded era, they continue to provide a dynamic and entertaining bridge between the present and the past from which we grew... providing a nuanced and tolerant view of the world and our place in it, reflected in our love for our community." Speeches were also delivered by Rick Coxhill, Jude Dwight and Lynette Hayhurst.

The Deputy Mayor in her speech gave some inspiring comments: "This cairn and ongoing display is a testament to The Basin's rich heritage and the strong sense of unity that binds us together... one that helps connect stories of our past with our present. The items unearthed from the cairn serve as a reminder of the generations that came before us, their dreams, aspirations, and the foundations they laid for our community."

This display is not just a collection of artefacts; it's a window into our shared history, a tangible link to our roots. Let us cherish and preserve this heritage, ensuring that the stories of those who shaped our town continue to inspire and guide us into a promising future... Together, let us embrace our past, celebrate our present, and build a legacy that will inspire generations to come!"

Lynette Hayhurst



Excerpt from Rick Coxhill's "History of The Basin 2022 Revised Edition" p.301.

Time Capsule Recovery

In 1967, a time capsule was placed in a cairn covered with a memorial plaque, and a tree planted beside it. It was due to be opened in 2017.

Time passed, and it was forgotten, until resident Lynette Hayhurst read my earlier publication, and realised it was due to be opened in 2017.

Nobody knew if the cairn contained a time capsule, prompting Lynette to locate a 1967 Free Press article confirming it did contain a capsule.

Allan Toole, the twelve-year-old son of the Post Office proprietor, had placed a capsule in the concrete as the cairn was being constructed.

On Sunday 30 January 2022, a group of people gathered to investigate removal of the time capsule. Present was Lynette Hayhurst, Barbara Stephens (Knox Historical Society), Rick Coxhill (book author), and Jude Dwight (local councillor) and others. It took several evenings to remove the plaque, bricks and locate the time capsule.

The cairn was rebuilt and the plaque restored by a bricklayer a few months later.

CVGT EMPLOYMENT 'PARENTS NEXT' 2023 TOY DRIVE



Christmas is a time for joy and giving. In the spirit of spreading happiness, we are looking for toy donations to bring some early Christmas joy to families participating in our ParentsNext program.

The call out is for the annual CVGT Employment

ParentsNext 2023 Toy Drive, which will run from October 16 – December 8. CVGT Employment is kick-starting the toy drive with a donation of \$2000.

People can donate new and unwrapped toys or a locally purchased gift card at CVGT.

Employment sites across Victoria. The toys will be delivered to children, aged between nine months and ten years of ParentsNext families before Christmas.

"The CVGT Employment Toy Drive is dedicated to supporting ParentsNext families who are facing financial challenges during tough times," said Jason Russell, CVGT Employment Chief Executive Officer.

"We believe that every child deserves a magical and memorable Christmas and with the help of the community, together we can help the ParentsNext families have a happy Christmas by donating a brand-new unwrapped toy or locally purchased gift card."

Due to hygiene requirements, only newly purchased items can be accepted. Please no cash.

"In the spirit of providing further economic and social benefits to the communities in which we operate we ask that you consider purchasing your donation from local stores," Mr Russell said.

People can deliver their donation to any CVGT Employment ParentsNext and Victorian office locations until 5pm on Friday 8 December.

"This will give us enough time to wrap and deliver before Christmas," said Kathryn Lord, CVGT Employment ParentsNext Manager. "Let's come together as a community to make a difference in the lives of ParentsNext families."

Your generosity will brighten someone's Christmas and create cherished memories for their children. If a business would like to donate, please get in touch and help us make a little magic this Christmas."

For more information call 132 848 or visit cvgt.com.au



**IMPORTANT INFO CONCERNING THE
NEW AND DEADLY OCTO MALWARE SCAM.
YOUR BANK ACCOUNT MAY BE AT REAL RISK**

Visit the ABC news channel, abc.net.au/news, and search for "octo scam" and it's the first item. This may well save you both money and heartache.



The Rotary Club of Boronia

has been making a difference in the local community for over 50 years, including through a strong connection with Knox Infolink. Members volunteer in several roles:

. Sorting food donations at a central location and packaging them into take home packs,

Cooking and serving a free hot breakfast 4 days a week for those in need of the service.

The Rotary Club maintains several plots at the Knox Community gardens, with the produce going to the Infolink breakfast and food package services.

At Christmas time the Rotary Club also

. Provides meal vouchers that may be used at local food outlets when breakfast is not available,

. Assists with compilation and distribution of Knox Community Christmas Support "Share the Joy" Appeal hampers.

Contributions to the Christmas appeal may be made at the InfoLink office, 136 Boronia Road, Boronia during opening hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am – 3pm.

Rotary volunteers also cook a sausage sizzle once a month at Knox Leisureworks for the autism support service, Different Journeys, allowing their members and clients to enjoy a meal after their time in the swimming pool.

We meet most weeks at the Knox Club at 7pm on Tuesdays and usually have a guest speaker give a presentation. Upcoming speakers include:

21 Nov: Kristian Dauncey, Executive Manager Strategy, Innovation & Growth at disability support organisation Nadrasca, will be talking about who they are and what they do.

5 Dec: Prof Angela Morgan, speech pathologist at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute will be talking about her Stuttering Study.

12 Dec: Dennis Johnstone: The Biala story - providing respite care for disabled children and carers.

16 Jan: Marcia Stephens: sport science.

23 Jan: Desley Tunstall: Netball in PNG.

6 Feb: Ian MacFarlane: Upper FTG Boxing Training to Help Fight Parkinson's Disease.

13 Feb: The participants in our Knox Rocks youth music program will be showcasing their talents.

Paralympian Sam Bramham will be special guest speaker at the Kilsyth Club on Monday 26 Feb 2024. Cost of \$45 per person includes a 2-course meal. It will be a fun filled evening, with a dress-up theme for the young (and young-at-heart) in attendance. Proceeds will go to Different Journeys.

Contacts for further information:

Secretary Monique Smith, phone: 0419 003 277, email: contact@boroniarotary.org.au

Website: <https://rotaryboronia.org.au/>

**The Rotary Club of Boronia and
Alchester Village Pre-School
recently joined forces to launch a
brand new street library for the City
of Knox.**

The new library sits within the grounds of the pre-school on Lockwoods Rd, Boronia. Boronia Rotary Club kindly donated the street library, which was modified by one of the parents to suit its location at the Kindergarten. An official launch of the library was held on Wednesday 15 November, with Rotary Club President Greg Mossop, pivotal Rotary member Lance Deveson, our new mayor, Cr Jude Dwight, former Mayor, Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch, several other Rotarians and committee, staff and families from the pre-school in attendance.



The children and families of Alchester Village Pre-School are very excited to have the street library on our grounds. Children have already been eagerly accessing it. Our little library will also be listed on the National Street Library Register. The street library reflects many of the pre-school's values; • the establishment and maintenance of community links • the importance of reducing, re-using and recycling (the library was constructed and modified using recycled local materials) • the promotion of early childhood literacy • the continued sense of custodianship of a community asset We wish to thank Lance Deveson and Ben Walker in particular for their involvement in the project as well as Karen MacDonald & Sharyn Costantino, Activities Organisers from the Bunnings Bayswater store, who donated the paints with which the library has been painted and will be further decorated by the Kindergarten. Stay tuned! Christine Ruff for the Alchester Village Pre-School community.

Christine Ruff

Look Sharp

**See
Well**



Weisz Family Optical

Est. 1969

245 Dorset Road, BORONIA
Phone: 9762 3998

SQUARE DRIVE SCREWS

**Heard They're Good? Try
Them!**



- High Quality
- Easier Driving
- Better Control
- Longer Life
- Heat Treated Steel
- Sharp Point
- Small Body Diameter

Wide range of sizes
INTRODUCTORY PACK
500, #8 and 10 Gauge
screws with driver
included
\$49.00 inc post



Tel: 1300 551 810



WWW.SCREWIT.COM.AU

The Internet

Laundrette

7 Alpine Street, Ferntree Gully www.laundrette.com.au
(close to Foodworks)

7am to 9pm Every Day **24 hours with entry code**

60lb (27kg) wash from \$8*

20lb (9kg) wash from \$3*

* Night Rate using tokens

FREE soap and softener on some machines

☞ **Jumbo Machines ideal for
Doonas & Blankets**

☞ **Dedicated Large Machine for
Workwear & Petwear**

☞ **Drying Only is Welcomed**

Internet Kiosk & Wireless Hotspot

0419 367 267

0405 026 849

KIDS
ZONE

Family Poem

Family isn't who brought you into this world,
It's the people who care.
The ones who stick with you,
The ones that laugh with you,
and the ones that comfort you when you feel as
though you could never laugh again.
The ones that make every struggle worth it
and all those small victories that little bit more
special.
They are the ones that make it worth it.
They're the special someones who, even on the
rainiest of days,
help you find that little ray of sunshine that you
can hold onto until the rainbow appears.
They are our family.

Maya, year 6, Boronia Heights Primary School

BBCN Young Writers Initiative Submissions

Young Writers Awards this issue go to Hanna and Maya. We thank you for your creativity and contributions. We have enjoyed helping young writers share their thoughts with our community and look forward to sharing more of your ideas in 2024.

Our overall annual award for 2023 will be announced in the first BBCN issue for 2024 (February).

Unacceptable

A long time ago girls could not be accepted for many jobs. This is a story set in the 1930s when there was a big war in Europe.

One day in a little cottage there was a kind small family, one little girl called Rose and two lovely parents, Sara and Archer. It was the time of the war and Sara really wanted to fight while Archer wanted to stay home and look after Rose. But back then it was the opposite, men had to fight for their country and women had to stay home. So that's how they had to go on. Archer fought for their country and Sara had to stay home and look after Rose.

A few days later Sara could not take it anymore. She spent days making everything she needed to go to the army. After the preparations she told Rose to stay safe and headed off. She got to the place where you signed up. She dressed up like a man. They accepted her but they still seemed suspicious. As soon as she got to the base, she told Archer to sneak out and go home to look after

Rose. So that's what they did until one day she got spotted. It was a quiet afternoon and there was a new soldier. Sara went up to the soldier and asked what his name was. As soon as he heard Sara's high pitched voice he shouted out loud "she's a girl! this is unacceptable." Guards came rushing out grabbing her on the legs and arms. Everyone was shouting. But Sara had had enough. She shouted in her biggest voice "stop I have had enough of this nonsense! I think girls should be able to do what boys do and I will stay here until you think so too."

After that day, people respected everyone equally. Sara got to fight for her country. Archer got to stay home and look after Rose. And when Rose was grown up she was a firefighter. She was always thankful for her mum and dad because if her mum had never stood up to those people she may not have been able to do the job she wanted.

Hannah Knowles, Year 3, Boronia Heights Primary School

What does end of year mean to you?

December is a month filled with festive celebrations, gift-giving, and family-oriented activities that contribute to a sense of joy and wonder for children around the world. These celebrations often include a mix of cultural, religious, and social rituals that vary widely but generally involve reflection on the past, anticipation for the future, and a sense of renewal. For our Boronia and The Basin community (and in many other countries), the "Festive Season" (December and January) involves holidays and often travelling away from home. This time off from formal learning allows children to spend more time with family, engage in festive activities and enjoy recreational pursuits. Traditionally, the most celebrated festival in Australia has been Christmas, involving decorating Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, attending church services, and enjoying festive meals. Santa Claus, stockings, and singing carol are also integral to the celebrations. In many Eastern Orthodox Christian traditions, Christmas is celebrated according to the Julian calendar, which places it in early January.

As we become more multicultural, we now share this time with;

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, a Jewish celebration lasting eight nights. Families light the menorah, play dreidel games, and exchange gifts.

Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture. Each day focuses on one of the seven principles. Families come together to light the Kinara, exchange gifts, and engage in cultural activities.

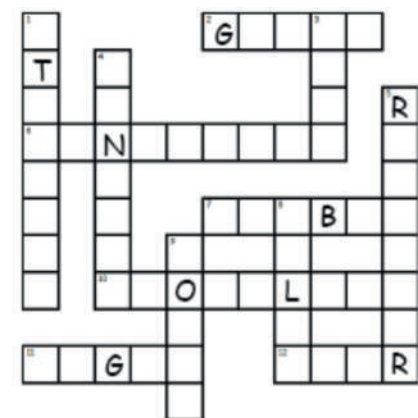
As December rolls into January, we start thinking ahead to what the new year will bring. **New Year's Eve** is celebrated worldwide, with people gathering for parties, fireworks, and countdowns to welcome the upcoming year.

Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian countries as their most significant cultural celebration for families. It is marked by visits to shrines, traditional meals, and the exchange of special gifts.

So what will you be doing as the year ends and the new one starts?

What did you enjoy about 2023 and what do you plan for 2024?

We would love to hear from you and share your ideas and stories.

KIDS
ZONE

Holiday ideas for entertaining the kids

With the holiday season almost upon us it is always good to have a few ideas up your sleeve for keeping the kids entertained. There are lots of things that you can do which don't cost a lot of money and can be enjoyed by everyone. Here are just a few ideas for things kids can do on their own, or with a parent or caregiver, that should help you survive - and even have some fun - until the holiday break is over.

1. Guess how many rabbits are hiding by Dandenong creek.



Starting at Dorset road by the AMX superstore car park, walk along the area between the creek and the industrial estates. This area is not well travelled and in the late afternoon on a warm day there are lots of rabbit families to be seen here. You can do a round trip by walking back along the bike path. Before you start, get each person to guess how many rabbits they think you will see on each trip. Our record for the round trip is 56!

2. Bake some Gingerbread together.



Make your own Gingerbread



Bake some Gingerbread cookies in Christmas shapes and have fun decorating them. Keep a few batches for yourself and give the rest as gifts. You can even try making your own Gingerbread house. You don't need a special kit. Just start small and use lots of icing to keep it together.

3. Have your kids make everything from holiday cards or gift tags to tree ornaments.

The possibilities are endless and most require very few supplies.

4. Create a treasure hunt.

Amazing fun that will keep kids busy for hours.

5. Host a holiday-themed movie party/sleepover.

Have a few of your kids' friends over for a fun afternoon (or night if you want to make it a sleepover) of watching holiday movies. Provide a few snacks or have them help you make a homemade pizza.

6. Have kids help prepare holiday meals.

Most kids like to explore in the kitchen. Yes, it will take longer than if you did it yourself and yes, your kitchen will likely be much messier but the skills that you'll be able to teach are much more important than some spilled flour.

7. Read a chapter book out loud.

At the library check out several story books or a novel to read together over the holiday. Read a chapter or even go on and read a whole series together.

8. Build a fort.

Let the kids loose in the living room with pillows and blankets. Turn the fort into an overnight

Ingredients:

- 250g butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 4 cups plain flour
- 2 tsp bicarb soda
- 6 tsp ground ginger
- 5 tbs golden syrup
- Assorted sweets

Royal Icing

- 3 cups pure icing sugar
- 2 egg whites

Sift icing sugar. Start with one cup and add egg white to mixture a little

at a time to make a paste. Make more icing as required.

Royal icing is used as it hardens when it sets.



Gingerbread House Method

Cream butter and sugar, beat in egg yolks.

Add golden syrup and mix well.

Add all dry ingredients and mix into a firm dough.

Add more flour if required.

Spread plenty of flour on a bench and on a rolling pin.

Knead mixture and roll out to about 0.5cm thick.

Cut into 7 pieces of 12 x 12 cm.

Bake at 175 C for about 10 minutes.

When cool stick the pieces together with royal icing.

4 walls with a piece on top for the roof.

Wait until this is set and then add two pieces on top for the slanted roof.

Decorate with any sweets you like.



Counting rabbits at Dandenong Creek

KIDS
ZONE

KIDS
ZONE

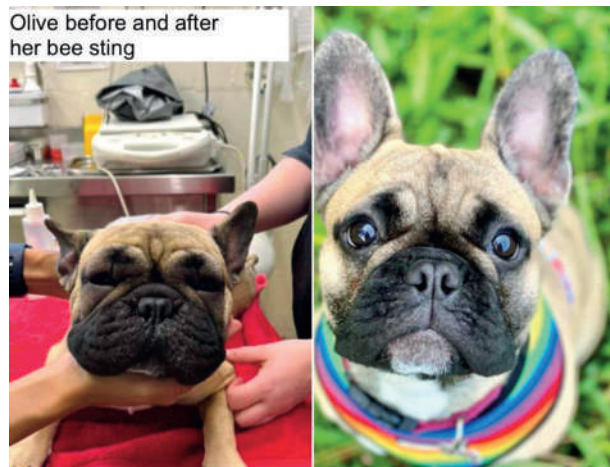
PETS PIECE

We know that with the Spring and Summer seasons approaching, so will the bees!

Some animals can have allergic reactions to a sting or bite that may result in a vast array of different symptoms, ranging from: hives, facial swelling, vomiting, difficulty breathing or in the worst anaphylactic cases, collapse.

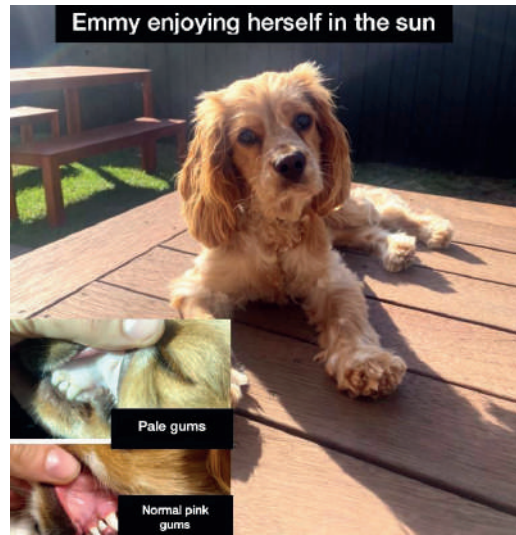
In some cases, a localised swelling, such as one on the foot can be treated with a simple anti-histamine and removal of the stinger and may not be an emergency. As a veterinarian, we see a range of different case presentations to bee stings that we would like to share with you.

This gorgeous French Bulldog "Olive" presented to us after being stung by a bee. Her whole face became swollen and irritated. If you can find



the stinger, it is also recommended to remove this by grasping the stinger and removing it with tweezers or your fingers, as it is known that there can be significant improvements, the quicker the stinger is removed. We do worry about these flat-nosed breeds in particular, because their airways can start to swell resulting in difficulties breathing and their face swelling may cause damage to the eyes. When she came in, we gave her an antihistamine and an anti-inflammatory injection under the skin to settle the swelling on her face and within 24 hours, it had subsided - you can now see her gorgeous eyes again! Luckily for Olive, she did not present in severe anaphylaxis (pale gums, collapsed) and only had a mild localised reaction.

On the other hand, we had beautiful "Emmy," a Cavalier King Charles cross Cocker Spaniel, who present in anaphylactic shock when she was stung by a bee. Before anaphylaxis can occur, a dog is usually exposed to a bee at an earlier stage, where they produce a localised reaction. The second time they are stung, their immune system may produce a severe inflammatory response as they recognise the sting, and this can cause severe systemic anaphylaxis in some patients. This is a very rare presentation and does not happen to all dogs bitten by bees. Emmy was playing outside and when she came inside, she was very lethargic and flat. Her owners noticed some bees in the area and were worried she may have been stung. She presented



with extremely pale to white gums (which should normally be pink, as illustrated in the photo) but there were no signs of swelling or a stinger on her. This rare anaphylactic reaction is a medical emergency. Interestingly, if we can't find an obvious stinger or cause, we can perform a quick abdominal ultrasound which may show an enlarged liver or fluid around the gallbladder wall (as this is dogs' shock organ), which suggests anaphylaxis. When she came in, she was stabilised with intravenous fluids to maintain her blood pressure and circulation. She was given antihistamines and steroids intravenously and was monitored very closely overnight. Thankfully, by the next morning, her gums returned to a pink colour and she was much brighter. Emmy made a full recovery and was able to go home. We hope she continues being curious but avoids any more bees lurking around the garden as we now know she may present with anaphylaxis if she is stung again!

HOT TIP: With the hot weather coming up, we remind you all to be careful walking your dogs in the hot weather, to avoid hot concrete as this can cause burns to their pads and be particularly careful if you own a flat-nosed (brachycephalic) dog such as a Pug or French bulldog. We will share an interesting case in the next issue.

Dr Gianne Ficatas - veterinarian

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavets.com.au

Serving the community for over 45 years

With over 20 veterinarians, we are one of the largest, privately owned, single site, general practice veterinary hospitals in Melbourne.

Our commitment is to provide diverse options to the entire community.

The clinic offers extended consulting hours, and our hospital provides round-the-clock care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our existing clients enjoy a 24 hour service.

Reader's Letter

The outcome of the recent referendum rather stunned me. I had thought that Australia was much better than that.

Of course what is now happening in Gaza has saturated the news media.

However, behind all of that tragedy, back home are we really so racist that sixty percent of the population does not think that our Constitution should recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia? Do we really live in a land where sixty percent do not think that indigenous people are best placed to know how to address their specific needs?

Facts are easily trumped by misinformation and fear. How much simpler to just vote no.

"If you don't know, vote no" may have a nice ring to it, but it's not original. Given the significance of the referendum for the people who have occupied this land for tens of thousands of years, a far more encouraging slogan is, "If you're not sure, then learn more."

The facts were available, the information was available, but effort was required, and that negative slogan was a real excuse for not making such effort. For many, that may have been the real issue, and if that was the case, Australia could be much better than that.

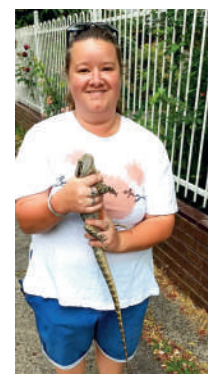
(Contact details supplied)

WATER DRAGON

(Intellagama lesueurii)

It's amazing what you find in the streets these days.

Taking our Cavoodle for a walk one day last month, we came across a Water Dragon lizard trying to warm itself on a dark brick fence.



Lucky for me my trusty assistant Madelyn handles these things for her day job; she quickly snapped it up, while I was climbing down from the nearest tree. Thanks to Melbourne's unique weather patterns the sudden change from 33° one day to 16° the next slowed the big fella down a bit, so he came quietly. Our dog Gracie took a liking to the lizard's long swinging tail and we had to keep her clear. I wasn't sure if this one did the same thing the little ones did with their tails when our cat caught them at home. So, cutting our walk short, we made a quick drop-off to the vet, much to Madelyn's dismay. I think she was looking forward to starting her own reptile park.

Danny Nolan

THE COLLIEWOBBLES SOCIAL DOG WALKING GROUP

My name is Philip Cassap, and I am a resident of the Basin and founder of Colliewobbles social dog walking group and Not for Profit Charity Colliewobbles Rescue and Rehoming Australia Inc.

Colliewobbles, a breed specific dog walking group established in January 2014 for Rough Collies, Smooth Collies, and Shetland Sheepdogs. On the 2nd of December 2023 we will celebrate our 10th Christmas as a social walking group meeting at Nortons Park in Wantirna South on the first Saturday of every month since 2014.

A few facts:

- The founder of Colliewobbles is a resident of Knox and lives in The Basin.
- Est 5th January 2014 as a social walking group to help socialize and rehabilitate collies removed from a registered Victorian breeder following a raid by the RSPCA.
- The social group has expanded into Shepperton, Surf Coast and Gippsland over the past five years.
- Colliewobbles was also the inspiration for other social walking groups established in Vic, WA, and SA.

• The social walking group became a formal registered as a Not-for-Profit charity and dog rescue in August 2018 Colliewobbles Rescue and Rehoming Australia Inc (CRRA) due to the volume of dogs entering our care.

• The social walking group members are a cross section of our likeminded dog owners including younger people, seniors & veterans, all passionate about their companion animals.

• CRRA are national rescue partners with the RSPCA.

• CRRA are rescue partners with SAFE in WA.

• CRRA are international partners with the US based Scotch Collie Preservation Society.

• We are all unpaid volunteers utilizing private vehicles for interstate rescue and collection.

• We have built a foster care network in Victoria, NSW, and WA.

• CRRA founder was recently selected by Animal Welfare Victoria to be part of the "Rehoming Pets Walking Group" Committee to help steer new government policy and codes of practice for the rehoming of pets within Victoria.

• We promote responsible dog ownership.

We believe Colliewobbles as a social walking group has been an incredible success and we will celebrate our 10th Christmas at Nortons Park in Wantirna South on the 2nd of December 2023.

The Christmas event is our fundraiser for the year ahead and we encourage all our social media members to join us on the day to help raise funds to support the ongoing CRRA rescue work.

I hope our story will be of interest to 3WBC and will encourage local businesses to support us in our effort.

Everything donated to CRRA is tax deductible.



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

William Matthews Funerals

45 Cave Hill Rd, Lilydale

24 HOUR SERVICE - ALL AREAS

Large Chapel - Pre Paid Funerals Available



Before you decide please call one of our friendly staff

9739 6868

www.williammatthewsfunerals.com.au



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

Delivers for Boronia & The Basin

It's been another big year and I wanted to start this contribution in wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy new year from me and my family (including our new baby, George, pictured) to you and yours. It's been wonderful representing our community again this year and I thank everyone for giving me this great opportunity. I also want to thank all the volunteers at this publication for their continued hard work in bringing good community news to your letterboxes.

Boronia Station Early Works Underway

The State Government is getting on with upgrading the Boronia Station – which will revitalise the station and surrounding area to deliver a modern and accessible precinct for the local community.

Since the announcement of this major election commitment, site investigations, geotechnical surveys and site inspections are already underway which will inform final designs. An upgraded Station will transform the heart of the suburb by creating a more liveable community space for locals and a safer and more modern transport hub for all transport users.

The Boronia Station upgrade will be delivered by 2026 and complements the work currently underway to build two new stations and remove a further four level crossings on the Belgrave-Lilydale Line.



Tash, Jackson and George

The SEC is Back

The State Electricity Commission (SEC) is officially back. Premier Jacinta Allan recently launched the SEC's Strategic Plan 2023-2035, which sets out three clear priorities for the next 10 years: investing to accelerate the energy transition, supporting the switch to all-electric households and building a renewable energy workforce. It'll mean cheaper power - a saving of around \$1,400 by going electric. It'll mean a cleaner environment - building 4.5 gigawatts of new power through renewable energy and storage projects and it'll help create 59,000 jobs - right here in Victoria.

Container Deposit Refund Scheme

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme is now officially up and running, with a new reverse vending machine installed locally at Mitre 10 on Mountain Hwy in Bayswater. You'll be able to get a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton, and bottle you return. There are many locations now open locally with more coming online soon!

For more information, visit cdsvic.org.au

Investing in Community Sport

The new safety nets behind the goals at Batterham Reserve in The Basin have now been installed – I was stoked to secure the full funding from the State Government for this. And new lights at Chandler Park aren't far off either with \$150,000 from the State Government to ensure local clubs can better use these facilities.

The brand new, female-friendly pavilion at Marie Wallace Reserve is officially open! I was stoked to lock in \$300,000 from the State Government - with contributions from the Federal Government and by Knox City Council - who delivered this project.

In other News

- The new lights are now in place at the Burwood Highway and McMahons Road intersection in Ferntree Gully. Complete early 2024.

- We're giving 95,000 little angler kits to Victorian school students.

- The new Knox Library at Knox Shopping Centre will be open in early 2024.

- The first public IVF service was established in Victoria one year ago and has now welcomed its first baby.

- Attended a moving Remembrance Day Service at Bayswater RSL.

- We've made a change so if you need a refill for the pill or antibiotics for a UTI, you can get it from your chemist.

Local Shout-Out

Congratulations to Heather McTaggart on being nominated as a finalist in the 2023 Learn Local Awards for the Victorian Learn Local Leadership Award. Heather is an incredible human and is the spectacular manager at The Basin Community House.



A Strummer's Story by Rob Fairbairn A Boy in the Bush - Part 1: The Final Day and a New Beginning

My final day as a student didn't end well. I turned left and headed east along Burwood Highway as I had done many times before but as I approached the Blackburn Road intersection, near the new K Mart, I was momentarily distracted (she was wearing a red mini skirt) and ploughed into the rear end and towbar of a sturdy Holden utility. Predictably my delicate grey Morris Major Elite came off second best and on examining its front end I found the radiator to be leaking like a sieve. Bugger! Fortunately, a fellow student was following closely behind and was kind enough to tow me back home to Mooroolbark.

It was early December 1971 and three hours before, the Burwood Teachers College Hall was packed with graduates, gathered for the final assembly. The mood of the group was unusually subdued for this was the day on which we would find out where we would be teaching the following year. As I remember it, some weeks prior to the assembly, on receiving their qualification, each graduate was required to list the regions or districts in which he or she would like to begin their teaching career. The options ranged from metropolitan to rural to remote. Then, somebody in the Education Department, using a method known only to themselves, would allocate the positions. It was as if we had bought tickets in a raffle without knowing the prizes.

My preferences were in the country, radiating eastwards from West Gippsland. My reasons for this were twofold, neither of them particularly career related. The first was based on the romantic notion of moving to an idyllic rural location, being welcomed with open arms by the community and embracing country life. The second was more personal. Being appointed to a rural school gave me the perfect excuse to leave home. I wasn't unhappy there but at twenty, I was ready to fly the coop, spread my wings and become independent.

After the traditional welcome and pep talk from the college head, Laurie Shears, the ritual

reading of the appointments commenced. The name of each graduate being read out in alphabetical order, followed by the name of the school in which they would begin their teaching career. It must have been slow torture for those unfortunates whose surnames began with a W, Y or Z. As each name and school was announced the responses from the graduates would range from delighted squeals ("Balwyn North, phew I'll be teaching close to home") to guffaws and gasps of incredulity ("Wild Dog Valley, where the hell is that?"). When my name was called, followed by the name "Hallston" my response was closer to the latter. "Where?" I'd never heard of the place. On receiving the official appointment notice the picture became clearer. I was to be the headmaster of a one teacher school in the Leongatha Inspectorate in South Gippsland.

On consulting my road maps, I discovered that my place of employment for the next year at least, was on the Grand Ridge Road, halfway between Leongatha and Mirboo North. A New Year's reconnaissance mission revealed there was no town in Hallston, just a one room school building with its shed and small toilet block, beside the eponymous public hall. It was indeed, just a 'spot on the map'. Set amongst rolling hills on rich grazing land atop the Strzelecki Ranges, I instantly fell in love with this country and have had a soft spot for it ever since.

It had been customary for the head teacher of Hallston PS 2825, usually male and single, to board with Mrs Pearce and I was to continue that custom. Her old weatherboard house was on the Leongatha - Yarragon Road and a short drive from the school. Behind the house were the milking and machinery sheds of a working dairy farm now run by her son Albert and his wife Dot who lived a couple of hundred yards further up the road.

Mrs Pearce was a widow who lived for her garden which, when I arrived in late January, was a forest of summer colour. On Fridays she religiously watched Kevin Heinze hosting "Sow

What?" and tuned in every weekday to catch up with the goings on in "Bellbird" on her twenty seven inch black and white television. She served breakfasts with creamy milk fresh from the vat, made fat salad sandwiches for my lunches, cooked hearty dinners on her old-fashioned wood burning stove and within a month of my arrival she was gone, leaving me alone in the farmhouse. I was miles from the nearest town with only my guitar and my music for company. This was far from what I had envisioned when I chose to teach in the country.

To be continued...



A Nice Painting

In a gloomy misty sky,
A magnificent ART is painted.
Huge black trees stand like giants,
Starry heaven is not to be seen.

Cold tiny dew drops like pearls
fall on the window,
Yellow, green and red leaves
float in the winds,
They hug the roots, thanking the trees.

A band of cranes flying
round the trees,
Creating shapes and fluttering the wings.
Are they giving the message of Peace?
I gazed at the Painting, thanking the Artist.

At once, I saw bright stars
fall from the sky,
Sleeping flowers awoken by the light.
Birds in the twigs got scared of the
terrible sounds,
Peaceful surrounding is disturbed
by the light and sound.

Heavenly stars are hidden
beyond the clouds.
Smoke and the sound cover the calm sky.
"Fireworks" dominate the natured things
My nice Painting is dissolved...
But nature becomes silent
without complaining.

Dayangani Silva

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

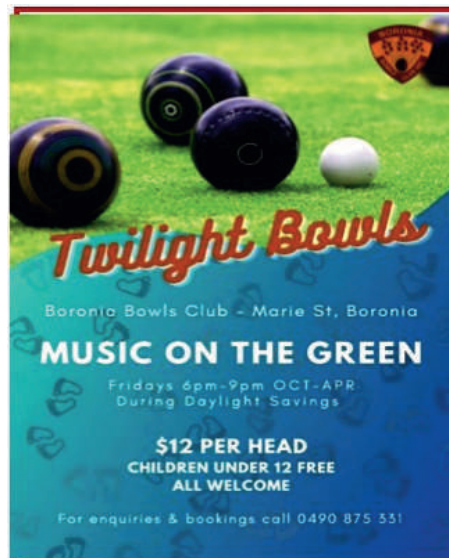
TWILIGHT BOWLS IS BACK AGAIN FOR 2023/24

Bring the family and friends down to one of our Twilight Bowls sessions.

Held every Friday night from 6-9pm from 6th October 2023 to 5th April 2024.

All equipment and coaching supplied - full bar, sausage sizzle and dim sims available.

Just turn up or phone Patrick on 0459 999 261.



MAJOR SPONSORS

Community Bank Ferntree Gully
Noel Jones Real Estate Wantirna
Chemist Discount Centre Boronia
Palandri Insurances Boronia
Walleates Flectrical Services Rowville

The Spectacle Site Boronia
Mackinnon Jacobs Lawyers Boronia
Hearing Professionals Boronia
Glengollan Village Ferntree Gully



CLUB SUPPORTERS

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

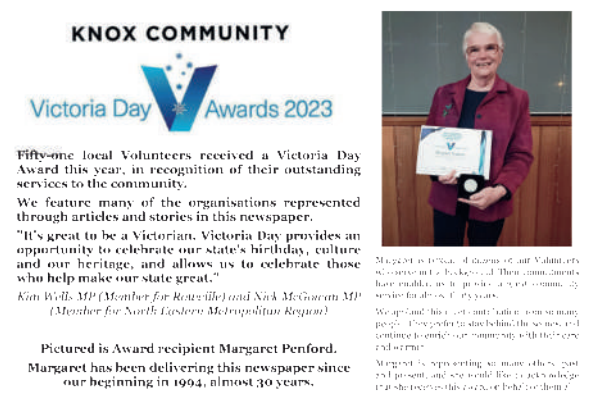
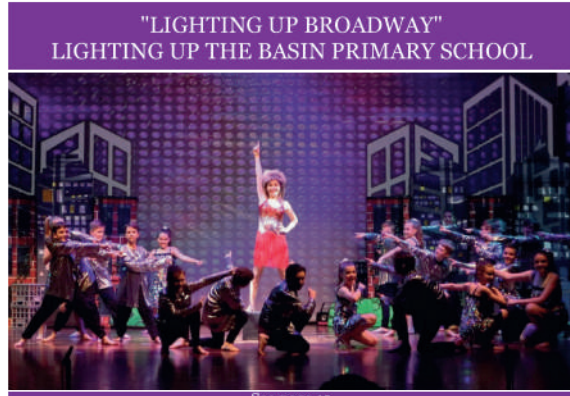
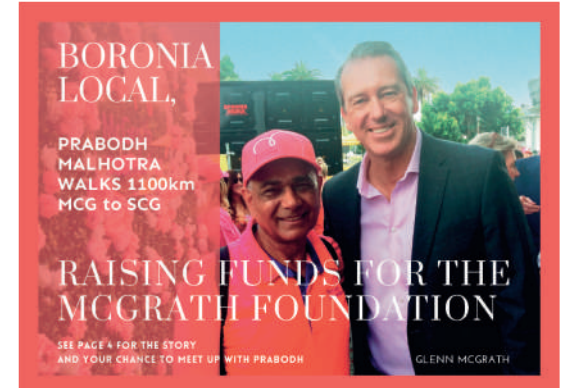
No fees for new bowlers for the first year - Call Wayne for Membership on 0430 451 250

BORONIA AND THE BASIN COMMUNITY NEWS

2023 ISSUES

READ ALL OF THESE ON OUR WEBSITE

bbcn.org.au



A DAY AT THE ZOO

Usually visiting the Melbourne Zoo Royal Park mid-week is one of the best times, uncrowded and with the exception of the odd school tour, relatively quiet. But we picked a day that was cold, wet and windy, you know? Melbourne winter.

The animals were on wet-day timetable and weren't in the mood to be seen this day. We were the ones walking around in the rain. Proof was in the offering that we kid ourselves that we are Mother Nature's smartest species.

The list of animals I partially saw or just didn't see included the Lions, Orangutans, Lemurs, Tasmanian Devils, Great Tortoise, Pygmy Hippo, Wild Dogs and surprisingly, the Penguins and Seals who really don't seem affected by bad weather because they're always wet!

The elephants were staying put, they were having pedicures in their big steel barn. I knew it wasn't our day when we grabbed a hot tea at the aptly named Giraffe lookout café which sat high and directly opposite the giraffe enclosure to have them immediately herded into another paddock while the curators cleaned their living quarters. I wasn't going to let this little trip go to waste. Especially when I realized that the zoo had been operating here for over 160 years. There had to be a lot of history in this place.

I needed to know how much was still here or even hidden away.



The Elliot Ave entrance is like an old friend and with the brick outer walls extending each side, it has barely changed since I was a preschooler. My earliest

memories were of the seal pool that my dad told me used to be a monkey enclosure until the monkeys realised they could jump over the moat and escape. I looked it up later, it was true and the enclosure was an art deco masterpiece, though not necessarily the most comfortable enclosure. It has now been replaced by the spectacular Wild Sea exhibit where the seals swim around you.

Just a short walk from Wild Sea, a massive Moreton Bay Fig that has survived the many zoo reinventions and has been in the same spot for 110 years and is used as a scientific barometer for environmental studies such as CO2 emission data. Also, in close proximity which made childhood memories come flooding back, the fun fair which seemed huge when I was younger has been removed, the only thing remaining now is the original carousel which is now over 140 years old and still operates. I thought I was doing a good job of finding the obvious, when I walked up a path



Old elephant shelter

that terminated abruptly by a low gate with a Staff Only sign on it. Standing at the gate I could see in between the trees the old elephant sheds that once sat on a flat sandy area that had a deep concrete pit surrounding it. This prompted me to check out some material I have at home. The zoo's 150 Anniversary booklet and an old zoo map from the 1980s. Here I found proof of how much the landscape had changed in this relatively small area. I was complaining about the giraffes earlier but it's still one of two exhibits that seem unchanged from my childhood memories (which is true, it has been in the same spot for over one hundred years), that and the reptile house, which I will never look at the same way since I saw the first Harry Potter movie. The zoo, to its credit, doesn't shy away from what it used to cage the animals in. Two well preserved brick and steel bar enclosures still stand. One small lounge room sized cage which once housed the big cats, the other a slightly larger and higher cage of similar build that housed the smaller primates and now holds the colourful macaws to which it is more suited. The former actually held a Thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger back in the 1920s; then it was referred to as a Tasmanian marsupial wolf.

The Zoo these days is known for its research, breeding, animal studies and education, and more importance is put on the comfort and welfare of the animals. Which shows how far we have come as a society. 100 years ago, the zoo had a museum featuring stuffed animals that had died there and held elephant rides as a supplementary income for the organization. I remember as a child seeing animals crammed into small concrete pits and steel cages whereas in 2024 the elephants are leaving Royal Park and being transferred to Werribee free range zoo, where they will have an area to wander larger than the whole Melbourne zoo area, as opposed to the current area equivalent to a small football oval. I may not have seen many animals on this horrible wintery day but at least I got to take a deep dive into exploring some history.

I also recommend a visit to the State Library website to check out the zoo's maps over the years. Fascinating stuff. Just type Melbourne zoo map into the search box and explore.



1956 zoo map

Danny Nolan



Ed-Connect Australia

recruit, train and support skilled volunteers to provide life-changing mentoring or learning support to students in local schools who might struggle to realise their potential – in school and life.

Following his retirement, local Knox resident Peter Ireland, places huge importance on giving back and that is part of the reason why he became an EdConnect volunteer in March. EdConnect trains and supports volunteers to work in local schools, providing a safety net for young people who might otherwise struggle to realise their potential - in school and life.

Peter is just one of over 115 skilled volunteers who gave up 2,329 hours to support an amazing 3,448 students through EdConnect in Victoria in Term 1 this year. He has been volunteering in a Learning Support role at Karoo Primary School in Rowville.

Peter tells us about his life-changing volunteer experience.

“Retirement gives you the time to do the things you enjoy. One day I was reading my retirement village newsletter, and EdConnect caught my interest, and I now volunteer at Karoo Primary School with the Grade 3 and 4 students, and from my first day I enjoyed it immensely.

“Volunteering with EdConnect Australia is very rewarding. When you see a student who has learning difficulties earn a reward, the look on their face with their achievement is just beautiful,” he said with a smile.

EdConnect Australia South East Liaison Officer Melinda Spiteri explains:

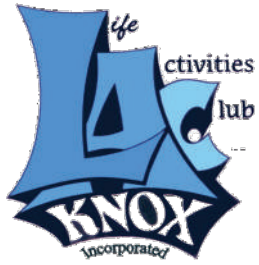
Volunteers at EdConnect Australia are passionate, driven by the greater good, are the force behind social change and give their time and energy to make a difference in the community.

Each volunteer gives their time to help equip young people with the life skills they need to succeed by building positive and supportive relationships with each student.

EdConnect Australia offers a variety of ways that people can help in local schools, from listening to students read, library support, assisting with kitchen garden programs to general classroom support.

“If you are thinking about volunteering, don't leave it too late and miss out. Enjoy the time, participate and help while you can. It's fun and most enjoyable, and very satisfying,” said Peter.

To become an EdConnect Australia volunteer and help equip young people with the life skills they need to succeed visit www.edconnectaustralia.org.au, contact edconnect@edconnect.org.au or call 1800 668 550.



Good Gracious!! It's almost time to wish you a very Merry Christmas, safe holidays and of course, a wonderful 2024 (and I do). HAPPY NEW YEAR, Welcome, 2024. So where can you find us in the meantime and also where can we get to meet you?

The Bushwalkers head off every Thursday and the Sunday walkers will enjoy the Bushy Park Wetlands (remember we are not as young as some and it is very social, walking and talking). For more exercise join the Badminton players with their shuttlecocks in Mitcham. They play between 2pm and 4pm every Thursday, including school holidays. \$5 each for the hire of the Mitcham Badminton Centre.

Dine-out this month is yet to be decided, as it falls on the 27th. We might have eaten enough by then.

December and most activities will be organised to include some Christmasy eats. Friday walkers will have a short walk and Christmas get together, the Garden group have been invited to one of our member's homes to explore an interesting garden followed by, yes you guessed it. Chinwaggers, (Lunchers), will spoil themselves at Yering Meadows Golf Club.



Happy "Friday Walkers"

Social Board Games and Cards groups will be at the Wattle Hall too, for their celebrations. We'll all get together for a Christmas BBQ at the hall, please book with Judy, her number is listed in the Newsletter, it's byo drinks and glass, and it'll be great.

On behalf of our members, I'm wishing you the most wonderful time, and remember, our activities continue throughout the year. Please ring and obtain a copy of our newsletter. Membership is only \$25:00 per year.

1 Feb 2024, please book this in. "Picnic in the Park" at the Tim Neville Arboretum on Francis Cres. FTG. It's BYO food - drinks - chair too, and we get together from 5pm, plus we're home before dark.

More details about activities are listed in our quarterly newsletter and we'll happily send one to you. Our new Membership Secretary, Lorraine, is awaiting your call, and feel free to ask questions.

Lorraine's number - 0438 068 334



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 first meeting for 2024 will be held at 10.30 am on Tuesday 23 January, 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 October a group of members travelled to Lancefield to visit "Edgar's Mission," a not-for-profit farmed animal sanctuary, and enjoyed a great outing. We thought you might like to see a photo of Edgar, the little pig whose sorry plight inspired this wonderful initiative.



During November we had a trip to the Werribee Mansion and Rose Garden. And, in early December, will be entertained with "A Very Musical Christmas" at the Knox Community Arts Centre.

Our Christmas Luncheon will once again be held at the Churchill-Waverley Golf & Bowls Club.

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.



Boronia Road Uniting Church

209 Boronia Road, Boronia

JOIN US ON A SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM FOR A USER-FRIENDLY WORSHIP SERVICE... YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME.

We issue AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Dec 13 @ 7.30pm - Blue Christmas Service – for anyone who finds celebrating Christmas difficult.

Dec 17 @ 10am - Special family service including a Nativity Play (where any child present may participate!)

Dec 24 @ 10am - Join us for worship led by Rev Ian Hickingbotham

Dec 25 @ 9am - Celebrate Christmas with us. Service led by Rev Rod Brown.

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. We will finish up on Friday 15th December for a few weeks – and start up again on Friday, 12th January 2024.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon – but NOT on 22nd Dec, 26th Dec, 29th Dec or 2nd January.

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 45minute 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.

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>

Advertise here - annual cost \$225 small, \$450 large (Inc. GST) - full details on our website at the "Place an AD" link.

JG & S
PAINTING
AND
HANDYMAN
SOLUTIONS

John Giacomelli
0409 900 455

- * Painting Interior/Exterior
- * Gardening
- * Cleaning Gutters
- * Exterior Window Cleaning
- * Garden Rubbish Removal
- * End of Lease Clean Ups

DAWSONS TREE SERVICES

A family business with over 40 years experience

- * Large Tree Specialists
- * Hedge Trimming Experts
- * Stump Grinding
- * Mulch Available
- * FREE Quotes
- * Consulting Arborist

From \$100

- * No Fuss
- * No Mess
- * No Stress

\$20 million insurance

9720 5111   

LOCAL CARPENTER

Friendly and Reliable Service
Free Quote / Fully Insured
All Aspects of Carpenter
Ring Joseph
0420 422 263

VOLKSCARE
SPECIALISTS IN ALL VOLKSWAGENS

Audi, Seat & Skoda

- * Mechanical Repairs
- * Servicing & Maintenance
- * Licenced RWC Tester

U12/4 Macquarie Place
Boronia 3155
Phone: 9729 9281
(Melway: 65 A2)

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

Call Ken - 0408 058 394

K J ELECTRICAL SERVICES

A/H - 9762 4055

- * Domestic & Commercial
- * Free Quotes
- * No job too small

REC 28207

Min. 3 Hrs
Superlative Home Cleaning

ABN: 99322634069

Affordable, reliable and trustworthy
NDIS & My Aged Care Clients welcome.
Weekly or fortnightly cleans. For an obligation-free quote Call Linda on 0421 596 494

PALING FENCING

QUALITY TRADESMAN

RELIABLE
FREE QUOTES
CALL
CHRISTOPHER
0417 357 738

D&L LANDSCAPING

- * Retaining walls
- * Concrete
- * Paving
- * Decking
- * Artificial grass

Quality Landscaping at Affordable prices.
Free quotes

David 0431 290 064
david@dl-landscaping.com.au

B BORONIA Appliance Repairs

We can repair your:

- * Coffee Machine
- * Microwave
- * Vacuum Cleaner
- * Kitchen Mixer
- * All Small Appliances

We also sell spare parts!

www.barepairs.com.au
03 9762 1668

BAYLISS PLUMBING SERVICES

24 Hr Emergency Services
All General Plumbing & Gas Fitting, Hot & Cold Water, All Roof Repairs.

Blocked Drains Machine Cleaned

Ph: A/H 9762 1963
Mobile: 0418 388 902

THE BASIN AUTOMOTIVE
MECHANICAL REPAIRS & HANDBOOK SERVICING **9720 6818**

Mechanical Repairs
Servicing & Maintenance
Stuart Metcalf
Fact. 7 / 15 Macquarie Place
BORONIA 3155
Email: tbauto@aapt.net.au
Fax: 9720 9525
Ph: 9720 9518

GUTTER-VAC
Clean. Safe...Easy

- * Vacuum Gutter Cleaning
- * Gutter-Flow Gutter Guard
- * Solar Panel Cleaning
- * Lichen & Moss Treatment
- * Pressure Washing

Contact: Bryan 0437 910 050

EASTERN SUBURBS LOCKSMITHS

Quality at an affordable price.
In shop and On-site service.

9762 5757 info@easternlocksmiths.com.au

223-225 Dorset Road, Boronia
For All Security Solutions

Fast Friendly Service - Seniors Discount

Computer Problems?

Retired gent,
50 years IT experience,
available to help
with your computer
or Internet needs.
Business or private

Les: 0411 722 234

ICUT TREE SERVICES

0409 906 301
ICUTTREESERVICES.COM.AU

- * TREE REMOVAL
- * STUMP REMOVAL
- * PRUNING
- * CHIPPING
- * FREE QUOTES

ACADEMY Plumbing SERVICES

Licensed. Insured. Experienced

- * General Plumbing
- * Hot and Cold Water
- * Gas Fitting
- * Blockages and CCTV
- * Drainage and Excavation
- * Roofing

ADAM - 0438 310 452

Be Comfy at home

.... in any weather

- > lower your energy bills
- > choose efficient appliances
- > reduce your home's emissions

Home Energy Advice you can trust
Accredited and insured assessor

0493 565 778
hello@becomfy.com.au
www.becomfy.com.au

Stumpy the Stump Remover

* Specialist Stump Removal

Any Size - Free Quotes

Call Ross
9762 5813
0427 101 929

LONGFORD LEGAL

Fixed price Conveyancing
• Handled by Lawyer

- * Includes Contract review
- * Free Conveyancing Guide and Checklist
- * Fixed fee Legal solutions for Small & Medium Local Business

Suite 6, 5-7 CHANDLER ROAD
03 8657 3700
LONGFORDLEGAL.COM.AU

Jo's Ironing Services

\$30 per hour
Pick up and Delivery
within 20 km of
Boronia

Formal wear will incur extra charges

Phone Jo: 0425 858 687

Chris Cumming
Painting/Handyman

Mobile:
0403 415 244

Email:
chris@paintnow.com.au

Web
paintnow.com.au

Classic Gardens MAINTENANCE

Lawns, Edges and Garden Cleaning

Police Checked - Free Quotes

Call Janine:
0432 055 405

Min. 3 Hrs
Superlative Home Cleaning

ABN: 99322634069

Affordable, reliable and trustworthy
Weekly or fortnightly cleans. For an obligation-free quote Call Linda on 0421 596 494
"A better class of clean"

CROYDON GLASS

Window & Door Glass Repairs

Glass & Mirror Cut to Size

3 Chandra Ave
Kilsyth South 3137
Mob: **0483 857 664**

- * Pet Doors
- * Splashbacks
- * Mirrors
- * Table Tops

Hassle Free Gardening
The Garden Ninjas

- * Lawn Mowing
- * Slashing
- * Property Maintenance
- * Gutter Cleaning
- * Pruning
- * Pre Sale Clean Ups
- * Rubbish Removal

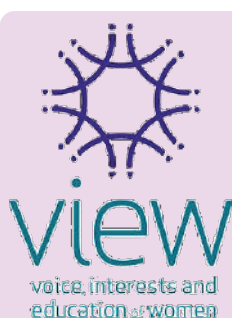
Julie: 0417 787 304
admin@gardenninja.com.au

Doongalla Plumbing

Mobile:
0410 644 098

Phone:
9762 4242

- * Gas
- * Drainage
- * Sewers
- * Roofs & Gutters
- * Maintenance
- * Repairs
- * Hot & Cold Water



Boronia View Club will be meeting Friday 15 December at 11.30am at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch costing \$27 followed by musical entertainment from the Yarra Valley Singers. There will be a raffle for lovely Christmas hampers. All monies raised will go to The Smith Family Learning For life program. The club sponsors 8 needy Australian children through this program. The club is looking for new members so ladies of all ages and backgrounds come along and you will be warmly welcomed. There is opportunity for small groups e.g. coffee mornings, film mornings, book club etc. and the occasional outings.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764 8602

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

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

For further information write to

Yarra Valley Christadelphians
PO Box 516 YARRA GLEN 3775
Email: yvc.vic@gmail.com

You may not have time to do the job properly, but you've always got time to do it again.



Boronia 9762 0008

5/3 Floriston Road, Boronia



Thinking Of Selling?

Get the best price for your home.

With over 40 Years of local real estate Knowledge

Call Today for a free, no - obligation market appraisal.



Looking for an expert to Lease and manage your Rental Property ?

Why Choose Kelly Real Estate Group ?

Communication - Regular contact to keep you informed of the progress of the Tenancy

Experience and Local Knowledge

We can guarantee an Honest, Professional, Knowledgeable and personal service at all times.



Warm Wishes for a Joyful Holiday Season

As we approach the festive season, we wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt wishes for a joyous and Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. It has been our privilege to be a part of this wonderful community, and we are grateful for the trust you've placed in us throughout the year.

From the team at Kelly Real Estate Group