

Boronia & The Basin

April 2024 Issue 331

Continuous Publication
30
YEARS



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

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Editorials: Danny Nolan



This month's edition commemorates thirty years that the paper has been in publication. I have been lucky enough to contribute for the last 16, and have been a committee member for just over a year. Watching the paper being put together by enthusiastic volunteers is a task made so much easier these days with the benefit of modern technologies. Knowing this gives me huge admiration, respect, and love for those who were there at the start and the great lengths they went to to get this paper out every month. We don't so much celebrate the anniversary but those who began the journey.

But the band plays Waltzing Matilda,

And the old men still answer the call,

But as year follows year, more old men disappear,

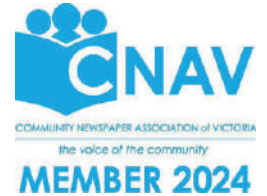
Someday no one will march there at all.

So goes the last lines of the beautiful and haunting The Band Played Waltzing Matilda by Eric Bogle. There are less and less soldiers appearing at ANZAC memorials and marches every year. That doesn't mean people care less or we are involved in less conflicts. It means the nature of war has changed. No longer do battalions of soldiers get thrown at another group of soldiers to see who is the last man standing. Technology has so changed that, regrettably, it also means that a small island off the coast off Europe which could fend off an enemy army's massive assault over the course of many years in World War Two, could now be wiped out in a few minutes by the press of a button. That only took less than 20 years to evolve. We still and will always have wars. Currently there are two major territorial conflicts and many more minor ones in places like Africa that the media don't think important enough to comment on. ANZAC day is a day to remember those who have fallen and a promise made many years ago to honour their sacrifice. It is also a day to celebrate our modern soldiers, who may not be actively touring all over the world helping others in trouble but have in recent years shown the expertise and skills by rescuing civilians in fire ravaged areas, earthquake incident and cyclone events. Despite the detractors, our armed services are still as relevant and necessary today as they were in the years gone by. They deserve our respect and thanks for their sacrifice and duty in the past, present and future.

Lest We Forget.

Boronia & The Basin Community News

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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. 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, please get in touch, we use many skills.

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back to the 1990s, search
localhistory.yourlibrary.com.au/local
Bound editions at Boronia Library

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PAGE 3
"BIRD"

Brush-tailed Phascogale or Tuan
(*Phascogale tapoatafa*)

These striking Tuan photos are from Kim Wormald (lirralirra.com)

They say a week is a long time in politics, but boy, a lot has happened since we last saw each other, or, I mean, since we last spoke or, you know what I mean, since all you good people who read my column read it last month. Does that make sense? Yes it does.

That's enough small talk, we had a field trip recently up to Healesville and saw, wait for it, a Tuan (or Brush-tailed Phascogale). Never heard of him, go on say it, you've never heard of him, have you? Ok I'm not offended or upset, I get it. I mean these things are as rare as rocking horse manure, and so cryptic it's ridiculous. They do not give a call and are nocturnal. Tim and Georgia own the property that we went spotlighting on. Even though they had recorded them on an infrared camera trap, I still thought the chances of us seeing one was extremely remote; but somehow we managed to nail one (that's your cue for applause, thank you, thank you!).

Tim and Ann (one of the ladies in our group) detected a slight scratching sound on a tree beside the path, and on turning the spotlight on, there he was. True to form, Tuan's are notorious for evading a spotlight beam by hiding behind



the branch they are on, but once we turned the bright spotlight off and turned on the one with an infrared filter he became much more confiding, and everyone got a good look at him.

Tuans are known as Wambengers in WA (the Aboriginal name I presume) where they are more common (in SW WA) than they are here in Victoria, where they are sparsely distributed, normally in drier open type forests. The Box-Ironbark forests of Northern Victoria are the stronghold for this species. Habitat loss and habitat fragmentation are the reason for the decline of this exquisite little native mammal.

A quite ferocious little predator of arthropods (beetles, spiders, scorpions etc) and small

vertebrates (small birds and mammals), as well as nectar (you don't have to be ferocious to eat nectar), but they are surprisingly quite placid when handled. I have handled Yellow-footed Antechinus while mammal trapping up at Chiltern, a much smaller native animal about the size of a mouse, and yikes, they can bite hard!

The life cycle of this little mammal will certainly surprise you, very similar to the aforementioned Antechinus. All males die before reaching 12 months old, embarking on a mating spree with as many females as they can get their claws on. To the detriment of their existence, they cease to eat and subsequently die. Females live to 2-3 years old; longevity is not in their genes. Certain aspects of that life cycle appeal to me and certain ones don't. Whoops, did I just write that? I assure you I only meant to think it!

The body size of a Tuan is about that of an introduced Black Rat, but they have an extraordinary bottle-brush tail, which becomes erect when they become excited. They nest in hollows with diagnostic nesting materials of stringybark, feathers and fur. Gestation is 30 days and litter size is 6-7.

I recently attended the wedding of my wife's nephew Rylan and his gorgeous bride Chelsea at the Gurdies winery near Grantville. The view from the winery is breathtaking; the panorama is of Western Port Bay with its fluctuating nuances between high and low tide, and a glorious view of French Island. During the ceremony, when the celebrant gave an acknowledgement of the previous owners of this nation of 'ours,' you know the mob, the ones we declined to let have an advisory voice to Canberra, a juvenile White-bellied Sea-Eagle soared majestically overhead. If that doesn't put a blessing over that marriage, I don't know what will.



Fareed Mohamed
Macauley Library

That's almost enough from me, but as my learned colleague from New Zealand, Levi Hawken ('Nek Minnit') reflected, "Ohh, ya can't beat nature man," so if you want to join us on a field trip drop me an email. And last but not least, Woodsy, knock it off will ya, you're killing me, you're taking it to the next level, great work brother.

Des Palmer:

arc_up_welding@live.com.au



pic: Nathan Dunlao
Unsplash

**WALKING
THE NEWS**

Our vacant walking round in The Basin has been filled, so we are pleased to welcome Victoria to our team of Volunteer Walkers.

And now we have two vacancies in Boronia: Helen Court/Sycamore Crescent (54 papers) and Central Avenue/Henry Street (170 papers). So, as usual, if you can help fill these please get in touch contact@bbc.org.au

IT'S A NIGHT

Flowers bloom and smile in the morn.
At noon petals get faded, they all mourn.
They beautified the lands and pleased the minds.
Freshness is away, they finish their bonds.

When the skies get gloomy, darkness falls soon,
Moving heavy clouds cover the moon.
Few stars appear, twinkle and dying,
Homes and houses are closed until the morn.

Sea waves roll, far away from the horizon,
They hit on the beaches, creating rough waves.
Cicadas in the bushes make non-stop creaks,
Owls hoot and pigeons coot relaxing on the treetops.

Beasts wake up and active at night,
Humans sleep and dream at night.
Gods appear in the purple night,
Their blessings and wishes get humans walk on tranquil paths.

Dayangani Silva

insert brain here



by woodsy

Have your say on what matters to you



Participate in a community engagement project by 30 May and go in the draw to win a voucher for an amazing local experience.

knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay



*Conditions apply, visit knox.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay for details.

What's on in Knox



New Knox Library open
at Westfield Knox
knox.vic.gov.au/knoxlibrary



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Apply for Community Development Fund grants of up to \$20,000.
Applications open 1 April - 6 May.
knox.vic.gov.au/cdfgrantprogram



Community training workshops
Learn about good governance, succession planning, child safe standards, and Aboriginal culture. Workshops are free.
knox.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

BORONIA'S MISSING SOLDIER

THE CITY of Knox's largest war memorial, at the Tim Neville Arboretum in Ferntree Gully, was opened ten years ago in 2014. But one soldier from Boronia, Corporal Douglas Leslie Jack Evans, does not as yet have his name included on the new memorial.

How did this come about? It turns out that initial researchers with Knox Historical Society were thrown off the track by a simple oversight. Corporal Evans enlisted to fight in World War II in New South Wales, not Victoria. Only a chance sighting in the Ferntree Gully News, the local paper during World War II, revealed Evans' connection with the district.

Douglas Leslie Jack Evans was born in Fitzroy in July 1907. He was thus old enough to enlist for the first time in 1927, with the Royal Australian Navy. His naval service was brief, only two years, and details are sparse.

Australia was at peace in the 1920s, but in the following decade that changed rapidly. The rise of the Nazis in Germany resulted in the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, followed by war in the Pacific in 1941.

Jack Evans enlisted only a few months after the European war broke out, in November 1939. He signed up in Paddington NSW, and was assigned an NSW Army service no., NX 7844, rather than a Victorian VX prefix. On his enlistment papers, Evans gave his occupation as an unemployed labourer. He also listed his wife, Alice Evans, then living in Canterbury Road, Bayswater, as his next of kin. The couple also lived in Boronia; Jack Evans played with the Boronia football team.

Following basic training, Evans was part of the first Australian contingent to be shipped to the Middle East, in January 1940. The Ferntree



Jack Evans enlistment photo

immediate object was to protect the Suez Canal. The Allied Command, however, had no intention of sitting and waiting to be attacked. General Archibald Wavell launched what he called a 'heavy raid' against Italian forces in Libya in December 1940.

Australian forces under General Stanley G. Savige moved up to attack the Italian port of Bardia a few days into January 1941. Bardia was heavily fortified, but the 'Diggers' were backed by artillery and air power; they were anxious to demonstrate their mettle in the first major Australian land battle of the war.

The result was a clear-cut victory for the Australian Army. The censors, anxious to air news of this, cleared the news footage which was being shown at local cinemas around the Shire of Ferntree Gully in the extraordinary time of just ten days.

The Australian forces lost only 130 men in the attack; one was Jack Evans, who died of wounds. He was buried at the military cemetery at another famous North African location: Tobruk. The soldiers of today's Army, though thankfully not presently involved in combat, carry on that proud tradition.



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

Gully News wrongly gave Evans' age as 25 years, and reported that he worked as a pastry-cook in NSW before enlisting.

Advanced training continued at camps in Egypt and Palestine, as their fathers had a generation before. The



Great Volunteering Opportunity Right Now



Many opportunities exist to make a personal contribution to the local community. One of those is volunteering with this newspaper. It is, after all, the only printed paper freely delivered to homes in our area every month. We have some 100 active Volunteers, many of whom walk the streets delivering. We can always use more.

Right now though, what we REALLY need is someone to be our **Distribution Manager**. There is quite a bit involved with this position.

Good with Excel? Distribution Manager could be just for you. You would need to spend several hours each month, and ideally you would need to have a good familiarity with Excel or a similar spreadsheet program.

So that you know what you would be getting into, here are the duties:

- i) Maintain an up to date list of Walkers and Drivers, and the number of papers required.
- ii) Liaise with Volunteer Walkers to arrange coverage for any absentees.
- iii) Prepare distribution lists for the delivery Drivers.
- iv) Attend the delivery of the papers each month (except January) and organise their collection by our Drivers.
- v) Report to the monthly Committee Meeting (7-8.30pm on the second Tuesday).

contact@bbcn.org.au

for more info, we would be very pleased to talk further with you.

Note from one of our Walkers

Here is a photo of pot plants that were being thrown out, on my February deliveries.

You never know what you might find when doing letterbox drops!

Cheers, Robyn

(Footnote: Robyn also offered to assist us with our editing).



GOOD READ: WHAT IS LIFE?

(Understanding biology in five steps)
Paul Nurse (Nobel Prize Winner)
Scribe, 2020

This is a really helpful little book if you are interested in delving into how the cells in your body work. Sir Paul Nurse is a leading world scientist with the skills to write with clarity, simplicity and wonderful insight. This book takes the reader through five fundamental building blocks of life:

- * The Cell
- * The Gene
- * Evolution by Natural Selection
- * Life as Chemistry
- * Life as Information

Reading this book clarified for me so many of the terms that I'd heard of, and it explained how

everything fits together. The explanation opens up the reader to the sheer and stunning reality which lives within every form of life, from the simplest single cell to complex animals such as ourselves.

I wonder if you know that an egg yolk is actually one single cell (that's on the first page); the cell of a bacteria which can infect the bladder measures one three thousandth of a millimetre.

In this book, the discovery and mechanisms of chromosomes, genes and DNA are all revealed. How it all works starts to become much clearer to the average person with limited scientific knowledge. What also becomes very clear is how this knowledge needs to inform the way we live and act, as individuals and as a community.

John Pernu



World Health Day originated with the creation of the World Health Organisation; in December 1945 the officials of Brazil & China proposed the creation of an international health organisation that was completely independent from all government powers. In July 1946 in New York the constitution of the World Health Organization was approved and entered into force on 7th April 1948 and 61 countries signed in agreement.

It is for this reason World Health Day is celebrated on April 7th every year. We all have different ways of taking care of our health and for some of us it comes more easily than for others. Environmental and socio-economic factors can come into play. What's important to understand is that taking care of our health isn't just about making sure we head out for a walk every now and then or head to the gym once a week, it encompasses all aspects of health as defined by this year's theme for World Health Day.

The theme for 2024 is "My health, my right!" This has been chosen to champion the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality

World Health Day

health services, education, information, as well as safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working and environmental conditions and freedom from discrimination.

As someone who has worked in the health industry for over 15 years, I have always passionately promoted the message about maintaining health and wellbeing and strongly believed in this message. You know the old saying, "Practice what you preach?" What I realised was that I wasn't following my own advice.

I was getting up early, driving across town to work, running myself ragged, not necessarily eating the right things, watching as others took care of their health and bodies in our Pilates studio, seeking treatments from our practitioners for various ailments. Imagine, working in an allied health clinic with your office being right next to the studio with equipment and never making the time to use it?

Ironically, I don't work in the healthcare

industry any longer and have taken a complete 180 degree turn into the world of accounts, but I am now working closer to home, shorter hours and have made a conscious decision to make time to take care of myself. Yes, that does mean incorporating physical activity into my weekly routine – in my case Pilates and walking, but taking care of myself also means getting to bed earlier and eating healthier, as well as enjoying a day out at the beach or taking myself into the great outdoors and convening with nature.

It's also knowing when to let go of daily stresses, when to leave work at work, taking the time to refocus yourself on what's really important and dismissing what doesn't matter. When it comes to looking after our mental wellbeing – telling your primitive fight or flight response to "be quiet" takes time and practice, but eventually it will listen to you.

So, on this World Health Day – I ask each of you to look at what having good health means to you and what steps you are going to take or changes you are going to make in your daily life to improve your health and wellbeing if it isn't quite where you'd like it to be!

Ella Szlegier

The Basin Theatre Review

Hatched, Matched and Dispatched.

A story of life, birth, marriage and death. An interesting concept by author/actor Chris Hudson.

Three plays with an interesting introduction including the author playing a car and the door lady playing the usher. Both were extremely good in their roles and the audience was left wondering if this was or was not part of the show.

The story of Hatched revolved around a young couple who were parents for the first time and their respective parents/grandparents arriving. The girl is a Greenie and so are her parents. The husband goes along with his wife, but his parents are business people, and the father has no time for Greenies.

Lucy Butler was Fleur in this play as the young new mother. A good performer, she handled the role with finesse. She also played Sarah and Judith in the following stories handling the variety of characters with finesse. Kai Ratiteri was the young father in this story and was Simon and Stan in the other stories. Klai projects well but does need to speak up a little. As for the other roles he did a good job of handling different characters.

Jackie Hutchison as Penny the bigoted Greenie mother to Fleur handled the role with professionalism, giving a great performance, and also as Iris, handling the change of role comfortably. Chris Shaw was Dennis/Anton/Morris. Chris really captured the characters he portrayed giving the audience the correct feel to his roles. A good portrayal.

Susan Collier was Maree/Rose/Vera. A great

performance of the three different characters.

Lachlan McGill was Barry/Paul/Gordon. A fair performance but did have trouble with his lines. The second story was Matched, obviously about a forthcoming marriage. And the last story was Dispatched, a story of a man whose wife has just passed away and the subsequent results.

The Basin Theatre did have some trouble with Thursday opening night. It had to be cancelled because The Basin Theatre is in a high fire zone and they did not want the risk of anyone being hurt. So this amounted to the opening night being the primary pre night leading to some memories being lost in the lines and the audience could hear the prompts at various stages. This in no way deterred the audience and your correspondent recommends the show to all.

Peter Kemp

Term 2 Classes - Now Open

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24th April to 26th June

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26th April to 28th June

Tech Support Drop in - Free

Mondays 9.30am - 11.00am
22nd April to 24th June

Yoga - Tuesday \$96

Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9pm
16th April to 25th June

Yoga - Friday \$84

Fridays 9.30am - 11am
19th April to 28th June

Craft \$2 per class

Friday 12.00-2.30pm
3rd May / 24th May / 14th June

Fun and Friendly Cooking \$100

Thursdays 10.30-12.30
2nd May to 27th June

Exercise Right for Active Aging \$80

Thursday 10.00 - 10.45
18th April to 27th June

Colour and Chat - \$40

Mondays 12.45 to 2.45pm
15th April - 24th June

Conversation and Friendship Group

Fridays 10.00 - 12.00
3rd May / 7th June
Gold coin Donation

Patchwork and Sewing \$40

7.30pm-9.30pm
18th April / 16th May / 20th June

Beginners Art - Drawing & Acrylic \$108

Tuesdays 9.30 - 11am
23rd April to 18th June

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12.00 to 2.30pm
9th & 23rd May & 13th & 27th June

Tai Chi \$117

Wed Morning 9.30 - 11am
17th April to 26th June

Charity Group \$2 per class

12.00-2.30pm
19th April / 17th May / 21st June

Card Making - \$30

12.00-2.30pm
26th April / 10th May / 7th June



The Basin
Community House



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course information



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WILL PRABODH DO A THIRD MCG TO SCG WALK FOR THE McGRATH FOUNDATION?



Prabodh has raised almost \$100,000 for the McGrath Foundation, what a wonderful effort and contribution to this important cause.

When asked about Big Walk 3.0, he replied:

"Honestly, I would love to do it again. However, it is too early to give you a definitive answer.

"It would depend on a number of variables. For example, getting clearance on my health (I will be 73 this year), undertaking intensive training programs, getting all the permits, putting together a dedicated team

of volunteers to drive the van and most of all, the affordability to pay for everything for ten weeks or so, including the van rental that accounts for the bulk of the expenditure. The two walks (2022 and 2023) cost me lots of money from my own pocket that I had to redraw against the house. Substantial sponsorships to meet the walk expenditure could make things easier, but I don't know anyone who could help us. If you know someone who could help us with that, I would certainly consider undertaking the Big Walk 3.0."

My question to our readers: does anyone have any contacts or ideas which could assist Prabodh on a third walk?

The hire of the camper van is a major expense; maybe someone has a good contact with a rental car business which might consider sponsoring a third Walk.

Volunteer team members and drivers are all a vital part of such an undertaking, and you or someone that you know might just relish such a challenge.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, we would be very pleased to follow them up.

John Pernu

JOHN MORTIMORE



Joy Shelley

Whenever I mention to people that I am involved with the BBCN, they always say, "John Mortimore ran that didn't he?" Followed by, "How is he?" Most people in our community know of him, and many people have met him personally. This is because John has spent most of his life serving the community through his work as a councillor and through many other groups. He has been part of the BBCN team for most of its 30 year history.

John first became involved in the BBCN in 1995 when Pauline Brown and Jan Birkett, two of the paper's founders met him in the hallway of the Holmesglen Institute where he was teaching. They told him that he had to come and work on this very new community paper as he lived in The Basin and taught professional writing. John said, "I put up little resistance to the approach of the formidable duo and a long association and friendship began." Initially he contributed as a writer and photographer and assisted with layout which was done on the floor of Pauline's house. Within the first year he became a committee member, and was soon given the role of editor and remained in the position for over 25 years.

As to why he has continued to work on the paper all these years, John said, "I grew up on a soldier settlement where helping your neighbours and getting involved in community activities was just the way most people were. That's why I continue to work on this paper. It's the glue that holds our neighbourhood together – that encourages people to become real neighbours."

Whilst still a committee member, this year John has stepped down from his role as editor. The fact that this paper has survived and is flourishing is due to the dedication and determination of people like John and their belief in community. We wish him all the best for the future.

"The Basin Community House" farewells Heather McTaggart



Heather is retiring from her position as Manager after some 17 years of wonderful community service. A farewell was celebrated on 27 March. We will have more information in our May issue.

The Hut GALLERY FERNTREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY
at THE HUT GALLERY
157 Underwood Road, FTG

**APRIL EXHIBITION
"FOUR MEDIUMS"**

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Exhibitions' official opening and awards presentation
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GROUND FLOOR - BORONIA MALL, DORSET SQ BORONIA

This year the Aussie Veterans Opshop is proud to be hosting an ALICE IN WONDERLAND themed High Tea experience in support of The Australian Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

Saturday 4 May 10am until 1pm.

This will be a theatrical WONDERLAND STYLE event, with The Mad Hatter as our MC and various other fabulous characters roaming around.

Photo props, select wares stalls with proceeds in support of the cause. Kids entertainment and believe us when we say, dressing up is 'strongly encouraged' to be in the running to win prizes.

There will be local fresh musical talent, a FUN "Un-Silent" Auction of donated items to help raise funds on the day.

All our tables will be decked out fittingly with weird and wonderful props just waiting for you to come and join us for "TEA."

Make sure to book a table or a spot @ \$25 per person, which includes your entertainment and a delicious Food & Drink experience which caters for young and old. (GF options available.)

100% of ticket costs on the day and monies raised during our event go to The Australian Cancer Council - an extremely worthy cause.

During the day we will have our famous HALF PRICE STORE-WIDE sale in both of our op shops inside The Boronia Mall.

Home made food and drink sales will also be available on the day to walk in patrons to enjoy, to secure a table spot however please pre book prior to the event.

This will be a fun family friendly community event, with full details available at our Aussie Veterans Opshop FACEBOOK PAGE.

Please contact Kristy on 97610468 or email kristy@aussieveteransopshop.com.au to secure your spot or to book a table.

DRESS FABULOUS!

Kristy Harris Assistant Manager



December Young Writers Initiative winner Maya Lawrence happily receiving her award for her Family Poem, published in BBCN in December.

Please get your entries in for the 2024 YWI awards. Submit entries here:



KNOX DISTRICT CUBS SCOUTS

On Sunday the 3 March, 92 Cubs from 9 Cub Units and many leaders from the City of Knox descended on Gilwell Park Scout Camp in Gembrook, for a day of vertical adventure. The weather was just perfect!

Cubs got to have a go at the rock climbing wall, the abseiling wall, crate stacking, the flying fox and the bouldering park.

They learnt how to put on a climbing harness and tried some new challenging knots that you need to know for abseiling.

When we reviewed the day at our final parade, lots of Cubs said that their favourite activity was all the activities, which made us smile. The flying fox and the crate stacking seemed to be overall favourites, but all the activities held fun and excitement for the Cubs. Many Cubs are keen to go again!

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

2nd/3rd Bayswater, 1st Wantirna South, 2nd Wantirna, 1st Knoxfield and 4th Knox are the local Scout Groups. You can try three nights for free! So come along and join in the fun. Scouting is for youth from age 5 to 26 years and after 26 lots of fun is to be had by becoming a leader!

Nicole Klep

District Leader of Cub Scouts



Volunteer for Knox Expo

**Wed 24 April, 1-6pm, Knox Civic Centre
Rooms 1-3**

511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna

This free event brings together non-profit organisations and community groups to showcase their opportunities and recruit volunteers.

You will learn about different causes, meet representatives and find ways to get involved.

The Expo aims to inspire and empower you to become active volunteers, create positive change in your community and build experiences for your resumé.





April Young Writers Initiative Award

THE KING OF HAVERTOWN

Dominic Tina (Grade 6)

This story explains the origins of Havertown's fabled king Zenith.

Zenith sprinted out his small wooden home "bye mother!" he yelled as he ran past, he sprinted down the gravel path to the city "Havertown" Zenith was in fact a tour guide.

Zenith was unfortunately late, he bolted through the bustling streets full of merchants, stalls and of course people. When he reached his workplace the "museum" he saw a long queue of

customers all complaining at the poor security guard named Bob "please folks Zenith will be here soon!" Zenith then passed the corner "here!" the infuriated crowd and Bob stared at him with laser eyes. "Ok..." Zenith muttered to himself and so they entered the museum.

When they entered the enormous museum Zenith saw a bright red and obnoxiously shiny dragon egg. "Well..." Zenith thought to himself "what if I stirred a teensy tiny bit of trouble... Yoink! He stole the egg! Alarms began to wail; Nee Naw! "Uh oh" Zenith said jaw gaping open. Not long after two burly guards chased after Zenith, thinking sharply Zenith again started to scuttle and bolt! After a few very well calculated turns Zenith, now very "puffed" skedaddled out of there!

Zenith walked out just in time to see a very angry mob protesting "out with the rubbish king!" they yelled, the king sat lazily in his bed not giving a single concern, Zenith had two

decisions he could run away or do the right thing and help the protesters . I believe you know what he chose?

"Fine folks of Havertown I hear the complaints you are all yelling out extremely loudly!" Zenith began a speech "That so why I believe very deeply we need a better king so that's why I suggest down with the king!" "The crowd now very riled up yelled "Zenith for king!" "Let's vote Zenith for king! The crowd picked up Zenith. He was so happy then cried tears of pure absolute joy. Afterward Zenith unknowingly dropped the egg (plot twist!) hatching a wonderful baby red dragon.

Now if you ask anyone in Havertown they will tell you Zenith is a handsome, smart and all in all brilliant king with a red dragon that he totally didn't steal. What a wonderful story Zenith went from a thief no one knew to a prideful king what a grand story.

TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

Top Hat to the rescue



TO BE CONTINUED...

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

Some Toby feedback from one of our readers.

I really enjoy Toby & The Magic Pencil and often save it to read with my kids (8 & 16). Love the art and I love that it's readable by adults as well as kids. Only problem I have is remembering what happened the week before so I often keep the page after I read it to give me a quick refresher.

Very keen to see it continue! *Cheers, Richard*

Our TOBY COMPETITION winners will be announced later in the year, so you still have time to enter. See Feb Issue, p9.

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KIDS
ZONE

INTERNATIONAL BAT APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 17, 2024

There are more than 1,200 bat species in the world, accounting for almost a fifth of all mammal species. There are two kinds of bats: large flying-foxes or fruit-eating bats (often called megabats), and the small insect-eating bats (often called microbats).

Bats play a vital role in the health of ecosystems. Microbats eat a wide range of insects, including mosquitoes, moths, beetles and bugs, helping to keep their numbers in check. This includes a range of species that are



bad agricultural pests. Flying-foxes play an important role in pollination and seed dispersal of flowering and fruiting trees.

In Australia, flying-foxes are the bats people are more familiar with because of their large size. They can be seen in household gardens and feed mainly on nectar, blossom and native fruits. Microbats are actually very diverse and abundant, but most people haven't seen them. These bats are small, nocturnal, use ultrasonic calls inaudible to humans, and are hidden during the day in roosts.

Some Cool Bat Facts

- Bats are actually gentle furry native mammals. There are only three species of vampire bat and they only occur in Central and South America. Vampire bats only bite cattle and don't bite people's necks!
- Bats are not blind. Flying foxes have good eyesight but use a sense of smell to find food.
- Microbats also see well but use a sonar system called echolocation emitting ultrasonic pulses of sound, and use the echoes to sense obstacles to avoid and insects to catch.
- Bats are the only mammals that can fly. Their wings are modified hands.
- Microbats eat a LOT! Flying takes considerable energy. As a result they eat lots, up to three-quarters of their own body weight in insects in one night!
- A single flying fox can disperse up to 60,000 seeds in one night.

• Bats are natural aerial acrobats! While most bats catch insects in their mouths, they can also catch insects in their wing membrane.

• The largest bats in Australia are the flying-foxes, including the Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) that weigh up to 1kg and have a wingspan of over a metre. In contrast, most of the microbats are tiny. One of the smallest species is the Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*) which weighs only 4g (less than the weight of a 10 cent piece) and would easily fit inside a matchbox!

• Most of our microbats roost in hollows in large, old trees. Dead trees, and dead limbs on live trees, provide essential roost sites for many species.

• Some bats depend on caves for roosting, with female bats being highly selective about which caves they use to give birth. Eastern Beng-wing Bats fly up to 300 km to reach a maternity cave.

Joy Shelley

**ANZAC BISCUITS**

The origin of Anzac biscuits is contested between Australia and New Zealand, similar to the dispute over pavlova. The actual recipe for the biscuit has been found long before the formation of the ANZAC Corps, and many of the first recipes for Anzac biscuits differ from the modern version. It has been claimed that these biscuits were sent by wives and women's groups to soldiers abroad because the ingredients do not spoil easily and the biscuits kept well during naval transportation. Because of their historical military connection with the ANZACs and Anzac Day, these biscuits are still used as a fundraising item for the Royal New Zealand Returned Services' Association (RSA) and the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL). Special collector's old-style biscuit tins with World War military artwork are usually produced in the lead up to Anzac Day and sold in supermarkets.

**Ingredients:**

- 125gm butter, chopped
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1.5 tsp bicarb soda
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 1 tbs golden syrup
- 2 tbs boiling water
- ¾ cup desiccated coconut

Method:

Combine butter and golden syrup in a pan, stir over heat until butter is melted.

Stir in combined soda and water, then remaining ingredients. Mix well.

Drop rounded teaspoons of mixture about 4cm apart on greased over trays and flatten slightly.

Bake at 175 C for about 20 minutes or until slightly brown. Cool on tray.

KIDS
ZONE

HELPING YOUR TODDLER BOND WITH YOUR NEWBORN



Everyone has a different story to tell about what they did to help their toddler bond with their newborn. Although how well they adjust to this change will ultimately depend on their nature, there are lots of things you can do to help their bond develop. You can start by introducing the idea of the baby growing in mummy's tummy quite early on and allow the idea to settle. A good start is to read some books about the coming baby. As you grow bigger the toddler will become more interested in what's happening in the tummy and may think about it a bit more and ask questions.

My two-year-old grandson, who is very attached to his cars, wanted his mother to eat one of his cars. "Why do you want me to eat the car?" she asked. "So the baby can play with it,"

he answered. Along the way you can also explain to your toddler that this will be "our baby," their baby brother or sister, and you would like them to help look after it. I adopted this approach with my own eldest daughter. She took her responsibility very seriously. So much so that the first time I left them both in the creche at the gym, they had to come and get me because, at the age of 22 months, she was standing guard over her sister's capsule and wouldn't let anyone near her.

Toddlers generally like to be helpful. You can get them involved pre birth with arranging the nursery. After birth, they can help choose what they think the baby would like to wear or which story they might like to hear. You can ask them to bring you the things you need to change or

feed the baby. You can let them help you wash the baby in the bath and make sure they know how much you value this. I once asked my 2-year-old daughter to get me a pillow for my arm whilst I was feeding her sister. When she came back with something other than a pillow, I thanked her enthusiastically and told her how helpful she had been. I then asked her to see if she could find a pillow again. I'm not sure how long it took to get the pillow, but it occupied the time and kept her feeling important. You can encourage the toddler's natural desire to sing, and dance to get the baby's attention. I found that my first daughter liked to spend time playing with the new baby, which was good for all of us.

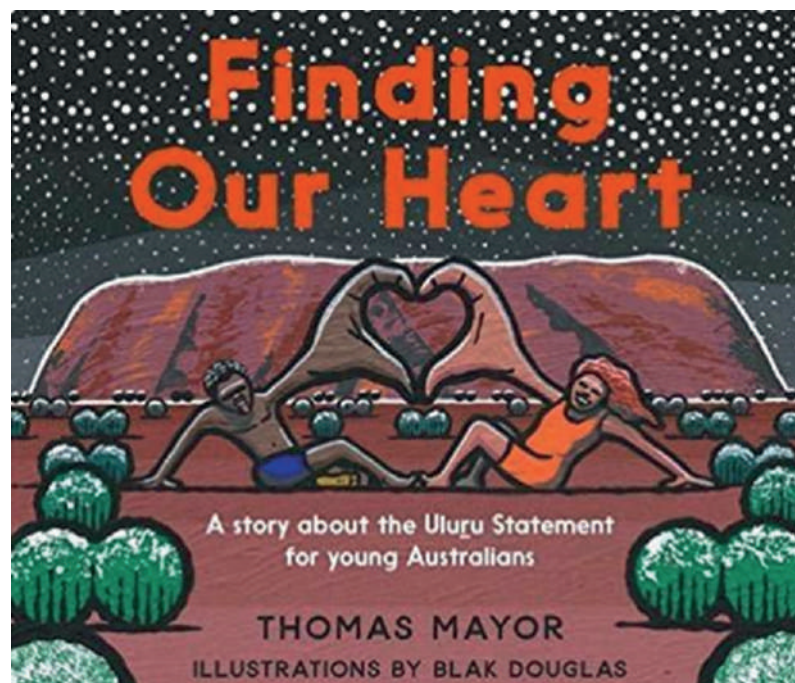
Whilst helping your toddler to adjust and bond with your newborn is important, it is equally important to make them still feel loved and special. Spending alone time with them even for 15 minutes a day can make a big difference. Have a few special toys or books that are only for you and your toddler. If you can, get some help from grandparents or friends to have some more time with your toddler. Don't expect too much from them and sympathise with them if they want your attention or if they regress a little back to being a baby. You can explain that there are benefits to being a "big kid" too. Best not to make any big changes to routines close to, or just after, the birth.

Overall, often telling them how much you love them and explaining that you have enough love for both will help them cope better with this big change.

Joy Shelley

BOOK REVIEW

This simple book, with beautiful child-like illustrations was written to help children understand the Uluru statement of the heart. "For the children who will teach us to find our collective heart." With only a few sentences per page it is suitable for children from four upwards as well as for older children. It talks about how Australians come from many different countries and how the indigenous people cared for Australia before other people came.



It tells why the First Nations people are sad and protesting about their treatment and lets us know that the heart of the nation can only be found in our hearts and voices. It asks children to help find the heart of our nation and make our country better by listening to the voices and culture of First Nations people. The last few pages contain a more detailed explanation of the Uluru statement for older children.

Joy Shelley

The Basin Primary School in Glorious Colour

On Friday March 15 the students at The Basin Primary School participated in a fantastic "Colour Run" organised by their hard working PFA, to raise funds for a new Junior School playground. The weather was perfect and the event was a great success, with participants running through various inflatables, colour stations, and getting doused in colourful powder along the way. The atmosphere was full of energy and excitement as students, teachers, and parents came together to support the event.

Thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity of our families and community, the school was able to raise an impressive amount of money that will go towards building a new playground for the school. It was a wonderful experience to see the school community come together for a fun and meaningful event, and the success of the "Colour Run" has left everyone in attendance feeling proud and grateful.

David Orlandi, Principal



Special Olympics is a wonderful place to meet friends and enjoy your favourite sports

Become an Athlete: Participate in Bocce, Basketball, Bowling, Swimming, Tennis, Netball, and Athletics.

4 nights of competition on the following Fridays: April 5 and 19, May 3 and 17

Booking a must for catering purposes.

Indoor training as well as outdoor, fun and light exercise while learning, with opportunity to participate at Club, Regional and State Competitions. Athletes and Volunteers are to be registered with Special Olympics to attend training and participate (for insurance purposes). Anyone can come and try any sports for 3 free training sessions!

Become a Volunteer: Special Olympics continues to exist through the dedication of its volunteers and we're seeking parents, carers, friends who may like to assist our athletes during training and to get involved by helping on competition days.

New members are always welcome, so please pass on to your friends. Volunteers must have Working with Children Check (Registrations are free for volunteers). New All Inclusive Bocce Fun Nights Knox Italian Community Club, 99 Karoo Road, Rowville. Come and join us for a fun filled Bocce Evenings. Pair up in doubles on the night with a friend, family member, or with one of our special bocce athletes and carers.

For lots more information, visit: Special Olympics - Melbourne Eastern Ranges - Facebook

A Strummer's Story - Rob Fairbairn The Great Williamstown North Potato Incident

"Get me the flogger!" Jack Meehan's booming voice echoed down the ancient, dusty corridors of Williamstown North Primary School, striking fear into the hearts of the inmates of my grade, and sending the silverfish scuttling for cover behind the smiling countenance of Her Majesty. It was 1962 and I was barely eleven.

Across the hall in Mrs Dee's room, the leather strap lay in waiting. It had been too long since the last public punishment and our teacher's right arm was itchy for action. "Pinkney," he sneered, "you're a spaceman." This was one of his favourite taunts and we knew them all by heart, some we even understood. Jack Meehan was also a mutterer. "Bastards," he would say, not so sotto voce. His tone said it all, he hated us and we despised him in return.

"Black Jack" Meehan was a fierce looking man, reddish in complexion with short, grey wavy hair which he parted in the middle, like a silent movie villain. His bushy eyebrows arched menacingly, completing the picture. He seldom wore a jacket, even in the chill of winter and his rolled-up shirt sleeves revealed the thick forearms of a man who enjoyed inflicting pain on eleven and twelve year old boys. A brown leather belt barely contained a girth which, rumour had it, was frequently seen resting on the bar of a nearby pub, obviously a much-preferred location to the one he shared with a roomful of spacemen.

Poor George, no homework and no hope. If being strapped in front of his classmates wasn't embarrassing enough, he also had to endure the indignity of having to procure the implement of his torture. As George waddled from the room the muttering continued and we pressed our noses harder to our work, too scared to catch the eye of Black Jack lest we too incurred his wrath.

On returning, George passed the strap to his tormentor, offered a trembling outstretched hand and closed his eyes in anticipation of the blow. We all saw what happened next and it will be forever etched in my memory. Black Jack raised himself to his full height and with a gleeful glint in his eye brought the leather down. On connecting with George's palm its tip also brushed the cuff of his leather jacket, causing sparks! I'll never forget it.

George wasn't the only boy to suffer at the hands of Black Jack Meehan. Twice I was the victim of his brutality; each time, I thought unjustly so. The

first time I was part of a mass flogging. When the bell rang to call us in from lunch play, we were enjoying a game of 'release oh' at the farthest end of the schoolyard and arrived late to line. Hardly a hanging offence, but Black Jack thought differently. The flogger was procured and a production line of palms was proffered for a taste of his leather.

The second time I was the sole victim of his sadistic ways and all because of a potato.

When we were asked to bring along a spud for an art activity my first thought was of the inconvenience it would cause at home. All our meals in the migrant hostel were provided; there were no shops nearby, so how would I get a potato? I imagined the lengths to which my parents would have to go just to buy a single spud. They both worked weekdays and had no car, so it would mean a special Saturday morning bus trip into Williamstown. I needn't have worried. As usual my parents came through and a spud was sourced.

Come the day, once the class monitors had distributed paper, paint, a brush, and cutting and carving tools the art lesson began. Black Jack's instructions were deliberately precise.

"First, cut your potato in half" (Step One)

"Now, without changing the shape of your potato, paint the flat side and press it onto your paper". (Step Two)

I didn't wait for Step Three. Remembering this activity from my old school I would impress my teacher with my creativity. Having cut the potato in half I carefully carved out small shapes on its flat surface, which I painted then pressed onto the paper, creating beautiful patterns.

As Black Jack strode between the rows, offering occasional grunts of approval, I sat back and awaited his praise. I should have known better. Arriving at my desk he stopped suddenly, his already ruddy complexion deepening to a beetroot red, "I told you not to change the shape of your potato," he growled, "get me the flogger!" Decades later I still argue that by making minor modifications to the inside area of my potato I didn't actually change its shape, and while I didn't learn much about art from Black Jack Meehan, I did learn one valuable lesson.

It doesn't always pay to be clever.

PET'S PIECE - IN INDONESIA!



I would like to share with you, some incredible work I have done this past Month in February, volunteering overseas, alongside my colleague from Boronia Vet Clinic, Dr Laura. We set off and

travelled to Lombok, Indonesia over February to take part in World Spay day. This is a special day to draw attention to the importance of spaying and neutering pets during a time when many animals begin to reproduce. This was part of a program involved in population control which we aimed to desex as many street dogs as we could over a period of one week, in the hope that we would help reduce the stray population.

There has been a considerable amount of research done in this field of population control,



where research suggests that reducing the amount of breeding dogs will help reduce the stray dog population that roam the streets. There have been many discussions regarding whether humane euthanasia of these animals may help solve this issue, however it has been proven that this doesn't work as new dogs will migrate and re-start this vicious cycle. The benefit of having desexed dogs, means that they protect the particular radius to prevent new,



introduced dogs from entering and starting to breed and perpetuate this issue.

Our week consisted of setting up small outdoor clinics travelling throughout remote villages, with minimal resources. We had a large team of local Indonesian vets and vet nurses, as well as dog catchers. We also had senior professor Dr Charles El-Hage, alongside some veterinary students from the University of Melbourne, to help train and develop their skills as flourishing vets. The dog catchers would set off early in the morning to sedate stray dogs using a dart gun with a tranquiliser in it. This would allow them to approach the dogs safely and collect them via motor bikes to bring them back to our outdoor make-shift vet clinic. Dogs were desexed and then taken back to where they were found to recover. They received pain relief and antibiotics due to the sub-optimal sterility of surgery in the outdoor villages.



This trip is one of many we have undertaken over the past few years and is our way of giving back to the veterinary profession and global community. Each year upon returning, it is incredible to see the reduction in stray dog populations which is slowly but surely becoming successful. We have found that desexing them helps to reduce dog fights, disease spread and helps with the human-animal interactions.

We also managed to go to some primary schools



Dr Charles El-Hage

and donate some English books to them to help with their education, and were very lucky to be involved in voluntarily handing out free ice cream to the kids, which no doubt sparked the biggest smiles you could possibly imagine.

We have left this trip feeling very grateful and proud of the work we have done. We know that leaving Indonesia, our legacy will be carried out by the Indonesian vets and locals who we have trained and inspired while being over there. No doubt we will return next year to continue working on this amazing project. Our hearts are completely full. There are just no words.

Dr Gianne Ficatas - veterinarian



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Delivers for Boronia & The Basin

Jackson Taylor MP

Member for Bayswater

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



It's been a very busy year already. And our hard-working SES volunteers have been busy with the recent storm events. So, it was great to visit our local Knox SES Unit with the Premier, Jacinta Allan recently to say thank you and congratulate them on the funding they received recently from the State Government to deliver for life saving equipment.

Burwood Highway Construction Complete

The new intersection and lanes on Burwood Highway at McMahons Road in Ferntree Gully are officially open! Big thanks to everyone for your patience and to everyone who worked on the project and delivered it on time. This one was long talked about by others, so now I'm stoked to finally see this delivered. This has already made this intersection safer and made it easier to get home.

State Basketball Centre – Officially Open!

Recently, I was absolutely stoked to stand alongside Premier Jacinta Allan and colleagues and the local community to declare the new State Basketball Centre in Wantirna South officially open!

When Victoria has more basketballers than every other state combined, you need a place where elite athletes and community players can come together.

The State Basketball Centre redevelopment has increased the number of courts to play on (with 12 new courts, meaning 18 in total). Added training facilities for everyone to use - from NBL and WNBL teams, to local clubs and casual use. As well as the addition of a new, state-of-the-art gymnastics facility.

This new centre will get more people playing, boost fan bases and support local jobs. And dare I say it...it's a slam dunk.

and the State Government. Be sure to check it out!

Knox Library

The new Knox Library at Knox Shopping Centre is now open! The new reimagined 21st century space is a huge improvement on the old library and is decked out with all the new tech and vibrant spaces to keep locals coming back. It's located where the old Myer used to be and was delivered in partnership by Knox Council

In other news

- \$10,000 in sporting grants delivered including for a walking netball program and Ferntree Gully Football Club.

- Don't forget if you're a renter to consider accessing the 'Solar for Renters' program – go here <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-rebates-rental-properties> for more.

- We've extended our community pharmacy pilot at participating outlets to now include treatment for mild and common skin conditions.

- Provided a grant for an event at The Basin Temple in April.

- Construction complete on the major upgrade at Fairhills High and the new covered outdoor basketball court at Fairhills Primary.

Local Shout Out

Was great to sit down with local principals at my recent Principals breakfast to say thanks for their hard work, so a big shout out to these wonderful people and all our legendary educators.

GROWING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN BORONIA

The Victorian Government is working with local government, businesses and communities to drive economic and social prosperity across Melbourne through the Suburban Revitalisation Program.

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor MP, representing Minister for the Suburbs Sonya Kilkenny, joined residents and business leaders at the newly revitalised Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) centre in Boronia on Friday 15 March 2024, to celebrate the opening of the new

community garden, food pantry and unveil a large reconciliation artwork on the façade of the building.

Funded in collaboration between the Victorian Government and Eastern Access Community Health, the \$145,000 facility upgrades deliver better open spaces for supporting community connectivity, food relief for local families and celebration of the suburb's rich diversity.

The Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Board initiative brings together the State Government, Council and community leaders to focus on selected suburbs to support locally led initiatives and priorities aimed at strengthening social connections and local economic prosperity.

On the advice of the Boronia Suburban Revitalisation Board, the State Government has provided approximately \$3.8 million towards 25 projects in Boronia since 2020.

Throughout metropolitan Melbourne, the Suburban Revitalisation Boards program has invested more than \$46 million in 246 projects since 2016 to the value of more than \$106 million.

The Suburban Revitalisation Program is supported by the Office for Suburban Development – all projects are undertaken in partnership and collaboration with local government, businesses, service providers and community.

"This project will provide locals opportunity to get involved in growing their own food and help bring all residents together."

"We will continue to explore further opportunities to co-invest in projects that meet the needs and aspirations of local communities not just in Boronia, but across our great city and its suburbs."





Mayor’s Message, Cr Jude Dwight

Council is developing several major plans this year that will have a significant influence on how and where we invest your rates.

We are seeking community feedback to help us develop our next Council Plan, incorporating a Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan which will guide the next Council and its focus and priorities for the next four years. The plan is our promise to the Knox community. It sets out what we will do to respond to changing needs and will be shaped by our aspirations, needs, values and priorities.

We are also seeking your input to help guide future improvements of land owned by Council around Westfield Shopping Centre. Council’s vision for Knox Central is to create a place to live, work and play that doesn’t exist anywhere else in Knox.

We want to hear what people would like to see included in this development, such as open space areas, playspaces, shared pathways, housing options, shopping and services.

Coinciding with the opening of our new Youth Hive space in the Knox Library at Westfield we want to hear from you on the services we offer for young people.

Other important plans that we want your feedback on include how we will invest in open space and how we can support more walking and cycling.

The next five years will guide Council’s actions for decades to come and this is an exciting time for you to help shape the future of Knox.

(haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au)

Knox Library is open

The new \$5.4m library at Westfield is twice the size of the old library. It occupies about 2,000 square metres within the old Myer store on Level 3. Having the library inside the shopping centre makes it even more accessible for visitors.

As well as an impressive collection of books, DVDs and other items to borrow, and countless spaces available for community use, the library has a refreshed and dedicated space for young people called the Youth Hive.

There are designated areas for youth and children, a garden room, computer area, lounges, study booths and meeting rooms.

Included in the library’s design is a beautiful artwork by Kamara Morgan, a proud Yorta-Yorta, Gunai-Kurnai, Dja Dja Wurrung, Boonwurrung,

Taungurung, and Baraparapa Aboriginal artist.

The artwork reflects Knox Library’s link to Country and celebrates the library as a meeting place.

Council invested more than \$4.9m in the library development, with a \$450,000 contribution from the Victorian Government’s Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Save the date: Council has partnered with Knox’s volunteer resource centre, Volunteer for Knox (V4K), to host a Volunteering Expo at the Knox Civic Centre on Wednesday 24 April from 1pm-6pm. For more information visit volunteerforknox.com.au or check out Council’s volunteer opportunities at knox.vic.gov.au/volunteer



HELPING VICTORIANS INTO HOME OWNERSHIP SOONER

It can be hard for many Victorians to save enough for a house deposit. That’s why the Victorian Government has launched its shared equity scheme which aims to accelerate the path to home ownership.

You can only access this opportunity from three banks, one of which is Bendigo Bank.

If you have a 5% deposit, the Victorian Government will contribute up to 25% of the purchase price for eligible participants and 35% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in exchange for an equivalent share in the property, whilst removing the need for Lenders Mortgage Insurance.

We’re proud to be a participating lender and look forward to helping even more Victorians into home ownership.

Mountain District Learning Centre funding for Men’s Shed

The State Government is improving the health and wellbeing of communities across the state, through the allocation of infrastructure funding to 28 Men’s Sheds as part of the latest round of the Men’s Shed Funding Program.

Mountain District Community Shed was among the 28 successful recipients of the Men’s Shed Funding Program, receiving a grant of \$37,377.00 towards the conversion of a garage into a community shed.

Mountain District Community Shed will provide a welcoming place for men to connect, socialise, learn new skills and work on common projects together.

Daniela De Martino visited Mountain District Learning Centre (MDLC), the site of the soon-to-be converted garage, and met with MDLC’s Janet Claringbold (CEO) Robyn Burke (Chairperson, Board of Directors) and John Gerrard (Director), to congratulate them on receiving the funding.



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Scan the code, complete your details and see if we can help save you some valuable dollars or assist with Home Ownership.

Alternatively, you may know someone who could use a trusted hand, please feel free to pass this on to a loved one, friend or colleague.

**Boronia Banking Solutions Centre
9762 6499
109 Boronia Road, Boronia**

MR RETRO



I always get excited when a new business opens in the area that has a unique vibe or projects a sense of fun. Well, I found another one.

I couldn't help but notice the big sign high above the road announcing MR RETRO: We buy and sell vinyl & CDs in bright yellow, blue and pink on a black background.

I first noticed it driving across Boronia Road, and since it was not far from home I took a stroll later to check it out. It's situated at unit 1 /84 Boronia Road, that group of shops that looks like it's been built into the side of a mountain.

I scrambled up the steps to see what treasures await. Being a fan of all things musical, collectible, historical and quirky, I had found my Aladdin's cave. MR Retro & Collectables is a new endeavour from Peter & Pete the two rock-dogs who run MR Records. The two Pete's originally started MR Records in 2018, which they bought as an existing company specialising in melodic and adult-orientated music.

Having worked locally in management, touring and promoting, the guys have also in their travels worked with groups such as Kiss, Bon Jovi and artists such as Katie Perry. These experiences and resources enabled them to grow the business, and they now have 52 Australian and International artists they represent, including Aussie rock legends John (Swanee) Swan and original AC/DC singer Dave Evans. Though MR Records has been in Boronia for over a year now, the idea of a



physical shop to sell their own products and merchandise arose. Having a room in the adjacent building always made this an option. However, it was too big for just their own catalogue of music and merch, so the idea of MR Retro came about.

Having a love of all things music, they filled the remaining spaces with new and second-hand vinyl, CDs, DVDs, books and other collectors items like stickers, posters, toys and badges. Throw in a couch, some memorabilia and a couple of Skyhooks gold records on the wall, and all of a sudden you have a record store atmosphere that, I for one, remember growing up with.

But what makes the shop truly special, is that the two Petes love to have a chat, and with so many stories to tell and the welcoming atmosphere, a drop-in visit tends to turn into an afternoon chinwag. I originally had full intention of visiting the shop to interview the owners, but after a couple of visits, we talked about so many things that we had in common or reminisced about, that I would end up writing a book. So my main aim for this piece is to try and keep it simple and convey that if you're into music and memories, the boys have a massive collection of great quality CDs in stock. Perhaps you're just looking to find a good

home for your oversized record collection or just trim it back a bit. MR Retro buys collections, and every one is played and cleaned before it's put on the racks, ensuring quality. Plans have been discussed for possible future community days where hopefully an open mike and a pleasant afternoon to soak up some tunes may be in order.

So, do yourself a favour and pop into MR Retro to check out the huge range of collectibles, or discover for yourself MR Records' impressive range of artists they represent.

Either way, it's time well spent. If it had a café attached, I'd never leave.

Danny Nolan



VCAT removes habitat for housing at Lake Knox

Knox City Council is disappointed that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has paved the way for a 105-lot residential subdivision on the north-western corner of Burwood Highway and Scoresby Road (621 Burwood Highway), Knoxfield.



Full story on Council's website
knox.vic.gov.au

Chandler Park gets public toilets



THE HONEY POT

We were asked to do a cooking demonstration on the live stage at Knox Festival early March and what we cooked really is one of our Favorite honey recipes and it was a huge treat with the audience.

If you couldn't attend then here is the recipe and if you are a vegetarian simply replace the chicken with tofu.

8 (about 1kg) chicken thigh fillets, excess fat trimmed

2 tsp sweet paprika

1 tsp ground cumin

1 long fresh red chili (optional), finely chopped

3 garlic cloves, crushed

2 tbsp olive oil

1 lemon, rind finely grated, juiced

1 red onion, finely chopped

300g (1 1/2 cups) Basmati rice



750ml (3 cups) water

280g jar mixed chargrilled capsicum, drained, coarsely chopped

150g (1 cup) frozen baby peas

60g (1/3 cup) roasted almonds, coarsely chopped

1/4 cup chopped fresh coriander

1 tbsp Basin Backyard honey

Step 1 Combine the chicken, paprika, cumin, chili,

two-thirds of the garlic, 2 teaspoons oil and one-third of the lemon juice in a bowl. Season, leave overnight for better result.

Step 2 Heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and remaining garlic. Cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until soft. Stir in the rice and water. Bring to the boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low. Cover. Cook for 12 minutes or until rice is tender. Remove from heat. Top with capsicum and peas. Set aside, covered, for 5 minutes. Add the lemon rind and half the remaining lemon juice. Season. Use a fork to separate the grains. Top with almond and coriander.

Step 3 Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook the chicken, turning, for 6 minutes or until browned. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover. Cook, turning once, for 6-8 minutes or until cooked. Add honey and remaining lemon juice. Cook for 1 minute or until glaze thickens.

Step 4 Serve chicken with rice.

Michael & Meredith Johnson



'Deepfake' clickbait is scamming would-be investors

Fake news and 'deepfake' videos of celebrities and public figures appearing to promote online investment platforms are increasing on social media.

'Deepfakes' are lifelike impersonations of real people, created by artificial intelligence (AI). Scammers create ads and fake news articles to make you believe the celebrities actually use these scam investment platforms. The platforms claim to use AI and other technologies like quantum computing to create high profits for investors.

How to spot the scam

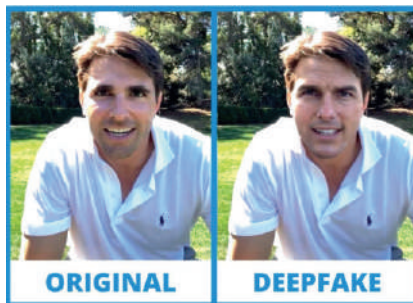
You see an article or video on social media about a celebrity or public figure who appears to promote an investment platform they say they've made a lot of money on. These trading platforms include the names 'Quantum AI,' 'Immediate Edge,' 'Immediate Connect,' 'Immediate X3,' and 'Quantum Trade Wave.'

How the scam works

Scammers use social media ads, 'deepfake' videos and fake news articles ('clickbait') about celebrities and public figures claiming to make big profits from online trading platforms. Links to these scam platforms take you to a website where you're asked to sign up to the platform. After you submit the form, the scammer (pretending to be an account manager) calls you, telling you to pay around \$250 to access the platform. They tell you to download a cryptocurrency app so you can 'invest' more.

Using an online dashboard that appears to show small profits, scammers persuade you to invest more. They may let you take out a small amount of money to gain your trust. When you try to withdraw your funds, they demand withdrawal fees or mention tax issues to access your money. You may be locked out of your account. You won't get your money back.

Protect yourself



STOP – Don't give personal information or act on investment advice you have come across on social media. Don't feel pressured to invest. If you have any doubts, stop communicating with them. For more information about reducing the risk of investment scams, visit ASIC's Moneysmart website.

THINK – Ask yourself if you really know what you are investing in? Scammers can create fake news to make it seem legitimate. Do an internet search to see if it's an online investment trading platform scam.

PROTECT – Act quickly if something feels wrong. If you have shared financial information or transferred money, contact your bank immediately. Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch.

If you've been affected

If you think you're involved in an investment scam or you've experienced cybercrime and lost money online, contact your bank immediately. For crisis support to help with emotional distress about scams, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or use their online chat. Beyond Blue also provides support for anxiety and depression: call them on 1300 224 636. You can also chat online through their website.

Help others by making a report to Scamwatch. You can make your report without sharing your name. Who is the National Anti-Scam Centre?

We're a specialised team within the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission that launched on 1 July 2023. Our aim is to make Australia a harder target for scammers. For more information about how to avoid or report a scam, visit the Scamwatch website.

Footnote: Today there are over 80 deepfake apps which you can download to create face swap videos and images.

The Buy Now, Pay Later Industry to Be Regulated Like Credit Products

The 'buy now, pay later' (BNPL) industry will be regulated under the Credit Act, to protect consumers against financial abuse by these lending schemes. BNPL is a modern take on your lay-by service. The main difference is that a customer can take the product back home and pay off the purchase over an agreed period of time. Its initial use was for stock-standard purchases such as clothing but BNPL has recently expanded to groceries, medical and vet bills.

In concept, BNPL can seem like a relatively low-risk form of gaining a boost in money, however, due to its ease of access and minimal questions asked about the individual's ability to make repayments, this can lead to customers accumulating debt. Missed repayments incur a late payment fee, which can add up quickly over time, spiraling customers into a cycle of debt.

So, what's changing and why is it being introduced?

Financial Services Minister Stephen Jones announced that BNPL services such as Afterpay and Klarna would be treated similarly to credit products, with providers required to have a credit licence, financial hardship arrangements and minimum standards of conduct.

Mr Jones advised BNPL being unregulated showed evidence that this is causing financial harm to consumers; disproportionately to women, First Nation communities and low-income earners. Additionally, consumers are opening multiple BNPL accounts, leading to further debt.

The regulation intends to ensure these consumers and communities are aware of the impact of BNPL products and remain protected against financial harm whilst also ensuring the stability of the BNPL industry.

(sources: Credit Savvy, and the ABC)

I am a Scottish Terrier fan and have had Scotties in my life since 1969. Scotties have brought me so much joy in my life, I struggle to understand why the Scottish Terrier has been listed as an endangered species. There has been a significant global decline in Scottish Terrier numbers. The Scottie was once very popular here in Australia. Everyone at least knew someone that had one of those funny little Scots with the big beard, big eyebrows and huge character.

Since the introduction of designer breeds developed by crossing smaller breeds together, it seems that everyone has forgotten what great family members and mates Scottish Terriers are.

The Scottish Terrier is a big dog in a little body. This compact, short legged, sturdily built terrier of good bone and substance is very intelligent and quite a sensible dog. They mature very quickly and are a lot less destructive than many other breeds. They are great guard dogs because they don't bark without reason. They have a deep bark which makes them

SCOTTIES



sound like a much bigger dog. The Scottie is a robust breed requiring little or no veterinary intervention, and their versatility is unsurpassed. They adapt to any environment equally at home from the farmhouse to apartment living. They even make great travel companions and love caravan holidays. They are couch potatoes that suddenly spring to action whenever there is anything a foot!

The Scottish Terrier is loyal and does not suffer separation anxiety. When left alone they will just laze about and wait for your return.

The Scottish Terrier is Hypoallergenic as they do not shed hair. A medium level of grooming is required but a good brush once a week and a trip to the groomers every three months is all that is required. They are truly worthy of consideration when you are next considering a new addition to your family.

I always say, "If it isn't a Scottie it is just a dog..."

Manda Appleyard





Boronia VIEW (Voice, Interests, Education of Women) Club will be meeting on 19 April at 11.30am at Eastwood Golf Club with a 2 course lunch costing \$30. This will be followed by a talk from Eric Panther talking about "down memory lane." He will also have a collection of memorabilia. This will be his 500th talk. There will be a trading table,

book stall and raffle with all monies raised going to the 8 needy Australian children this club sponsors through The Smith Family Learning for life program to help them with their educational needs.

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 within the club for small groups eg coffe and film mornings, book club, cards and outings.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602



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 our Annual General Meeting which will be held at 10.30 am on Tuesday 23 April, 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.

At our February 2024 Annual General Meeting our guest speaker was Sheridan Stone from Knox Council, who spoke about their Community Access & Support initiative, known as Social Connections.

During February, some of our group had the good fortune to tour the National Bank Museum (see photo). (I don't believe they received any free samples.)



During March we enjoyed a tour of Eastern Radio Station in Croydon. The radio station is part of the Wyeena Arts Centre, Croydon, which, as well as the art gallery, also includes a lovely café.

April will bring our annual trip to the Yarra Glen Harness Racing, which includes a 2-course lunch in the cost of admission.

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 (9801 4363) for further information.

We look forward to hearing from you or, more importantly, seeing you in the near future.



GOLF!!! But only for fun, enjoyment, exercise. Not playing for Sheep Stations, a friendly game only. Our President Peter has introduced this activity and on 19 April players will meet at 8:30am at The Rowville Lakes Golf Club.

Putters, irons, balls and tees in hand for a social time. While researching this golf course I discovered another with the same name in Balwyn, tricky.

Another new activity is a shorter walk for anyone who no longer want to walk 8km. Strollers walk every month on the 4th Thursday and on April 25th. join us for a 40min. stroll at Blue Tongue Bend, along the Yarra River in Warrandyte. Bayswater Hotel Carpark is our meeting place at 10:30 am, carpooling is available. And always bring lunch, a water bottle and solid shoes.

Yet another suggestion for a new Activity is a Companion Group. Good Idea for the times when you would like someone to come with you on holidays, day trips, cinema or stage shows. Jean will welcome your call for more details, 0402 345 616.

REMEMBER our tour and lunch at the Jazz Museum in Wantirna.

10:30am. We'll meet there, cost is \$25pp, and we will also be entertained by the musicians.

This club has weekend activities and evening outings too.

For more details you can ring our Membership Secretary Lorraine 0438 068 334.

We're home now from our 8 day holiday trip. So



much to enjoy in South Australia. Our day trips included Victor Harbour, Barossa valley, towns with lots of history. We had heritage walks and lunch was served while cruising on The River Boat, the "Proud Mary," pictured, is now taking passengers for overnight tours on our Mighty Murray River.



Boronia Ladies Probus Club inducted two new members into our Club at the February meeting.

We have been busy already this year with a boxed lunch and movie day at Metro Cinemas Boronia, a great comedian Guest Speaker at our last meeting and looking forward to a trip to Cruden Farm in March. If you are looking for a social club to join, you are welcome to visit us and find out more. Please contact us on 0435136472.



Boronia Road Uniting Church

209 Boronia Road

JOIN US FOR OUR EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday, 29 March @ 9am followed by tea/coffee and Hot Cross Buns.

Easter Sunday, March 31st @ 10am – COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

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OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET is on Saturday, 4 May from 10am – 2pm. All stalls will be indoors or under-cover.

Enquiries or to book a stall - contact 0421 769 067 or irenesmith2@bigpond.com

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.

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MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS... is held each Friday from 9.30am 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.

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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VANISH was established in 1989 by individuals from three grassroots organisations who shared a belief that those with a lived experience could make a vital contribution to post-adoption services. Visit vanish.org.au to find out more.

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