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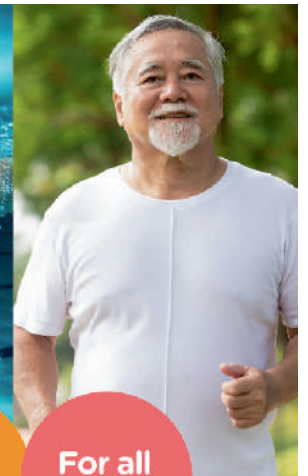
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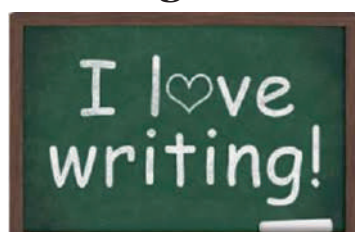
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Get active in 2025 with local clubs

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Editorial: Danny Nolan

Welcome to 2025

I have this thing where I wake up every morning, and it always feels new. No matter how ordinary or exceptional the day before was. It always feels new. That, however is something I haven't felt for the new year. Too big in concept I reckon. 2024 was a good year for the paper and I believe 2025 will continue to see it grow. With the Young Writers Initiative becoming more popular as the local schools come on board and encourage their students to enter, the continuation of Toby & the Magic Pencil onto the second edition guaranteeing another 2 years of content. The Facebook page growing every month and community groups asking if we can help promote events. It's all great content that we can pass on to you our valued reader. Hopefully, in retrospect we can look back in 2026 and give another positive summary, full of growth and promise.

After all, it is called the NEW year.



CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers to deliver the paper. Are you interested? At the moment we are looking for a driver to deliver to our Walkers. It takes up about an hour or so once a month. If you are interested please contact us here at the BBCN via contact@bbc.org.au

We would love to hear from you. Most of our drivers are long time volunteers and we have just had one retire.

We are also always looking for walkers. So if you are after something to do whilst on that daily walk, contact us on the email address above.

insert brain here



by woodsy

Boronia & The Basin Community News

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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.

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Page 3 Bird

Brolga (*Antigone rubicunda*)

I repeat myself every year, but here we go again for another fun-filled year, full of rare birds and mammals to spot. My family and I all went to Phillip Island for a week between Christmas and New Year. And then another fortnight after that we were at Warburton. Got Platypus at Warburton, yawn, yawn, absolute monty every single morning. Got Black-faced Monarch right in the Caravan Park, that's a good get, and got Eastern Barred Bandicoot on the edge of the road at the Cape Woolamai roundabout on Phillip Island, at 4.30 in the arvo. My daughter-in-law Alicia spotted it and we went back and watched him feeding, oblivious to us and heaps of cars driving past.

Another feel-good story from Phillip Island is the re-introduction of the Bush-stone Curlew which became extinct on the island in the 1970s. Critically endangered in Victoria this amazing woodland bird will flourish without foxes to predate upon them, once again that eerie sound will be heard on Phillip Island. Hooray!

I can't believe I haven't written on the Brolga before, but I swear it's true. What is also true is that Brolga numbers in Victoria are perilously placed, with some 300 breeding pairs left in Victoria. Before white settlement these birds would have been as common as clay, habitat loss and land clearing the chief culprits. Still very common in Northern Australia though with flocks of hundreds, sometimes thousands of birds.

A reliable spot to see them close to home is the Western Treatment Plant near Werribee and a recent trip there with my cousin Martin, sister Cathy (both mad birdos) and brother Steve yielded a close-up of a pair of Brolga like no other, perhaps within 10 metres. Very confiding and very used to many people (read crazy birdwatchers) nearby, they were unfazed by us being near them. One was standing on one leg and nodding off...zzzzz.



Stevo is not a crazy birdo per se but there are some birds he is just mad about, Red-tailed Cockatoos are one, and the Brolga is another firm favourite. He texted me this the following day: "It's as close as I could imagine to understanding indigenous people's relationship with their lands." Well said! And we couldn't even give them an advisory voice to the parliament. Some politicians will be judged rather harshly by history I'm afraid. It was very risky for the Constitution, we were led to believe (pay that never mind). The sky would most certainly have fallen in (Baha). Yeah, well what about my constitution!

Brolgas are renowned for their elaborate dancing displays during courtship and us white fellas gave them the alternative common name, 'the Native Companion.' They are a massive bird. If you're not aware, and stand up to 1.5 metres in height and a wing span up to 2.5 metres. A distinctive 'far carrying trumpet' (P&K) sound is an amazing sound to hear.

Without putting too fine a point on it, our indigenous brothers and sisters would have roasted many a Brolga ending up in the embers of a campfire. My good mate Dom's son, Samuel, spent 12 months working in a remote Aboriginal community, Maningrida in Arnhem land, and Brolga was on the menu occasionally. Would be one hell of a drumstick! (I only meant to think that.)

If climate change isn't front and centre of your mind you are not with the program. Fires in Los Angeles in the middle of winter, whole suburbs wiped out. How long can we humans listen to dolts like Rupert Murdoch and his merry band of right-wing 'journalists.' C'mon, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all the time!

Des Palmer

Photos: David O'Brien

Vale former councillor

Ray Addicoat

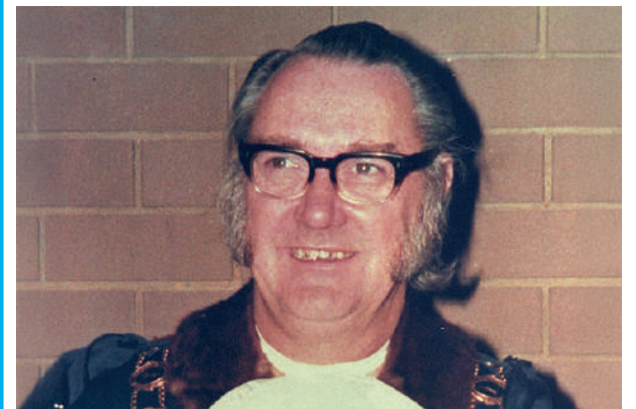
Wednesday, 15 January 2025

The Mayor, Councillors, Executive Leadership and staff of Knox City Council are deeply saddened by the passing of former Knox councillor and mayor Ray Addicoat, aged 96.

Ray served on Council for 13 years from 1969-1981, which included a term as mayor from 1974-1975.

His dedication and commitment to the Knox community and local government will long be remembered. Deepest sympathies are extended to Ray's family at this difficult time.

The flag at the Knox Civic Centre was flown at half-mast on Friday 17th in honour of Ray.



Bendigo Bank

December article retraction

In the December edition there was an article about BBCN receiving a Grant from the Bendigo Bank in Boronia. As part of this article it mentioned that "their generosity is demonstrated by their target of returning 80% of their profits back to community projects." To clarify, this statement refers to Community Banks of Bendigo Bank. Boronia branch is a franchise of Bendigo Bank not a Community Bank.

The 1812 Theatre

Peter Kemp.

Noises Off was a good comedy to close 1812's season for 2024.

The stage is set with a revolve showing the interior of a two-storied house and the actors rehearsing a show called *Nothing On*. A plate of sardines plays a large part. After the interval, the stage is spun around, and the audience sees what goes on behind the scenes. The set was very well built with stairs on both sides of the stage. Upstairs and downstairs have windows looking out to a wonderful view of a garden.

The 1812 theatre certainly added to the 2024 season with this production with a good cast, two programs, one for the original and inside the program for *Nothing On*.



In early December, the Knox and District Woodworkers Club handed over a year's worth of work producing toys and gifts to various charities in our area.

The club has a dedicated group which meets Mondays and Thursdays that specifically works on producing these items, and in 2024 made approximately 550 items.

The club is generously supported by the Ferntree Gully branch of the Bendigo Bank which over a number of years has made a financial grant which is used to buy the timber used for this program.

On the night, representatives of each charity spoke briefly, giving an overview of the volunteer work they do. It was very obvious that the need for help in our community is growing rapidly and they showed great

appreciation for the work we do. Each of our guests was able to view the many different toys that were on offer and select any that they felt would be able to find a new home where they would be loved by children who would otherwise receive little in this festive season.

Those groups included St Vincent de Paul Society, Foothills Community Care, Soupee of Upwey, Impact for Women, Knox Infolink, Find a Penny Foundation, Hills Church Op Shop, Champion Foodbank & Community Hub and the FTG Angliss Hospital.

The Knox and District Woodworkers Club has operated in the area for well over 30 years and is permanently based in Glenfern Road, Ferntree Gully, adjacent to the Wally Tew Reserve. Information for anyone interested in the club which caters for both men and women can be found at www.knoxwoodies.org.au.

Harry Deschepper, Publicity Officer



BBCN celebrates our successful 30th year with our volunteers



out every month, in this our 30th Anniversary. Meeting walkers, drivers and other contributors, it was amazing how many people have unselfishly given their time for so many years for no reward other than to keep a small community paper existing. Those attending were treated to a selection of finger foods and light refreshments and caught up with others in the vast but cool homestead rooms. Speeches were short and sweet, mainly to report on the great year the paper had in 2024 and of course, to thank all those present and the ones that couldn't make it on the day. *Danny Nolan*

Every year this paper throws a little get-together at Christmas in an attempt to say thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. Held at Miller's Homestead, the weather turned out to be perfect, if not just a little on the warm side for outside gatherings. It does become hard to organise such an event this time of year with many committed to work, school, or families before the holidays. So it was great to have so many in attendance. One of my responsibilities, as a writer in 2024, was to help celebrate some of the amazing people who helped keep this paper coming



Chandler Rd Car Fire *Danny Nolan*

Someone got an unexpected Christmas shock when their car burst into flames on Chandler Road opposite the Aussie Veterans loading bay in Boronia Mall. Photos were taken by Oz Vet volunteers as the whole drama took place. Luckily the nearby Boronia CFA were quick to respond and no one was injured and the 60 years plus conifer that the car was parked under suffered minimal damage. Picture courtesy Kristy Harris

HOLY CHRISTMAS DAY!

God, Jesus, our sacred son appears, Christmas day.

God's blessings for all of us Holy Christmas day.

Heavenly angels smile and dance around the rainbow.

Colourful flowers, spread the petals, darkness fade away.

Snowflakes shine and settle on the grass to watch the beauty of the day.

White doves fly around the church to see the holiness of the day.

Twigs and boughs sway and lull, to welcome Christmas on the way.

Snow Clouds float and sun rays shine, beautifying the Christmas day.

Christmas comes to the doorstep, celebrate the Christmas Day.

Santa brings you gifts with love on the Christmas Day.

Soft wind blows, echo the hymns freshen the thoughts of the day.

Be peaceful and share happiness, sacred message say.

Live with love and love everyone, it's the theme of Christmas day.

Give this message to the whole world, on Holy Christmas Day! *Dayangani Silva*



**Councillor Peter Lockwood
Baird Ward**

Its great to be a servant of Knox where we have so many wonderful people. I am looking forward to the new pavilion at Tormore and the great work being done at Boronia Station as part of the wider Boronia revitalisation. There are more works planned.

The new wetlands behind Westfield Knox, at Lewis Park, are now open and will grow into a great landmark for Knox. This is part of the Knox Central vision where we will have new



recreation areas overlooking the wetlands

The pavilion at Fair Park is now well used by the sporting clubs and U3A. Such a wonderful improvement to the 50-year-old clubrooms, and Netball living out of a storage shed.

I enjoyed Australia Day. Knox held 3 citizenship

ceremonies on that day which were loved by all who took part. Next year we will celebrate Australia Day more fully. It is what the community was telling us during the election. We also need to acknowledge our indigenous brothers and sisters who take a less favourable view of the day. We need to use it as an opportunity for education and to correct the history. Aboriginal people didn't just die off. They were systematically killed off by settlers and troops. We need to acknowledge this. There is no guilt or shame. Listen and acknowledge.

I look forward to a revised waste service where general waste is collected weekly.

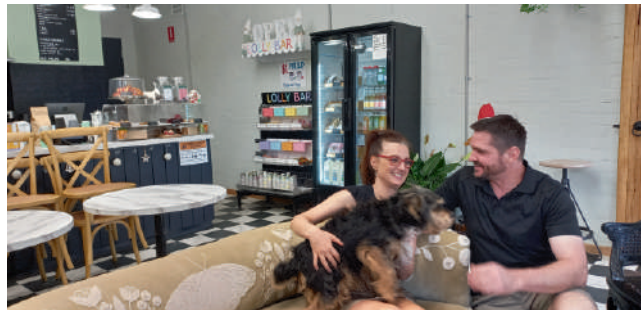
Remember to look out for your neighbours. These are tough times.

CoCo's Coffee Bar

Danny Nolan

The Langdon's didn't set out to have a Café in the side streets of Boronia.

Juanita & Matt Langdon run a successful long-standing business in Knox and prior to Covid were thinking of moving towards a slow merge to retirement by building a home at Phillip Island with plans to commute between weekends. Business commitments made the commute impractical and it was then that Juanita found and fell in love with their current residence- which as an added bonus came with a shop front. Opposite Boronia K12 college in Rangeview Road, the property has been originally a Milk Bar, and then a collection of



home based businesses such as a florist, a hairdresser and dress alteration service. One can't knock the Langdon's work ethic or commitment to the area, they now are running two businesses and both employing locally in Knox.

I called in one Saturday afternoon to introduce

myself and was impressed by their friendliness and enthusiasm, as well as their Chai Latte. Having only opened in early November last year. Juanita and Matt are confident that the new café can become a community hub and a gathering place for locals, and parents dropping off and collecting their kids. As well as retirees like myself stopping by after some afternoon stroll.

Inviting and cool from the Summer heat, the option of a comfy couch or the sidewalk tables makes a coffee & cake (or a milkshake) seem very enticing.

CoCo's Coffee Bar is at 9 Rangeview Road and is open Monday to Friday.

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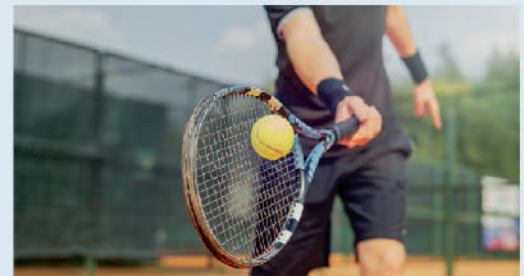


We're still open for business

Work to create a shared path and improve Chandler Road, Boronia, is underway. Businesses are still open and operating as usual.

More information:

knox.vic.gov.au/chandler



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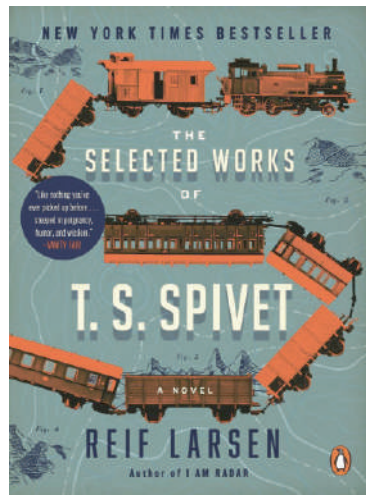


Good Reads - The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet.

Adventures in Maps by *Danny Nolan*

I've always had a passion for maps. I remember as a pre-teen finding an old Collins Street Directory in our library at home. It was so old that the housing estate we lived in had only been developed and only a few of the streets were named in it, and many of those had been changed. Things that drew my attention and probably lit a spark that would manifest later were the lack of bridges over waterways, major roads with different names, vast open spaces where shops and schools now existed, and in some cases roads that terminated at creeks that no longer existed. All this information was too much for my curiosity and I had to search out how today differed from yesteryear.

As I got older, I could never be bored if there was a Melway, Morgans, Gregory's, or Collins Directory lying around. The older the better. Discovering train lines that no longer ran, just tracts of land cutting through suburbs and watching Melbourne spread out with every new volume. To this day I still have a collection of old directories and my study wall is covered with framed maps of Melbourne dated between 1854 and 1969. This fascination led to researching these changes and with it developing a keen



interest in local history which culminated in helping produce a documentary of the Outer Circle Line. The train line began near Oakleigh and ran all the way to Fairfield. Something that is now being reconsidered but underground. Moving to the foothills of the Dandenongs opened up a gateway of new and exciting discoveries thanks to its early settlement and

the existence of traces of its developing history. People associate maps with giving directions on pieces of paper or via their phone, alternatively, there is mapping. Just as a map instructs or reveals the path to where you wish to go, mapping applies to any process that describes or illustrates a function or procedure; this could be in the form of a flow chart or a step-by-step diagram but the best example would be a Family Tree. A recent example of both forms of mapping being used is in the Games of Thrones series of books, A Song of Ice & Fire, where topographical maps help you navigate the vast world and the family trees to help follow the multitude of characters, many of whom share the same names. One of the most enlightening things that happened to me in the last decade

was discovering the book by Reif Larsen called The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet. A novel about a child prodigy/genius who navigates everyday life with maps. Not as in place to place but as a function of how things work, why things happen, or where things are going. It put a whole new meaning of the map to me that was so blatantly obvious. He grew up on a ranch in Montana. His dad is a tight-lipped cowboy in the Clint Eastwood mold and his mother is a scientist, whose whole career is based on a mythical butterfly. After the accidental death of his brother, the family dynamic has drastically changed and he thinks his constant companion - his dog Verywell - is going mad. This culminates in a trip across the country by train to accept a prestigious science award that he may have lied about his age to enter, and this leads him to the discovery of the true meaning of family love.

I highly recommend it to anyone, not because it is a wonderful, heartwarming story with a touch of tragedy, humour, and action but also because the format of the book will keep you returning to it long after you have finished the story, with amazing story maps running down the margins of most pages. A totally innovative concept. It proves that maps are not just tools for navigation; they are powerful communication tools that can convey a wealth of information and emotions, making them an endlessly fascinating subject for nearly everyone.

Collectors Corner

Danny Nolan

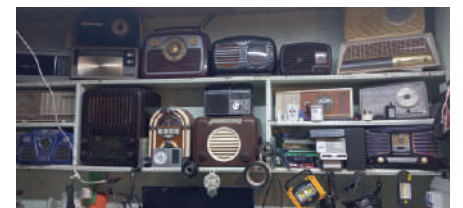
I was at the last BBCN Committee meeting in December and our longest-serving committee member Roger Thompson sidled up beside me and said something along the



lines of: "I think I might have some content for your collectors' article." This got my attention; if you don't know, Roger is a man of many talents and interests. As well as being a member of many volunteer community organisations, committees, and groups, 2024 was a good year for Roger, receiving a Victoria Day Award (BBCN December issue) and a 30th Anniversary profile (BBCN June issue) which highlighted his busy and interesting life. He is also an avid collector. So, figuring out that Roger was a small business owner, pilot & author, there had to be some good stuff to view.

I wasn't disappointed. Roger doesn't have a collection, he has several. As an aside, one of Roger's first collections, which began as a wedding present, went on to become an international collectors club, even producing a catalogue and price guide. This collection has now been retired and only a scant few remain in his home. If I had to guess what it was? I would never in a million years say Whiskey Jugs. But that is the way of the collector. Each to their own. This is what makes collecting such a unique and personal endeavour.

Now, back to the article. Roger was an electrical technician and had his own business, his old workshop/office is now full of vintage radios, turntables, amplifiers, and assorted CDs, VHS & DVD players. Many he has donated to Radio Clubs. His collection of old telephones is amazing and basically tells the evolution of domestic communication. He showed me bottles and cans that were radios and others



that were telephones. I thought they were part of his bar memorabilia. I'll stop there because we might show some other stuff in future issues, and I haven't even hinted at his wife's collection!

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Reader Letter to BBCN

Council Tree Damage

I have emailed Council twice with serious safety concerns about a council tree overhanging my yard. It has now fallen on my property, destroying all my espalier pears and passionfruit vines, eliminating years of hard work, care and effort.

The council have repeatedly dismissed my concerns and will still not take any action for the remaining tree.

I am so frustrated that Council are able to dismiss safety concerns without consequence. If anyone had been outside at the time, they'd be dead. I have pets and a child, and we are all shaken and grateful we were not outside when it happened. I would like to see a change in the way Council attend safety concerns from residents.

It's not fair that I was ignored and now I've lost years of work for something they could have avoided with tree trimming.

Thanks for taking the time to consider an article or story to raise awareness. *Amanda*

BBCN have asked the council for a reply and they agreed to provide their response to this article in the March edition.



was taking turns between the western band and the Indian drummers. It was highly entertaining. After a few stop-starts, we finally reached the spot outside the SCG where we were received by the cricket legend and President of the McGrath Foundation Glenn McGrath and the national media. That moment was out of this world. The time had come to stand still. The clocks had stopped ticking. All eyes were on Glenn and Tracy. She tested the spirit and the excitement of the Pink Parade that was answered in the loudest roar you could imagine.

Tracy opened the proceedings and outlined the changes at the McGrath Foundation. She thanked all the supporters of the McGrath Foundation. Pointing towards me, Tracy highlighted my name and the long walk from Melbourne. She specifically thanked the Big Three Trekkers for their walk from Newcastle. Glenn McGrath also appreciated our efforts to contribute to improving the health of fellow Australians. He shared the great news that the McGrath Foundation was no longer confined to caring for just breast cancer patients. The Foundation would now provide specialist nurses to care for ALL cancer patients regardless of what type of cancer or what part of the body was impacted. The speeches were followed by lots of photos taken from all sorts of angles.

Then it was my turn for media interviews. It started off with a detailed interview by Special Broadcasting Services (SBS). Along with other media, the Asian News International (ANI) and the Press Trust of India (PTI) also recorded interviews. However, the interview with Channel Ten remained most comprehensive. Everyone wanted to know the answer to one question... Why did I undertake such a long walk in the first place, let alone for three consecutive years? I told them that this great country had given me a beautiful life, and now it was my turn to give something back to the community. And I was so grateful to the McGrath Foundation for giving me the opportunity to make a small contribution.

For me personally, it was a day to reflect upon the journey of the last 63 days. It was a day to celebrate the completion of the most difficult walk since signing up with the McGrath Foundation in 2022. It was not just the completion of the walk but also the completion of a hat-trick. It was a dream come true. To achieve a feat of this calibre at the age of 73 was remarkable by any measure, and I thank God for selecting me to fit this role. I am so grateful to all my supporters for their contribution, prayers and thoughts. I would like to express my gratitude to the Management Team at the Boronia and the Basin Community News for their generous sponsorship. A big thank you to John and his team.

If you would like to support the McGrath Foundation, please click on the link below <https://www.pinkisthecolour.com.au/fundraisers/PrabodhMalhotra> or scan the QR code.

A Hat-Trick at 73, Really? Yes, it is True

After starting the walk at the MCG on Sunday 3 November 2024, we walked more than 1,300 kms over the next two months and completed the challenge on Thursday 2 January when we arrived at the Entertainment Quarter next to the SCG. The formalities were completed on Friday 3 January 2025, the Opening Day of the Pink Test.

After parking the van, we walked over to the Allianz Stadium. We were meeting at the top of the steps at Gate 1. Matt Hatcher Mayor Eurobodalla Shire Council who joined us on the actual walk from Moruya to Malua Bay also arrived. Tracy Bevan, Director and Ambassador McGrath Foundation arrived. She personally thanked us, and we took photos with her. The crowd started to build up as the supporters began to arrive in large numbers. Soon my friends the Big Three Trekkers from Newcastle arrived. It was great to catch up with Luke Alexander, Glenn Gorick, and Leanne Moss. Two days later, Leanne was the keynote speaker at the High Tea attended by a significant number of dignitaries including the Prime Minister Albanese. Many nurses including Jo Lovelock, Kerry Patford the Chief Nurse arrived. The members of the Pink Sari brigade arrived. The Indian dancers in their beautiful costumes also joined. There were smiles all around. It was like a sea of Pink. It began to drizzle a bit, and many people moved under cover. However, the drizzle stopped and the clouds disappeared.



It was such an electrifying atmosphere. There was a live band playing popular songs. There was happiness. There was a roar. There was excitement. There was enthusiasm. Everyone was pumped up. We were all gathered just for one reason and that was to support the McGrath Foundation. We lined up on the steps. Jo called me to the front to stand along with Tracy Bevan. It was such a great honour to join Tracy in the front row. Some people took photos and videos of the event. We were requested to come down a few steps and stop. More photos and more videos followed. Finally, the four young Indian girls got off the last step and began performing their moves to specific dances. Everyone was thrilled to witness these moments. I got excited by the Bhangra beats and joined in. The girls' dance was spellbinding.

For a while, we remained close to the steps. Slowly, we began to move towards the SCG. After a few steps, we stopped again. The music

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

TWILIGHT BOWLS IS BACK AGAIN FOR 2024/25

Bring the family and friends down to one of our Twilight Bowls sessions.
Held every Friday night from 6-9pm from October 2024 to April 2025.

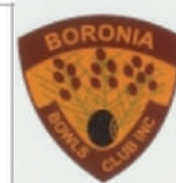
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Boronia Bowls Club - Marie St, Boronia
MUSIC ON THE GREEN
Fridays 6pm-9pm OCT-APR
During Daylight Savings
\$12 PER HEAD
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
ALL WELCOME

Personal History in Boronia

Everard Himmelreich

When Silvio Bernabo came to Boronia in 1967, Tormore Oval was an apple orchard and milk was still delivered from a nearby milk factory in a horse and cart.

Brussels sprouts were grown in a paddock off Dorset Road and the intersection of Boronia Rd with the rail line above ground and dangerous to navigate.

Silvio, an Italian immigrant who was married with two young children, got to know most of the people in the area and cherished that connection.

After working at various jobs including a stint on the rail lines in Melbourne, Silvio went to night school to become a welder, a qualification that gained him work with eastern suburbs firms that produced a variety of equipment.

Very family focused, he was also active in the community, becoming a foundation member and president of the Knox Italian Community Club.

His wife Caterina died six years ago and many of the others he knew in Boronia have also passed away or moved on but his son Frank, daughter Anna, and one of Silvio's neighbours keep in close contact.

Silvio, now aged 95, retired as a welder and boilermaker about 30 years ago and has since made many small wooden airplanes, complete with wind-driven propeller blades, to adorn his front garden and entertain passing children.

The entertainment also continues at night with numerous solar lights brightening up his home's roof and surrounds.

Silvio has seen many young people move into Boronia as the housing density around him increases.

He has seen that change at close quarters with a house next door to him demolished earlier this year, one of the many in Boronia making way for



Silvio and Frank Bernabo

higher density development.

His eldest child, Frank, 66, who came to Boronia with his parents when he was aged nine, said he had seen changes in Boronia in the past and the current intensification was another.

He said that Boronia had been good to live in when the family first moved there in the late 60's, but during the 70's Boronia was not known for its civility.

The family home was broken into during that era and people had to be wary when going out at night. The suburb's character had since improved with new demographics.

"It goes in waves," Frank said of the changes to the suburb. The need for more housing is very apparent to him with homeless people occasionally setting up tents in the park opposite Silvio's home.

But while he can see the need for more housing, he said he did not have to look far to see where that development had been overdone.

Frank has many good memories of growing up in Boronia when he and his friends had a lot of freedom to roam around. He and his mates used to take apples from the orchard that grew on what is now Tormore Oval and collect for refunds the empty soft drink bottles discarded by workers at local factories.

Among those he played kick-to-kick with was

Matthew Larkin who went on to captain North Melbourne.

The young Larkin told Frank of his dream to play for North Melbourne but Frank told Larkin he couldn't kick or mark good enough to play at an elite level.

Decades later when Frank brought a bunch of kids to see the champion training at North Melbourne, Larkin's first words with a wry smile to Frank were to remind him of his, "Can't kick, can't mark," comments on his footballing ability.

Frank said a hangout for young people when he was growing up was a place called the Sports Centre, located where the Busybodies gym now stands. People played squash there or played on the pinball machines and pool tables.

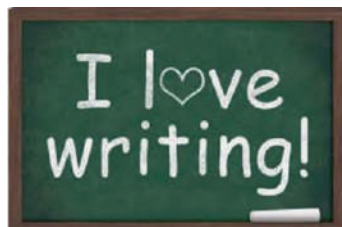
Silvio's daughter, Anna, has chronicled her father's migrant experience and his life in Boronia in her family history book, "Silvio Bernabo – In search of a better life," which was published in 2021.

Panda Rounds

"Introduction to Round Dancing"

The Panda Rounds Round Dance Club in Boronia is holding their annual Introduction to Round Dancing evening on Friday 21st February at 6pm. This event is free for new dancers and will let you experience one of the easiest ways to learn to dance. By the end of the evening you will be dancing round the room. Beginners classes commence the following week. This year, the teachers, Alison and Phil, have chosen Waltz as the first rhythm to be taught. Later you will progress onto Rumba, Foxtrot and Two-Step.

Round Dancing is cued social ballroom dancing and a lot of fun. Visit the Panda Rounds videos webpage to check out some of their dances. They dance every Friday evening in the Boronia Progress Hall in Boronia Road near the corner of Dorset Road. Parking is available at the rear. Please book by email to pandarounds@gmail.com or send a text to Phil on 0425 720 442.

KIDS
ZONE

February BBCN Young Writers Initiative Awards from Ella Rule (right) and Zach Cooper (below). We look forward to receiving award submissions for our March edition.

BBCN YWI Awards

The BBCN Young Writers Initiative is going strong with 2 student awards being granted each month since mid 2023. Since starting, thanks to our awards sponsor, Bendigo Bank, we have given over \$3000 back to our students and schools. BBCN welcomes all forms of writing, as long as it is an original work created by the student and is a maximum of 400 words.

Entries can be easily uploaded by scanning the QR code on this page. This submission upload page, asks students to confirm that it is original and that you give permission to publish the article and the student's name in the printed paper and on the BBCN Facebook page. All entry requirements are also recorded here, including parent permissions.

Copyright always remains with the author.



BHPs Principal, Mathew Anderton accepts 2024 annual school award for most active primary school.



Matthew Payne (2024 individual award) and Boudica Dickeson (December award)



Maya Lawrence (Dec. award)



Audrey Carhill (Annual primary award)

Mr. Normal

Zach Cooper, Boronia BK-12 College (Year 8)

It started in a colourful town called Colourville. Everyone was colourful, happy, and what some people call "Weird." In this town there was a little boy named Colour Caleb, or just Caleb. One day, a person moved next to Caleb, his name was Norman Normal. On the first day Norman Normal painted his house black and grey. On the second day Norman Normal painted his fence black and grey. On the third day he painted his grass black and grey. Norman Normal only wore grey shirts and grey pants. One day, Caleb knocked on Norman Normal's door,

"Hello?" Norman Normal said normally.

"Hi, I'm Caleb. I'm your next-door neighbor, I-I made you some cookies," Caleb said excitedly while handing Norman Normal a colourful cookie box. Norman Normal grabbed the box of cookies and headed inside his house without another word. Norman Normal made sure to paint the cookie box grey before opening it. When Norman Normal finally opened the cookie box, he found a dozen cookies all in bright colours. Norman Normal picked up the box, went outside and handed the box back to Caleb. Before Norman Normal went back inside he realized that where

Caleb walked it turned colourful again. Norman Normal picked Caleb up and put him on the foot path. Norman Normal picked up a paint brush and painted the grass black and grey again.

"Mr. Normal? Did you not like my cookies?" Caleb asked, walking back to Norman.

"No, I didn't. AND GET OFF MY LAWN!" Norman said angrily.

"D-Did you try the cookies?" Caleb said on the brink of tears, Norman looked at Caleb.

"Okay, hand one here." Norman said grudgingly. Caleb's eyes brightened as he opened the now grey cookie box and handed a cookie to Norman Normal. He closed his eyes and plugged his nose as he took a bite of the cookie. Norman couldn't believe it, it was amazing, one of the best things he had ever tasted.

After a moment, he decided. It was time for change.

Norman went into his backyard and came back with two paintbrushes and two buckets of paint. But the paint wasn't grey, it was very colourful. Norman and Caleb started painting, and painting. On the first day they painted Norman's house the most beautiful colours they could find, on the second day they painted the fence. Norman even started wearing colourful clothes.

The Cicadas

Ella Rule, Boronia Resident, Year 12

Every year the cicadas emerge from the ground- their endless chorus of chirping marking the beginning of the heat. The nymphs must burrow their way out from the Earth that has cradled them for six long years- they tear themselves from her embrace to journey upwards to other things.

'I think it is time I saw the sky,' they say.

Soon they emerge from all they have known, and the world is as glorious as they could have imagined, and bigger than they ever dared to. The trees whisper a welcome to them, and the moon winks at them from the indigo sky above, brighter than anything they have seen. The cicadas, however, are embarrassed of themselves. How drab and brown they must appear compared to the inky violet of the evening sky, the glistening majesty of the moon. How out of place they must look.

'If only I were as beautiful as them,' they murmur with envy. And so, they climb the trees, ever further upwards, high enough to face the moon and sky.

'Look,' they implore, trying to get their attention 'I can be beautiful too.' And here they shed their skins- those drab brown shells. They climb outside their own bodies into something that matches the bejewelled world around them. Their new selves are a green brighter than even the trees, and their ruby red eyes wink like stars of their own.

But the moon and sky still do not notice them-for they are too small. Struck with an idea, the cicadas use these new bodies to make music. Their own talent surprises even

themselves, and soon the moon and sky cannot help but notice, praising their artistry.

The cicada's time in this new world is fleeting, however, and after a few short weeks they perish, falling

back down to be enveloped by the Earth once more. She is puzzled.

'Why did you leave?' she asks. 'I protected you, did I not? You were safer here- what point was there in going to the surface to die?'

'Ah,' respond the cicadas wistfully 'There we saw many wonderful things - we saw the moon, and the stars, and the trees. We saw how big the world was- and we learnt that it mattered not that we were small.'

For the cicadas will never regret having seen the sky, and next year they will make the climb again.

KIDS
ZONE



As new parents navigate the challenges of raising an infant, a centuries-old technique emerges as a 'new' trend... baby massage. This gentle, nurturing activity not only promotes a strong bond between a parent and their newborn, but it also offers a host of physical, emotional, and developmental benefits that are gaining recognition from pediatricians and experts alike.

One such expert, Jennifer Rice from Little Petals Wellbeing, explains baby massage as, "a sequence of gentle strokes that help relax and calm your little one as well as nurture, and strengthen your bond with baby."

The physical benefits of baby massage are numerous. It improves blood circulation, which is important for developing babies, as well as promoting better digestion. Many parents report that massage helps alleviate symptoms of colic, gas, and constipation, providing much-needed relief to their babies.

Rice's top tip is to, "start from when the baby is born, as a baby's tummy is quite immature. Particular, gentle strokes can relieve discomfort and aid digestion." In addition, these movements help to stimulate muscles, skin and circulation and contribute to the baby's overall growth and development.

When speaking to a mother attending Little Petal's Baby Massage Class, she noted, "The most interesting thing I learnt was during a class focused on face massage; start at the bridge of the nose, across the top of the cheeks and over

The Soothing Power of Baby Massage

Cath Shelley



the top of the ears – feels amazing when you have blocked sinus. Works on my baby, toddler and husband!"

The gentle stretching of muscles also encourages flexibility and muscle tone, which are essential as babies grow and begin to reach developmental milestones such as rolling over, crawling, and sitting up. Tummy time, an essential activity for physical development, is enhanced by the movement encouraged during massage.

However, the benefits extend beyond physical health. One of the most profound impacts of baby massage is the deep emotional connection it fosters between parent and child. Regular touch releases oxytocin, the hormone associated with bonding and affection, creating a sense of

security and comfort for both the baby and the caregiver. Research also indicates that babies who receive regular massage and touch have lower cortisol levels, indicating reduced stress.

Little Petal's Wellbeing has built a community around movement, massage, and wellbeing which feels like an extension of a parents' group. Each class is not only a place for parents to connect and learn massage and movement techniques but also listen to the guest speakers, who range from baby osteopaths to sleep consultants – a unique opportunity to build learning for new parents.

Little Petals runs classes at Mount Evelyn Community House and in-home sessions, as well as an online program starting in March... all geared towards building the connection between local new parents and fostering their bond with their new babies.

<https://www.littlepetalwellbeing.com.au/#sessions>



World Whale Day February 16th

World Whale Day is taking place on 16 February this year, which also marks 45 years since the end of commercial whaling in Australia. But whales now face new threats, including climate change and expansion of offshore gas and oil extraction in Australian coastal waters. The seismic noise used for offshore oil and gas disturbs the whales who rely on clear transmission of underworld sound to communicate.

Australia is home to 30 species of whales, two of them are listed as endangered, the blue whale and the southern right whale.

Fun facts about whales

1. They have complex communication systems.

Whales use a variety of clicks, whistles and songs to communicate.

Each vocalisation serves a distinct purpose, from finding food to socialising. Whales living in pods even have their own 'dialect' to help differentiate between their family and strangers. Male humpback whales sing complex songs that can last up to 20 minutes and be heard kilometres away.



Humpback Whale, Western Australia (Greenpeace)

2. Loudest animals on earth.

Blue whales set the world record for the loudest animal on Earth, reaching up to 180 decibels - that's as loud as a jet plane! Researchers believe that some whale songs can travel between groups nearly 8,000 km apart.

3. Largest animals on the planet.

The blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived and can grow to 30 metres and weigh as much as 24 elephants! That's more than 150,000 kg. They can eat a whopping 3,600 kg of krill per day.

4. Long-living creatures.

Some species of whales are among the longest-lived mammals.

The bowhead whales found in the Arctic can

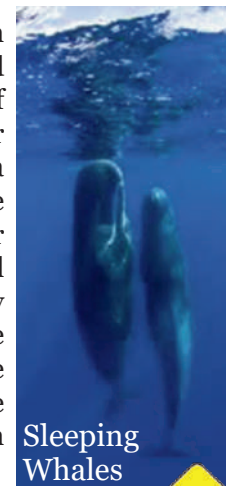
live for more than 200 years, and killer whales found in various habitats worldwide can live for more than 100 years.

5. Long Annual Migrations

Gray whales make one of the longest annual migrations of any mammal: they travel about 16,000 km round trip!

6. They sleep by resting only half their brain otherwise they would stop breathing and drown. Some even sleep vertically.

Whales play a vital role in our marine ecosystem and serve as indicators of ocean health. Their presence indicates a thriving marine environment, and their absence can signal ecosystem imbalance. By safeguarding whales, we're not just protecting a single species but preserving the entire web of life beneath the waves.



Sleeping Whales

Source: <https://www.greenpeace.org.au/>



Mast Cell Activation Syndrome (MCAS)

Matthew Payne, Year 9 student at Boronia K-12 College

In my previous articles in the Dysautonomia series, I have been exploring Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS); what it is, and what it is like to suffer from it. Today, I am writing about another condition, Mast Cell Activation Syndrome (MCAS), that I recently became aware of, and learnt a lot about from Zebras Australia, a clinic which leads in Australia when it comes to treating Dysautonomia.

MCAS is a condition that was discovered only recently. This is despite the fact that it is estimated to affect 1 in 100 people. That means that there are about 16,000 people in Knox who suffer from MCAS! Many people who have MCAS also suffer from Dysautonomia. However, due to the lack of research, it is unclear whether or not it is in itself a form of Dysautonomia, or perhaps a genetic condition.

What is MCAS?

MCAS is a syndrome (i.e. not a disease, so not contagious), meaning that my Mast Cells activate themselves seemingly randomly. Symptoms can

vary minute to minute, as can the chemicals activated. It is estimated that over a thousand chemicals are involved with MCAS, however, very few can be tested for. The main chemical released is histamine. This is what causes hay-fever and allergic reactions in normal people. The lack of knowledge about the syndrome means that the only treatment currently available is antihistamines.

So, what are the symptoms?

The symptoms of MCAS vary dramatically from person to person, and also from day to day, let alone minute to minute. They may wax and wane over time. Like anything, different people have different triggers. For me, at the moment, without an antihistamine, I can't function.

I basically get hayfever, an allergic reaction and a migraine simultaneously, every day, before my antihistamine kicks in. I also lose my appetite - something also caused by POTS - so I generally can't eat anything until 3-4 hours after I've had my antihistamine. Even with the antihistamine, I get bizarre symptoms randomly throughout my day. I might break out in a rash for just a few minutes during English class, develop brain fog and a migraine in Maths, and start sneezing with burning, running eyes on the way home.

The scariest thing is when it feels like my throat is starting to close. I drink litres and litres of water, which soothes it. The water flushes out the histamine. Thankfully, I have never had a full anaphylactic attack, however that is the most severe symptom of the condition, and is life threatening.

Hopefully, technology will continue to improve. As of yet there is no way to get a proper, reliable, easy diagnosis. Because of the near impossibility of getting a lab diagnosis, you are considered diagnosed if you have symptoms that affect more than two systems, regularly - not just in bad weather or seasonally. This makes it really difficult for sufferers, as it leaves the door open for medical gaslighting. Hopefully, if there is more funding for research, a solution can be found.

If you have chronic hay fever that is bad every day, regardless of the weather, have to take antihistamines everyday, or randomly get migraines that coincide with other symptoms such as a rash throughout your day, it may be worth mentioning to your doctor. Assuming your doctor even knows what MCAS is, as it can be really hard to find a doctor who does. This is why education is paramount.

By telling you my stories, I hope that I have started our society's education about these horrid conditions. For those who want to learn more, Zebras Australia provides educational webinars, courses, etcetera, as part of their mission.

Knox Environment Society Nursery

At this time of year, the native garden is alive with activity. Many plants are in flower and attracting a huge range of invertebrates and birds. One of the most delightful of indigenous garden plants is the Tall Bluebell *wahlenbergia stricta*. Blue forms part of its common name and a beautiful sky blue it is.

Tall Bluebell is a perennial plant that flowers for a long time over spring and summer. Individual flowers are in the form of open bells with five petals, about 15 to 25 mm in diameter. It will grow from 20-50 cm in height and spread over 40 cm. Once established it is very hardy, ideal for a massed display. The plant may die back during the colder months but it will bounce back once more in spring. It is tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions, in soils that include sandy, clay or humus and moist to well drained, as well as in full sun or semi-shade. The bluebell provides butterflies and other insects, including tiny native bees, with nectar. For that extra splash of colour in the garden, you can't go wrong with Tall Bluebell.

Nursery re-opening Saturday 1st February. You can get Tall Bluebell from the Knox Environment Society Nursery which will officially reopen for sales on Saturday 1st February at 10.00am. From then opening times are on Saturdays and Sundays 10.00am to 1.00pm and Thursdays from 10.00am-4.00pm. Come along and see what else is available there, or see you at the Knox Festival.



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

Boronia K-12 College Students Embark on an Unforgettable Journey Through Central Australia

During the second week of the school holidays, 40 senior students from Boronia K-12 College and six dedicated staff members set off on a remarkable adventure through the heart of Australia. Over the course of the trip, the group experienced the breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage that make Central Australia a bucket-list destination.



The journey began with an early morning departure and a 10-hour bus ride to Adelaide, where students enjoyed a well-deserved sunset swim at the beach. The stunning coastal view provided the perfect introduction to the adventure ahead.

Next, the group ventured to Coober Pedy, the quirky opal-mining town famed for its underground accommodations. Students marveled at the unique way of life in this desert community, which thrives below the surface to escape the intense heat.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to Uluru, where the group was awed by the iconic monolith during a sunset viewing. The following day, students walked the Mala Trail at its base, soaking in its cultural significance and natural beauty.

The adventure continued with hikes through the rugged and picturesque landscapes of Kata Tjuta's Valley of the Winds and the Kings Canyon Rim Trail. Braving 35°C heat, the students demonstrated incredible resilience and determination, rewarded with spectacular views that made the effort worthwhile.

The final stop was Alice Springs, where we visited the stunning West MacDonnell Ranges, the Alice Springs Desert Park, and spent time reflecting on the journey and appreciating the serenity of the beautiful region.

On behalf of the attending staff, we extend heartfelt thanks to the students for their outstanding behaviour, resilience, and pride in representing our school. The group not only embraced the challenges of the trip but also celebrated the unique opportunities it offered to learn, grow, and connect.

This adventure through Central Australia is a memory to cherish, and it stands as a testament to the strength of our school community. Here's to many more successful journeys ahead!

Bree Ibbotson, Executive Assistant

Boronia K-12 College

Celebrating 100 Years of Learning: Our School Fete Success!

On Saturday, the 30th of November, our College proudly hosted a memorable school fete in celebration of 100 years of learning. Despite wet and rainy weather, the event was a resounding success, showcasing the strength and spirit of our school community.

The fete featured a vibrant mix of twenty market stallholders offering unique items such as woodwork, macramé, Christmas decorations, crafts, educational games, and even henna tattoos. Twelve community organisations, including the Rotary Club of Boronia, local Scout groups, the Australian Defence Force, Boronia Library, Knox Leisureworks, and local MPs Jackson Taylor and Mary Doyle, shared their services and resources.

Food lovers were spoilt for choice with eight incredible food vendors fueling the day. Favorites included Ace Donuts, Spud Stick, Mad Dog Coffee, Bodacious Coffee, The Whippy Truck, The Yumpling Truck, Anatolia Tantuni Gözleme, and Heavenly Sweets & Treats.

For the children & adults alike, there was a petting zoo, 2 face painters and a balloon twister, rides including the drop slide, dodgem cars, Chair – O – Plane, Cha Cha, Bungee Tramps and Clown Amusement Van. The Colleges Student Voice Team ran a successful stall selling raffle tickets for prizes generously donated by our market stall holders and local business.' They also organised a lucky dip and badge making activity.



Emergency services played a significant role in the day's success. Knox SES conducted a Road Crash Rescue demonstration, while the Proactive Policing Unit displayed a police car. Boronia Fire Station brought out a fire truck, and St John Ambulance not only provided professional services but also conducted CPR demonstrations with their CPR Lab unit.



Adding a nostalgic touch, vintage car owners showcased classic automobiles, attracting plenty of admirers. Live musicians, dance clubs and Boronia K-12 College bands & choir kept spirits high with dynamic performances throughout the day.

A special thanks goes to Knox Council for their minor grant, which helped make the event possible. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our generous sponsors:

- Aussie Veterans Op Shop
- Coonara Community House
- Rotary Club of Boronia

Their support played a crucial role in the day's success. Above all, we are deeply grateful to our school and local community for braving the weather to celebrate together.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that we plan to run the fete every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2026! Here's to more celebrations, connections, and shared memories in the years to come.

Boronia's Hidden Gem

I had the pleasure of attending Boronia K-12 College Fete in November. What a wonderful Community event. People of all ages took part - you could buy knitting by Boronia Aged Care residents and pre-schoolers enjoyed the animals (see photo). All local community services had stands and the considerable talents of students of all ages were on display or performed.

It was a credit to new Principal, Paul Broeker, and the staff who volunteer to give up their Saturday. Even the rain couldn't deter the crowds.

I'd never been to Boronia K-12 before and was pleasantly surprised not only by the lovely buildings and grounds - and a nature reserve! But particularly (as an ex-teacher), by the wonderful students.

Boronia has a school they can be proud of.

Ron Thomas, Kalorama



I'M HERE TO HELP!

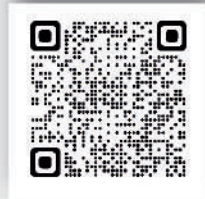
My Aston Electorate Office can assist you with information about Federal Government services, including:

- Services Australia
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Medicare
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- Immigration, citizenship and customs
- Passports
- Pensions, and My Aged Care
- Child support
- Veterans' Affairs

Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston



Scan to keep up to date



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- 🌐 www.marydoyle.com.au
- 📷 @marydoylemp

In Aston we are delivering:

- ✓ A Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Bayswater
- ✓ Increased funding to Knox City Council for local roads and services
- ✓ Fee-Free TAFE
- ✓ Giving every Aston household a \$300 energy rebate
- ✓ A tax cut for every taxpayer
- ✓ Extra funding for the State Government to build more homes
- ✓ Wiping \$3 billion in student debt and fixing indexation
- ✓ Paid Parental Leave

I've already delivered:

- ➔ \$66,000 in the 2023/24 Volunteer grants
- ➔ \$150,000 in Stronger Communities Programme grants
- ➔ \$35,000 in local sponsorships and community donations
- ➔ \$5,000,000 for Tormore Reserve Pavilion upgrade
- ✓ Cheaper child care
- ✓ The biggest investment ever in expanding bulk-billing
- ✓ A freeze on the cost of PBS medicines for every Australian
- ✓ A pay rise for minimum wage workers, aged care workers & child care workers

The Albanese Labor Government is helping all Australians with the cost of living.



"I'm working with our community each and every single day to get things done, delivering for Knox and to build a better future for all constituents of Aston."

☎ (03) 9887 3890

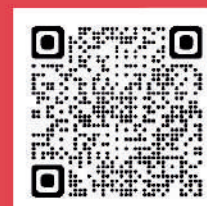
🌐 www.marydoyle.com.au

📷 @marydoyleMP



Mary Doyle MP

Federal Member for Aston



SCAN ME!
GO TO MY WEBSITE

A message from Councillor Paige Kennett

Happy New Year! Hope you have all enjoyed the season and had the opportunity to enjoy time with those you love.

What I'm hearing from residents: interest in the proposed solar farm, Koolunga Master Plan queries, Christmas light traffic concerns, Boronia Station upgrades, future projects/maintenance/grounds queries and some individual matters concerning planning and trees.

Updates and news:

The Green Spine project – will see a shared path and landscaping improvements, connecting Tormore Reserve, Genista Avenue, Chandler Road and Albert Avenue in Boronia with stage 1 of construction commencing 22 January and continuing over two-three weeks. Updates will be shared with nearby traders and residents to minimise disruption.

The Basin Music Festival – is celebrating 20 years of the festival coming up on 21st-23rd March! Check website TBMF.org.au for more information.

Knox Sport and Leisure Awards 2025 - celebrate our volunteers within our local sports and leisure clubs by nominating an individual or club that's doing great things for our locals. Nominations closing Monday, 4 March 2025 – see Council's website for information.

Move your way – a program running from 17 February – 2 March where you can try out a new activity for free. Over 65 different sessions offered, ranging from mindfulness to group fitness, catering for all abilities, children through to seniors. Check out the Knox website for details.

Knox Basketball Stadium – The end has come for the Boronia Stadium with demolition works scheduled from January to April 2025. The Boronia library will continue to operate. The site will be landscaped with an open grassed area, from April to July 2025.

Australia Day – Knox Council will be celebrating Australia Day 2025 by hosting three Citizenship Ceremonies. Wishing you a happy Australia Day, however you will be celebrating.

As your Chandler Ward Councillor, I welcome you to contact me.

Cr.Paige.Kennett@knox.vic.gov.au or 0498-880-807

PET'S PIECE

Gianne Ficatas

Lily is a 15 year old Maltese cross who presented to us for urinating on her bed while sleeping. She was drinking excessive amounts of water but was otherwise well in herself. She then re-presented 2 months later for being very flat and lethargic. She was increasingly urinating inside which was a big concern for her family and unlike her. On examination, Lily was quiet and she was pacing in circles. She was vomiting quite a lot and not eating.

We did some bloods on Lily which revealed a marked high glucose. It can be difficult sometimes interpreting a high glucose on bloods (depending on how high it is) as in some cases, this can be high due to stress or illness. This was repeated on Lily to confirm it was high, but was also supported by measuring the glucose in her urine. This was enough to diagnose Lily as having Diabetes Mellitus. Unfortunately, Lily also had ketones in her urine which revealed marked severe Diabetic Ketoacidosis - which indicates a very sick diabetic.

Diabetes is a condition in dogs where the immune-system starts to destroy the pancreatic cells producing insulin. Insulin is required for glucose to be absorbed into the cells. This means there is no insulin that can be produced in response to eating, so the glucose cannot be absorbed in the cells and increases in the blood. As a result, the body does not recognise it has eaten (due to the lack of insulin) so these dogs usually present excessively hungry, and



experience marked weight loss. Additionally, these dogs are urinating a lot as they have glucose in the urine, which draws water out with it. To compensate, they need to drink excessively so they do not dehydrate. A common complaint is drinking a lot, urinating a lot, urinating on their bed or having more accidents inside the house.

When animals are diabetic, they should still be relatively well in themselves. If your animal is diagnosed with diabetes, they will require insulin injections to be done at home every single day, for the rest of their life. This will allow the glucose to be absorbed with insulin and hence will settle down the excessive thirst and hunger. When an animal presents in DKA (Diabetic Ketoacidosis) they are often quite unwell, like Lily. They require emergency hospitalisation for intravenous fluid therapy, potassium and other electrolyte supplementation as well as intravenous insulin as this condition is life threatening.

Lily was hospitalised for multiple days with us and began to improve. She had a sensor implanted in her neck that remains in place for 2 weeks to allow us to measure her blood glucose (by simply scanning it with the phone), so she does not need to be pricked every time. This created a glucose graph to allow us to titrate her medication accordingly.

At the moment, Lily is doing really well. While she has had a lot of hiccups along the way, she has always managed to turn it back around. She has had multiple different sensors placed to allow us to closely record her blood glucose throughout the day so we can check if she is on the right dose of insulin. She is putting on weight, is less hungry and is no longer excessively thirsty. Without her very committed and loving family, as well as our very dedicated team, she would not be here today.

We are so happy. that Lily is doing well and hope she continues to do so in the future. We look forward to seeing her for her monthly checkups!"



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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

HIGHLIGHTING NATURAL BEAUTY OF BLIND CREEK AND LEWIS PARK

The State Government is helping to deliver more green open spaces for families in Melbourne's outer east.

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor joined local community members today at Lewis Park in Wantirna South to celebrate the completion of the Reimagining Blind Creek project.

The Government invested \$2.5 million towards the project which has revitalised Blind Creek and nearby Lewis Park with three new wetlands, a pedestrian bridge, waterway crossings, a boardwalk, and 6.3 kilometres of new shared paths to improve waterway health and create a green space for the community.

The project was a collaboration between the Government, Melbourne Water, Knox City Council and Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

More than 1.65 kilometres of a formerly underground concrete channel has been turned into a naturalised waterway, with the surrounding Lewis Park now a cooler, greener space and haven for biodiversity.

Blind Creek flows from the base of the Dandenong Ranges to Dandenong Creek, just downstream of the Knox Central Activity Centre and Lewis Park. The Blind Creek corridor forms an environmental 'spine' through the City of Knox, providing the community with an important amenity and connection to nature.

Through the series of wetlands, the project is designed to harvest and treat over 250 megalitres of stormwater annually for irrigation use on local sports ovals and community gardens.

Melbourne Water's Reimagining Your Creek Program works collaboratively with councils, communities, Traditional Owners, and residents to transform stormwater drains and concrete channels into natural waterways and enjoyable open spaces for local communities to enjoy. Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor stated



"It's an exciting time for locals in Knox with public spaces like Blind Creek and Lewis Park being completely transformed from an old drainage area into over 19 MCGs worth of green open space for the local community to enjoy."

The program has seen the transformation of sections of Tarralla Creek in Croydon, Arnolds Creek in Melton West, and an upstream section of Blind Creek in Boronia. Works are also currently in progress along Moonee Ponds Creek in Strathmore and Oak Park.

For more information, visit melbournewater.com.au.

Minister for Water, Harriet Shing said, "As our population grows, we're investing in the liveability of our towns and cities by protecting our water security and providing new green public spaces for the community to get active and connect with nature."



It's probably a little too late to say 'Happy New Year!' – so I'll say welcome to 2025 and it's great to be back for another year contributing to this great local publication – a big thanks as always to all the volunteers who make it happen. I hope everyone had a good Christmas break and that you're all successfully getting back into the swing of things. It's good to see parents locally and across the state are taking advantage of the School Saving Bonus which provides \$400 to each kid at a government school. For families of eligible students at a non-government school,

the \$400 will be provided directly to each school – to be managed in consultation with the student's family and in line with the intent of the program. I know this is a little bit of extra help to pay for things like textbooks, uniforms, camps and a range of other school activities.

North East Link

Cranes (lots) in the sky (pictured) and boots (heaps) on the ground! The North East Link is seriously underway with major works on the Eastern Freeway really heating up! When complete in 2028 - no more driving past the zoo to get across to the West.

Boronia Rotary

Every year, Rotary Club of Boronia - in conjunction with the Boronia RSL - runs an ANZAC Day Student Service, down at the Tim Neville Arboretum, in Ferntree Gully. And every year - it gets bigger and bigger. Last year, there were over 600 grade 5 and 6 students in attendance from right across Knox. So, I'm really proud that the State Government is delivering a grant of over \$3,000 to help run the event this year. My thanks to both Rotary and Boronia RSL on their ongoing commitment.

Backing local education

We have also seen a new kinder on Iris Crescent in Boronia open as well. The new Goodstart centre (not for profit) was provided a grant by the State Government to deliver new state of the art facilities for our youngest locals.

A Strummers story by Rob Fairbairn

The Class of '85

"Write what you know." It's good advice for novelists, script writers and songwriters alike. A story drawn from life should be easier to write and more relatable to its audience than one which is made up. That's what I was hoping anyway as I began to assemble the lyrics of a new song.

It was early February 1985, the beginning of the school year and after six weeks of freedom I was dreading the inevitable return to staff meetings, timetables and the dusty, converted shelter shed that was my music room at Mountain Gate Primary School. It was always the same after the long summer break. I'd been too busy with Christmas celebrations, enjoying time with my young family and socialising to give school even the slightest thought; I was still in holiday mode. We were also just back from a relaxing, idyllic two weeks at The Prom and as my first lessons loomed, a mild panic began to set in.

Fronting a classroom full of kids is not unlike performing for an audience of adults. You have to grab them from the get-go. I could keep the gullible juniors amused with puppets and the old talking recorder routine. The threes and fours, wide eyed and innocent, would be happy to explore the new ABC Song Books. But the cynical sixes and fives? If I didn't engage them from the first lesson, I risked losing them for the rest of the year.

So I wrote them a song.

I recalled our recent camping holiday and the thought and effort it took to pack everything a family of five needed to survive two weeks in a tent and began...

"We were off on a holiday

It wasn't really all that far

Took us all the morning to get on our way

'Cos this is what we packed into the car...

A good start. I decided to make it a music hall style 'list' song, more Gilbert and Sullivan than Lennon and McCartney. The simple verses would tell the somewhat exaggerated story, while the choruses would contain strings of words with ridiculous rhymes.

There was...Suncream, zinc cream, margarine and baked beans,

Glad wrap, road maps, what a funny sight

Bread rolls, bed rolls, toilet rolls and tent poles

Rubber bands and billy cans, a crate of Vegemite

Soap, sultanas, bunches of bananas,

Blow up beach toys, ev'ry shape and kind

Chairs and tables, even Auntie Mabel

Anything that wouldn't fit, we dragged along behind.

So far so good. For verse two I remembered a family road trip when, arriving so late at the caravan park we had to set up in the dark and cook and eat our meal by torchlight.

Well, we got there alright,

The evening was about to fall

Didn't get our dinner til' about midnight

Cos it took us seven hours to unpack it all.

The final verse may have also hinted at how I was feeling about returning to work.

Surf and sand and sun

Wishing it would never end

Seemed as if our holiday had just begun

When we had to pack the car and head for home again

With our...

If you have been following the story you may have detected a slight flaw in its logic. Surely our load for the return journey would be lighter after we'd consumed all the bananas, sultanas etc? In my defense I'd like to plead poetic license, this was after all just a kids' song. After verse three, I decided my story/song needed a stronger punchline.

Whenever we mention holidays, Dad nearly has heart failure

So next time when we go away, we're gonna take a semi-trailer

For our..."

The final chorus would be sung prestissimo, very fast, then come to a sudden halt.

I nervously presented my new song to the difficult fives and sixes but to my relief they loved it. They 'got' the story and enjoyed the challenge of singing the tongue twisting choruses. Making the most of a good thing, I gave them copies of the lyrics so they could practise singing it at home and the following week there was a competition to see who could sing the chorus the fastest. Intonation and accuracy went out the window of course, this was pure fun. And it was a hit!

Like all good songs, this one lives on. I recorded it for my first album with my own kids singing the choruses. It also found its way into a children's stage musical and even now, when I include it in my live set, it always goes down well. Thankyou Mountain Gate Primary School Class of '85.

Footnote: When I wrote this song it didn't register, but the name of the teacher's aide at Mountain Gate in 1985 was, you'll never guess... **Mabel!**



Ben's Place Volunteers Celebrate Christmas at The Acorn Bar & Restaurant

Ben's Place would like to extend our sincere appreciation to The Acorn Bar & Restaurant for hosting a wonderful Christmas party for our team of volunteers. It was a day of fun, laughter and delicious food, providing our team with a well-deserved celebration to end a very busy year. Thank you so much to the team at The Acorn Bar & Restaurant for your generosity and support of our community efforts!

The Christmas season was exceptionally busy for Ben's Place, as we worked tirelessly to meet the increased demand for food relief. With many other local support agencies closed during the holiday period, we were proud to step up and provide much-needed assistance to families facing tough times. Hundreds of locals sought food relief through our pantry, and thanks to the incredible support from our volunteers, donors and supermarket partnerships, we ensured no one was left without help.

In addition to food relief, Ben's Place spread holiday cheer by distributing hundreds of toys as Christmas gifts to local children. Seeing the smiles on their faces was heart-warming and a reminder of the importance of community spirit during the festive season.

As we look ahead to the new school year, Ben's Place is preparing to distribute backpacks to families in need to help children start the year with confidence and excitement. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting local families and ensuring that every child has access to the resources they need to thrive.

In February and March we will be offering a series of free parenting workshops that are being run with support from Bupa. They are designed to help parents raise confident, resilient and competent children. Please get in touch with us if you would like to find out more.

Email: info.bensplace@gmail.com





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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](https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au)

NOTE: All our appointed leaders, employees
and volunteers have completed the required
Safe Church Training and have current Working
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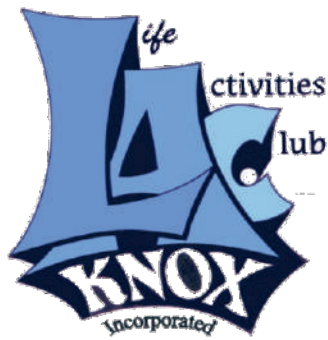
If you are retired and looking for things to do or
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We are a great, friendly social club and we hold
a variety of activities and outings as well as
having interesting guest speakers every month.

If you enjoy outings, dining out, movies, live
shows, walks, coffee meets and so much more
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check us out. We welcome new members.

Please contact President
Keiran Smith: 0404 079 636

Note address change: Boronia
Bowls Club, 5 Marie Street
Boronia.



friendship.

This is exactly what we offer at Life Activities
Club Knox (LAC Knox).

We are a friendly group of men and women who
participate in over 22 regular activities
throughout each month as well as one-off
activities that occur at various times over the
course of the year.

In December 2024, 32 of our members travelled
to Mt Gambier and surrounds for 5 days of fun
and fellowship. We travelled by coach, ferry, and
river boat to visit towns in both South Australia
and Victoria and enjoyed scenery and history.

Other events in December included "Tina -The
Musical," Michael Buble musical tribute and a
Christmas function (attended by 85 of our
members).

January saw members attending Rayners
Orchard tour and a club Trivia day at our hall in
Ferntree Gully. All events in December and
January were well attended and enjoyed by all.

As mentioned we have many regular activities in
which members and guests can participate.
These include eating out, cards, travel, walks,
social activities and sport.

Please ring our membership secretary
(Lorraine) on 0438 068 334 to find out when
and where our activities are held and answer
any questions you may have.

We are a friendly group and warmly welcome
any newcomers who may wish to attend.

Hopefully, we will see you soon.

Hello All, Wow, a
month of 2025
has already
passed us by. I
hope everyone
had an enjoyable
December and
January and is
looking forward
to a year full of
activities and

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 General Meeting will be held at
10.30am on Tuesday the 25th of March, 2025, at
Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater
North, followed by lunch for those who wish to
stay on.

We provide guest speakers, many day trips and
an annual trip, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee
mornings, regular lunches at different locations
around Knox and morning melodies.

At our November 2024 General Meeting we
were entertained by the "Pleasant Pluckers," a
wonderful group of musicians from U3A
Croydon who entertained us for the second year
in a row. We hope there will be many more
times in the future.

On December 10th we enjoyed our Annual
Christmas Dinner. Always a special event. Great
company, great music and much hilarity. Plenty
of winners of hampers and vouchers. All-in-all, a
very special effort from our fantastic Social
Committee. Our first photo of Mr & Mrs Claus,
along with our resident elf, ready to work. The
second photo shows the wonderful atmosphere
we all enjoyed so much.

Our General & Social committees are working
hard on events for 2025 which will see our
members enjoying some wonderful social
activities. So, if you are looking to enhance your
social life, come along and join us.

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.

Boronia VIEW (Voice, Interests, Education of Women)
will be meeting Friday 21 February at 11.30am at
Eastwood Golf Club with a 2 course lunch costing \$30.
This will be followed by a general "get together" as it is
the first meeting for the year. There will be a raffle,
trading table and book stall with all monies raised
going to help support the Club's 8 students sponsored
by The Smith Family learning for life program. This
helps 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
are small groups within the club
eg coffee mornings, cards and
book club etc. with the
occasional outing.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-
8602



The Cook Islands:

'I made you wonderful'

St Joseph's and St Bernadette's Parish,
Boronia are hosting World Day of Prayer
on Friday 7th March 2025 @ 10.30am.

You are invited to join people from several
churches in the Boronia and Bayswater
areas.

St Joseph's Church
Boronia,
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Boronia, 3155

[www.worlddayofpra
yeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)



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* Thanks Riley for visiting our Office