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Boronia & The Basin

March 2025 Issue 341

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Editorial: Danny Nolan

Trees for the Forest

When does a tree become an invasive species? Is it after it has been in the same position for over three-quarters of a century and outlived its use as a windbreak? Its original purpose. When does a tree gain the notoriety of interfering with the growth of native flora when it has been made home by multiple native fauna? How long will it take for native trees, the trees that are being removed for the reasons listed above, to replicate themselves as shady walkways?

These are the questions the Stewards of Koolunga and the Knox Council have managed to reach a compromise on recently, when it was announced that 70 pine trees were to be removed from the reserve and their area reworked as a native preserve. It will always be a problem when environmental concerns hit historical and aesthetic barriers, but this time both parties have taken a common sense approach and managed to come to an agreement.

The Koolunga Reserve is a beautiful park that changes environs very quickly over short distances and is a treasure for those who live beyond its boundaries. I'd hate to see it change but the pines are reaching the end of their life cycle and need to be addressed. To rip them all out in fast succession over a short period was never a great idea. I'm glad it's not happening now.



CAN YOU HELP??

Thank you to Steven Lakey who answered our pleas for Drivers! We appreciate having you both 'on board. We still need one more driver for a round, which takes less than one hour a month.

Currently, we are looking for two volunteer 'walkers' to deliver papers in the following areas:

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If you are interested in joining our volunteer crew, please contact us here:

BBCN via contact@bbcن.οrg.au

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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.

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

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Page 3 "Bird"

Local Wildlife

Des Palmer

Image credits: David O'Brien

I have written on this topic before but feel there has been so much happening on the local front this past month it's next level! Where does one begin? Deep breaths Des, slow down, take it easy, stay calm. Easy, tiger!

There, that's better, I know where to start now. My sister-in-law, Gabrielle, very excitedly called me about a week ago. "I have an Echidna in my garden!" (she lives in Owen street, Boronia). Of course, le wife and I jumped in the car and, avoiding any speeding tickets, got there in a flash. He was wandering about her garden feeding nonchalantly (that's their style) on the abundant supply of ants. Gold!

As you are possibly aware already, Echidna are egg-laying mammals and are called monotremes; the Platypus and the Echidna are the only mammals on earth to do so, strange concept to get your head around! You may recall I wrote an article on monotremes some time ago.... I couldn't give you a specific date.

A couple of Saturdays ago my grandson Jeremy and I were delivering this newspaper in our area (we deliver to the good folk who live in Rothan Avenue, Garden Avenue, and Debson close). On struggling up the Debson close Jack and Jill, we noticed a hell of a racket, the Noisy Miners and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were going off tap, definite evidence of a bird of prey in the vicinity. On looking over towards Old Joe's creek a raptor could be seen heading towards us. My initial thought was Wedge-tailed Eagle, large bird with deep V-wing silhouette, but stood corrected as it floated just above the treetops above us, Square-tailed Kite, an extremely rare raptor with possibly only 30 breeding pairs in Victoria! And just quietly only the second one I've ever seen. Shut the gate!

These birds specialise in nest robbing, nestlings their primary food source, and appear to float above the canopy, rarely flapping their wings, which is what this bird was doing. Absolute gold! You may recall I wrote an article in this paper about the Square-tailed Kite, it was, umm, some time ago now, you remember, don't you? Ummm, I'm sure I did.

Now, I'm not angling for a reduction in my rates notice or anything like that, (it would be nice though, I am down on my luck) but I reckon our council, Knox council, have to be commended for being an excellent council for all the services they provide. In collaboration with Melbourne Water they have constructed an excellent new



White-throated Needletail

wetland over near the Knox city shopping complex. I have been there for a sticky beak several times and have seen some cracking birds there, Black-fronted Dotterel, Lewin's Rail and Latham's Snipe, to name a few, the latter being one of my favourite birds.

Yeah, these birds called Latham's Snipe, right, they migrate from Japan and will be leaving our sunny shores in the next month or so and will return in August. Very well camouflaged they are mostly only observed if they are disturbed and will flush from cover with a loud 'chak' and explosive flight. It's no wonder they can fly between here and Japan and vice versa in record time! Now, you won't believe this but I actually wrote an article in these pages on this very species, yes I did, it was back in... well I'll be hanged if I can recall when that was, but yep, I'm certain I did.

And to finish off, last weekend the field trip group went to Blind Creek Billabong, just down the frog and toad from my abode (hey, how's that, that rhymes, I didn't mean to do that gee I'm a scream aren't I?). Jenny from the Friends of Blind Creek Billabong showed us around, teaching us the plants that the group has planted, it looks a picture believe me. From its inception some 25 years ago by Faye and Allan the Blind Creek Friends group have turned this place into an area of exquisite beauty.

We also did some birdwatching on our venture with Jenny, go on, the highlight for me was a



Latham's Snipe

flock of 150 plus White-throated Needletails, amazing birds which spend their lives on the wing, feeding incessantly on airborne insects, sometimes at incredible heights. Like the Snipe, they too will soon be leaving us and returning to their breeding grounds in Siberia, the Himalayas, Mongolia and Northern China.

Don't tell me, I wrote an article on White-throated Needletails in this very newspaper sometime in the past. I tell you what, your memory is better than mine, although somewhere in the deep dark crypt of my mind I believe you are correct. Would you consider taking on the role of my personal secretary? Apply through this newspaper.



Reader Contribution

Bradley Cocks

Sharing a picture of 3 Tawny Frogmouths that regularly visit our backyard in Benbow Crescent, Boronia.

WONDERS IN AUSTRALIA

Dayangani Silva

We are the wonders in this world.

We, kangaroos are the happiest in this world.

Thank the god, for creating the world.

We are strange and strong as all.

Mum and Dad, both love me much.

Keeping me, in her pouch.

I'm a Joey, lull and watch.

She protects me, keeping in her pouch.

I see mums, carrying their joeys.

But, my mum takes me putting in her pouch.

She turns, grass and tender leaves to white milk.

Mum, you are the greatest on the earth.

I suck fresh milk, from your nipples.

One is white and one is pink.

All four nipples feed me, nourish.

Kangaroo mum, is the best mum of the world.

Kangaroo families live in thickets.

They are kind and calm good friends.

We can swim, walk and hop.

YOU ALL LOVE ME AND PROTECT AS WELL.

Pauline 101*Jan Birkett*

Well-known BBCN contributor, Pauline Brown, has reached another milestone, celebrating her 101st birthday.

Pauline was born in Mildura 10/02/1924. She was one of four children. The family moved to Marine Parade in St Kilda, then to Brighton and then a bigger move to Sydney.

However, when war broke out in 1939 the family moved back to Bay Street, Brighton.

On 5/5/1950 Pauline married Keith Brown at the Uniting Church in Collins Street, Melbourne. They had three children and lived in Traralgon, Kilsyth, Talbot and Boronia. Pauline spent a lot of her time volunteering at Monkami in Croydon.



She also wrote a book about Monkami. Her brother, John, who lived with Down's Syndrome lived with Pauline and family.

Pauline loved playing squash and golf and of course writing. She won many awards for poetry. No doubt she would still be writing but sadly her sight has deteriorated. Pauline now lives in a facility after leaving Elsie Street, Boronia, where she made many friends. She has made some new friends and is popular with the staff amusing them with many stories. We were asked to wear blue and she had stunning blue glasses.



The Acorn Bar & Restaurant is the perfect place to gather, we thrive on the enjoyment of bringing people together. Over the years we have remained "a piece of home" to our locals "old" and "new."

Enjoy a drink in our bar or head out to our undercover back deck area which is a destination for those after work drinks, dinner, a celebration, milestone birthdays or for any occasion.

Share a meal with the family, drinks with friends, or sit back and relax and enjoy the weekend's live music.



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The Basin Music Festival Celebrates Twenty Years

After attending the Port Fairy Folk Festival in 2004, a group of friends who regularly met at The Oak Tree Tavern finally changed their repeated comment, “someone should...” to “we should start a music festival here in The Basin.” These core founders of the festival include John Mortimore, Mal and Aileen Leather, Ray and Sabrina Smith, and Charmaine Schmidt, among several others. On a shoestring budget, The Basin Music Festival (TBMF) first started in 2005, with a humble stage made of a few plywood sheets thrown onto the lawn in the park, relying on loaned and donated equipment with volunteer operators. Today it’s an exceptional musical showcase event with professional staging, audio production and engineers. As a volunteer-run non-profit, TBMF has operated with a small, stable and dedicated organising committee despite varying membership over the years. The committee makes the festival happen with local event volunteers, generous performing musicians, long-term support from Knox City Council, Bendigo Bank, various businesses, local traders and a great local community. The intention is to provide an outstanding environment for artists while maintaining the local, inclusive community spirit of The Basin.



TBMF 2025 March 21-23



TBMF Founders

From that plywood stage in 2005, the production quality steadily improved. By 2007 the park stage was upgraded to a modest gazebo on risers loaned by a local party hire company. The size of the festival grew steadily as well, with multiple venues added, including two community halls (Seniors Hall, Progress Hall), two cafés (The Chocolate Dragonfly and Svaks Cakes), a restaurant (Calendula), and two pubs (The Oak Tree Tavern and The Acorn).

From 2009 to 2014 the park stage was upgraded by using large freight trailers loaned by Cameron Interstate, with added risers, drapes and sound gear hired from Powa Productions. The adjacent playground was upgraded too during those years, and in 2015 Knox City Council built The Basin Pavilion thanks to the efforts of John Mortimore. By 2019 this modest little community music festival featured over 400 musicians on nine stages (a herculean task by program manager Ray Smith). Later that year, the annual Youth Stage was a success, followed by the monthly summer concert series through February anticipating a great festival weekend in late March 2020. But then the world shut down and the festival was cancelled just days out. The committee carried on (mainly via teleconference) to organise TBMF 2021, but the pandemic persisted, so TBMF 2021 was cancelled. The dauntless committee then managed to organise a live-stream event in September 2021, between Melbourne’s famous lock-downs. In March 2022 the TBMF committee got permission from Council to present a one-day concert in the park in lieu of a full weekend festival, working under strict pandemic protocols. By mid-2022 the lock-downs eased, and a successful weekend festival was produced in November with ever-improving production value through greater funding support and discounted hire of equipment and services from locally owned company Resolution-X. There was no time to rest for the organisers, who went back to work to produce full weekend festivals in March 2023 and 2024 with even better stage and sound quality, prompting many positive reviews from the performers.

There’s a great line-up of artists on the schedule for TBMF 2025, featuring about 120 acts on five stages over the weekend of 21-23 March. The festival website (tbmf.org.au) has an online program guide, where attendees can create their own custom schedules. The festival invites volunteers to register (see the website) to help set-up and pack-up. Finally, after successful fundraising, and to celebrate twenty years of exceptional community and culture, all venues will have free-entry at The Basin Music Festival 2025.



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How should Council manage community assets worth \$1.237 billion?

This includes buildings, roads, footpaths, sporting facilities, drainage systems, bushland, and playgrounds.

We are seeking community panel members to help us identify priorities for the development of our Asset Plan 2025–35.

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Confessions of a Music Nerd

A Strummer's Story by Rob Fairbairn

OK, I'll admit it, I'm a music nerd. Stored in the deepest recesses of my brain are facts about the bands and singers of the 1960s and 70s and the songs they sang. I realised this recently when my TV viewing was rudely interrupted by a Toyota commercial. On hearing the opening lines of the accompanying song, I recognised it immediately. Then, when it jumped to the chorus "Just gimme some kind of sign girl, oh my baby..." the name Brenton Wood leapt, uninvited from my memory. It was unexpected and instantaneous, and Wikipedia confirmed that "Gimme Little Sign" sung by Brenton Wood was released in 1967 with Wood (real name Alfred Smith) as one of its co-writers. I was sixteen and would have heard it blaring from my trusty transistor radio, via one of Melbourne's 'pop' radio stations, 3UZ, 3XY or 3AK.

Some people have an eye for a bargain or a nose for trouble, a head for figures or a taste for adventure. My special sense, however, would be an ear for music. And my ears have a direct connection to my brain and therefore my memory. I have to be reminded of the dates of my grandchildren's birthdays and were it not for an SMS alert I would probably forget to collect my prescriptions from the pharmacy. Meanwhile the names of most of the French towns we visited during last year's overseas trip have completely disappeared from my memory. But ask me the names of the original members of American Jazz/Rock Band Chicago and I can tell you all seven. (Which makes me the perfect partner at a Pub Quiz night but sadly, pretty useless for anything else.) Did anyone else see them at Festival Hall in 1973, by the way?

This 'special power' also allows me to recall exactly where I was when I first heard certain songs. Again in 1967, probably during the school holidays, I was in my bedroom, listening to the radio while lacquering my new wardrobe, (not the most exciting way for a sixteen-year-old to spend his holidays) when a Small Faces song came on. In the bridge and chorus, I detected a strange whooshing sound and was so intrigued by it I couldn't wait for the song to be played again. The song was "Itchycoo Park" and along with its two follow-ups, "Tin Soldier" and "Lazy Sunday" is considered a classic of the psychedelic sixties. I later learned that the whooshing sound I heard was "flanging," a tape manipulation effect invented by studio engineer George Chkiantz.

My musical memories go back even further: to the migrant hostel in 1962 and hearing "The Song of the Clyde" by famous Scottish tenor, Kenneth McKellar being played on a neighbour's record player, to the late 1950s, hearing my Uncle John singing, "I'm Getting Married in the Morning" as we readied ourselves to go to the pictures and even earlier,



to my grandparents' house in Carlisle, hearing my Scottish Granny in her blue pinafore singing, "A Gordon For Me" and "Charlie is Ma Darling" as she busied herself with the housework. Maybe this says more about the power of music and its ability to leave indelible markers on our memories than it does about my being a music nerd. Do you have an early musical memory? Perhaps we are all music nerds to some degree.

The Small Faces might be better remembered in Australia for their 1968 on tour antics which with The Who and Paul Jones, involved hotel room trashing and in-flight drunkenness. But only a music nerd would know that.

Reader Response Letter

Tash

After reading Amanda's letter in your February issue, I feel her frustration.

I feel Knox Council don't take safety into consideration when it comes to our trees. It's tree hugging madness gone wrong!! Yet, the moment they catch a whiff of kids building a bike track – it is destroyed rather swiftly by council as deemed "unsafe"!!

We had a tree of concern years ago. It was clearly not in good shape and we were concerned and asked for it to be removed several times, always denied. The tree is on council land behind our house, but grew into our fence, and when we had to replace our fence, we were simply told by Knox Council to build the fence around the tree.

Then, 13 years ago, my son celebrated his 6th Birthday party on a sunny and still day with his class in our backyard. 10 minutes after the party ended, a huge limb fell, landing all the way through our yard and clipping our decking. It crushed a Metal Tonka truck toy like it was papier-mache. Imagine if that was half an hour earlier??

I felt so sick with all the what-if thoughts!!!

We now have another tree of concern at the front, with complaints from us and our neighbour's, same story from the council.

One day they will have blood on their hands, it is only time.

Readers Letter

Overgrown foliage damage from council land

Gail

I am reaching out in the hope that you can write an article about my continued efforts to have Knox Council address the issues of very overgrown foliage that invades my property and has damaged my fence extensively.

I feel this issue has fallen on deaf ears. I first emailed them back in 2023, and still nothing has been done to fix this issue.

My fence is falling apart with the damages from the ivy and foliage which is from council land.

I have had to pay gardeners to cut back the overgrowth, and being an elderly resident this is not something I feel I should have to be dealing with. I have been a resident here for over 20 years and this has always been an issue. I have 2 small dogs that I fear will be injured by the broken fence and may get stuck in between their wire fence and my broken panels.

I am attaching photos of damages in the hope that you could publish and help push the council to do better for ratepayers.

Please reach out if you can help.



Magic Spots In Boronia and The Basin

Boronia and The Basin have many hidden gems that are lovely to visit, explore, and relax. Whether they be historical buildings, parks, gardens, walking tracks, or just a quiet secluded place that brings peace, they are worth acknowledging and sharing.

Where is your favourite spot in our community? Upload in a photo to the BBCN website, with a couple of sentences for us to share in the paper, so that others can benefit from your insights.

Millers Homestead is well known, but surprisingly seldom busy. I enjoy every visit I make and enjoy a rest in the lovely gardens.



<https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/whats-happening/explore-knox/historic-homesteads/>

Social media ban for under 16s – A youth perspective

Matthew Payne

Intrigued by the quagmire of opinions surrounding the topic, I decided to launch an investigation into what my generation really thinks about the Government's planned Social Media Ban for under 16s. I conversed with dozens of my 14 and 15 year-old friends, peers and acquaintances. A focus group of our generation. People who, unlike me, currently have social media, but will be banned from it under the proposal.

Some in the group were concerned with the lack of connectivity that the ban will result in. They fear isolation. Particularly those that belong to minority groups. Being disconnected from their communities could have serious consequences for their wellbeing, and potentially their future.

Wellbeing is a common concern amongst my generation with the Social Media ban. Some say that their mental health will suffer greatly. I find this ironic as it juxtaposes with the Government's rhetoric that it will improve our wellbeing.

Interestingly, many say that they can live without SnapMaps, and other such tracking

apps. These features are normalising stalking traits. Concerningly, amongst my generation, people will say that they are tracking someone's location as casually as if they are checking the weather. When I point this out, people say it's just a joke, or get defensive, saying that it can be turned off at any time if the person doesn't want to be tracked.

"Brain Rot" language (youth slang) is a common concern, particularly for Gen Alpha (those slightly younger than us). It is able to spread super quickly via Social Media. Some call it the natural evolution of language, and fear it'll be robbed from us. Most say that it is better when contained. Some admit that they can barely understand their younger siblings because of their use of words such as "skibidi," "sigma" and "rizzler." A lot of Brain Rot is actually quite inappropriate (and definitely not age appropriate) as our Premier recently found out in a quickly deleted Instagram post last year...

The more politically inclined of my generation point out that the government would never ban Social Media for adults. It's not only taking away our Freedom of Speech, it is also blocking our intercommunication. This is a measure that many dictators use to subjugate their population. That's not to say that our leaders are dictators. But still, are we really that scary?

My peers and I are extremely cynical about how the government plans to enforce the ban. As many of them point out, it is extremely easy to lie about one's age. The whole population - not just us - would be subjected to any new age identification measures. We think that this is a little bit extreme. It also adds another layer of identity that would be online, and potentially stolen.

Even if the government manages to create a secure age identification system, teenagers can easily install a VPN that says that they are joining from a different country. It cements our belief that this ban will be nearly impossible to enforce, and may just pose new problems that will need to be addressed by future governments.

Concluding my investigation, it is clearer to me what the focus group really thinks about the proposed ban. Whilst many despise, or even fear, it, most are just apathetic. Lots of people think that they will just find another way to access Social Media, because whilst aspects of it are bad, others aren't. The government needs to tread carefully, and not underestimate a generation that already feels left out, isolated, and subjected to systemic ageism.

Update from Councillor Peter Lockwood

We are in the middle of the budget for Knox. It means a lot of balancing and prioritising. Hard work. In the meantime, we have started our committees and the Arts and Culture committee met for the first time this year where we heard of the wonderful work being done by Your Library at Millers Homestead. It is very popular. Get on down if you haven't already to see the art, hear music, learn something valuable, borrow a book, and do a whole host of other activities. See Michelle and have a chat. Of course, we have a wonderful array of talent in Knox with performing groups like SLAMS, the Drumming Circle for people with special needs,



The Hut Gallery, the 1812 Theatre, Andrea from ASV Academy and of course TBMF! Where would we be without TBMF (see page 5). Paige and I are certain we will enjoy this year's festival. The ASV Academy fosters so much young talent in Knox and got us underway with the Knox Factor.

At the other end, works have started on the green spine project linking Tormore to Albert Ave. This is designed to improve walking and cycling from one side of Boronia to the other and make it green at the same time. This will provide an attractive and shady path across Boronia. When we asked the people they told us how hard it was to get across Boronia. It was easier to drive. We are trying to fix this.

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

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Good Reads:**The Boronia & Its Death Trap Crossing 1888-1998**

Danny Nolan

I've always had a fascination with the Old Boronia Rail Crossing since I moved into the area and have researched and written about it myself several times. I was excited when the author, Ray Peace, showed me a draft of what he was working on back in 2023 at the Boronia Mall 50th Anniversary celebrations. I had no idea how deep he would go into the crossing and its surroundings in this meticulously researched book.

Regular BBCN History contributor and President of the Knox Historical Society (KHS) Ray has put together a comprehensive history of the Boronia Crossing and pretty much everything that happened in a one-kilometre square area around it. This includes social and development issues in the area including the train station and the 3 main shopping districts. This highlights the growing pains Boronia as a town centre had to endure to become the place we love to live in today.

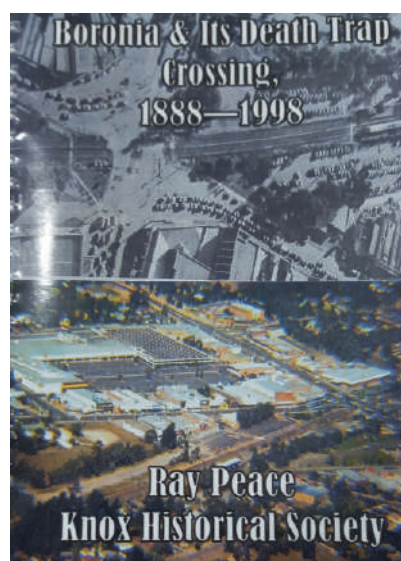
The book is full of revealing snippets such as the original railway crossing plans in 1890 included "... a standard set of crossing gates, a gatekeeper, and a gatekeeper cottage." These, however, were abolished in 1894 as a cost-cutting exercise. When you consider flashing lights weren't installed until 1953 and Boom gates until 1971, and the deaths that resulted in these delayed decisions, it just boggles the mind and is so hard to comprehend.

But as Ray points out, the whole endeavour of building the branch line and station was tainted by corruption, self-interest, and budget concerns and delays, which he goes into in great detail.

Ray hasn't spent too much time retelling the Crossing's most infamous accident, the 1952 bus collision, which is a book in itself. But the book isn't wanting as that incident is part of a larger narrative.

In a nutshell, this is an important book and deserves a place in any local history buff's bookshelf. It is possibly the best book I've read on the area and I recommend it wholeheartedly.

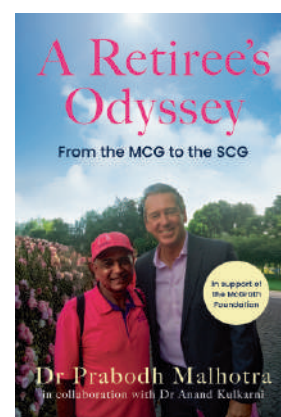
I bought my copy (for a ridiculously cheap \$10) at the KHS and it was the last copy. All I can suggest is that the next printing be done in a larger format with larger pictures, possibly in a hardcover. This title deserves it.

**Local Author's Book****A Retiree's Odyssey from the MCG to the SCG**

Prabodh authored this book in collaboration with Dr Anand Kulkarni, to describe the two walks he undertook from Melbourne to Sydney for the charity, the McGrath Foundation. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the McGrath Foundation.

At the age of more than 70, he undertook the walks in the summers of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 and raised more than 100,000 dollars for the McGrath Foundation. At 73, once again I successfully walked for a third time in the summer of 2024/2025, although in this edition of the book, the third walk is not covered. The book documents his motivations and inspirations to undertake the walks, the preparation, the interesting, quirky and generous people met on these sojourns, dealing with the media, and the challenges and trials faced in these momentous and ultimately triumphant walks for charity. Prabodh has a very strong commitment to community health and sees the walks and the book as my way of giving something back to Australia which has blessed him with a wonderful life. The book is one of optimism and hope in shining a light on breast cancer and the need to support and care for people who have had and are dealing with it.

This book is now available from Dymocks bookshop at Knox, Belgrave Books Barn, Snap Fitness Wantirna, and Back in Motion Mitcham. The e-Book and hard copies are also available from Amazon Australia.

**New Classes for Beginners**

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**Why learn Esperanto?**

Esperanto is a constructed language. It is entirely logical in structure, there are no irregular verbs or grammatical quirks. Speakers of European languages including English will find that they recognise many of the words - this is by design. As such it is easy to use and much easier to learn than "Natural languages" such as Italian, German, Spanish and English.

To learn Esperanto is a fun and practical thing to do. It can also make the task of later learning other languages much more manageable. Students of Esperanto achieve fluency much faster than people learning other languages. A Polish doctor - Dr Lazar Zamenhof published the initial version in 1887. The formal definition of Esperanto was declared in 1905.

If you would like to learn more about Esperanto and possibly join the next U3A beginners Esperanto course please phone: 03 9752 2737 or view <https://www.u3aknox.org.au/>

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Community Impact: A Life Saved through Generosity and Quick Action

Last year, our Club made a contribution to the community by donating a portable defibrillator to Knox Infolink. Little did we know just how vital this donation would become in a life-and-death situation.

Recently, Ben, the breakfast coordinator at Knox Infolink, was alerted to an emergency when a 23-year-old male was found unconscious nearby. Recognising the urgency of the situation, Ben quickly rushed to assist. He dialed 000, and during the call, he was asked if a defibrillator was available. Thanks to our timely donation, the answer was a resounding yes.

In a moment that could easily lead to panic, Ben maintained his composure. He followed the instructions provided by the defibrillator and was also guided to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. His quick thinking and decisive actions were crucial in stabilising the young man until the ambulance arrived.

The arrival of paramedics marked a turning point, as they were able to transport the young man to the hospital. We are relieved and overjoyed to share that he has since survived and is now receiving care from his mother. This outcome is a powerful reminder of how vital quick action can be in emergencies.

In the aftermath of this life-saving event, one of our members, reached out to Healthguard, the supplier of the defibrillator, to arrange for its servicing now that it had been used. Darren from Healthguard was thrilled to hear about the successful application of the device and its role in saving a life. In recognition of this success, the suppliers of the defib, have generously offered a defibrillator to the survivor, to be installed in a location of his choice. Healthguard will cover the servicing and any necessary replacement parts free of charge of the used defibrillator.

This experience has not only highlighted the importance of having defibrillators accessible in our community but also showcased the incredible impact our contributions can have on individuals' lives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ben, whose heroism and quick response played a pivotal role in this incident. His actions exemplify the spirit of community service, and the difference one person can make.

Together, we are making strides in ensuring our community is better equipped to handle emergencies, and we are proud to have played a part in helping someone in need.

Councillor Paige Kennett

Have you visited Koolunga Native Reserve on Forest Rd FTG? Koolunga is a 14-acre native reserve which hosts a large off-lead dog park and an expansive native bushland area. The native reserve has a reported 177 indigenous plant species, and sightings of many mammals, frogs, birds and insects.

In June 2023, Council endorsed a Future Directions Plan (FDP) which was the culmination of many years work and contributions. The plan gives clear direction to the council for the care of trees, creek management and enhancement of Koolunga.

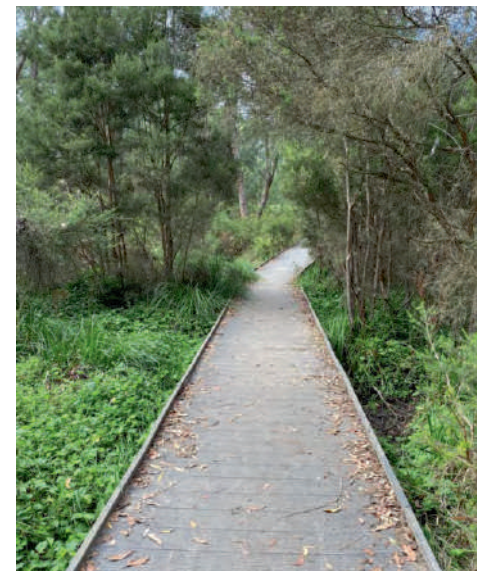
One of the actions endorsed by Council, was the staged removal of the pines. Residents raised their concerns with me, so I worked with officers to make amendments to the works plan which intended to be a compromise that considered a diversity of views. Also noting that Councillors are rarely involved in operational tasks, as the plan had been endorsed by Council. An urgent item of business was raised and unanimously endorsed, adjusting the operational plan to reduce the pine removal from 51 over two years, down to 14 trees and pause any further removal for 3 years. This was a divisive issue, and not a decision that was taken lightly, or made easily, but one that I hope strikes a balance of all the things we value, with a long-term view.

I want to share this with you, because this is a small example that demonstrates that we are listening and shows there's an opportunity to work together for representative outcomes for our community. Please let me know if you have questions.

In other news, we are looking forward to our much-loved, The Basin Music Festival on 21st, 22nd and 23rd March – I hope to see you all there. As your Chandler Ward Councillor, I welcome you to contact me.

Email: Cr.Paige.Kennett@knox.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0498-880-807



insert brain here



by woodsy

PARISH FETE

SATURDAY
MARCH 29, 2025
10AM - 3PM
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All you can eat. Come enjoy
a fun day with Family & Friends
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Update from Jackson Taylor MP

To kick things off, we've announced Victoria's Fair Fuel Plan - helping you save up to \$330 a year at the pump. We are capping fuel price rises – and locking in fuel prices for a whole day. So no more price gouging. We'll also introduce a Fuel Finder on the Services Victoria app, featuring real time prices across the state to ensure you have transparent choices. It's all about giving families more power at the bowser. Stay tuned here and across my social media for more updates as this rolls out.

Education Funding

Big news announced at Boronia Heights Primary recently (pictured), alongside Prime

Minister Anthony Albanese, Premier Jacinta Allan, Education Ministers Ben Carroll MP and Jason Clare MP and local Federal Member Mary Doyle MP, it was announced that \$2.5 billion of extra funding will make sure every public school student gets the support they deserve.

This increases the Federal Government's contribution to education in Victoria by 5% to fully fund schools based on the Gonski model - in essence massive news for kids. This is the biggest investment into education in a very long time and it'll make a huge difference in classrooms.



Boronia Works

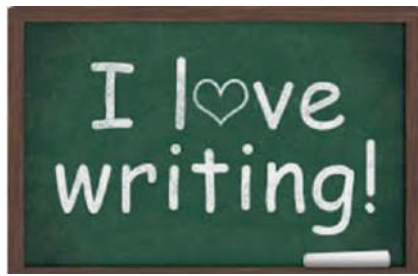
Excitingly, final planning is underway for the Boronia Station precinct with final plans set to come out mid this year and works due to start at the end of this year. The new precinct will include a major upgrade to the station, a new landscaped plaza, more lighting and CCTV and lots more. And right now, you'll see works have commenced on the new 'Green Spine' project through the heart of Boronia along Chandler Road. This is being delivered by Knox Council and has funding from the State Government. It is delivering new wider shared pathways, resurfaced roads and new landscaping and other elements to make it more pedestrian and cyclist friendly as well as a space for locals to enjoy. Keep an eye out for updates.

In Other News

- Construction is about to kick off on the Tormore Reserve Pavilion which is jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments.
- Works continue on the major expansion of the Angliss Hospital to deliver more beds and better services, set for completion in 2026.
- Delivered funding to Knox Infolink for more food relief support.
- Delivered funding for accessibility upgrades at Fairhills High School.

Shout-out

My annual BBQ turned into a pizza night for the good folk at SES Knox Unit! Every year I put on some food with my team's help to say a small thanks to these incredible people who turn up when we need them. It's the 6th year I've done it and due to the heat - we went pizza and I reckon we may be sticking with it - very popular! Cheers again to our SES volunteers and to all our emergency services volunteers locally and across the State that have had a busy few months keeping us safe.

KIDS
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Scan to read entry requirements and submit your YWI contributions.

<https://bbcن.org.au/young-writers/>

Image below:

Zach Cooper, Year 8 from Boronia K-12 College receiving his YWI award for February for the creative story Mr Normal.

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

Since its inception in mid-2023, the BBCN Young Writers Initiative has brought a smile to many faces. Smiles of the writers as they get the opportunity to share their writing contributions with members of our community and receive cash prizes. Smiles of the proud parents, family, friends, and teachers of the recipient of YWI Awards. Smiles of community members as they read the creative contributions our young people are making, and contemplate the insights these young people will bring as they become leaders in our society. And smiles from others like us, the publishers of BBCN who delight in encouraging young people to share their voices and hone their writing capabilities.

Thanks to the generosity of Bendigo Bank, BBCN YWI awards have put over \$3000 back into our community through prizes to both schools and students, with more to come.

One example of success from this initiative is last year's overall individual winner, Matthew Payne is now a regular contributor to BBCN and also the youth writer for another local paper. See page 8 for his latest insights on the social media ban. Matthew has also just started up a local Newspaper Club at Boronia K-12 College, helping to inspire other young writers.

We hope to see many more entries through 2025 and more of our local schools in Boronia and The Basin become proactive in this important initiative.



Young Writers Initiative Winner for March 2025

Hidden in Sight

Constance Harris, Year 7 Boronia K-12

It was Halloween night, not long ago, and that is when my life changed forever. That was when the secrets of my family history were about to be revealed.

I was having the same dream that I have had ever since I moved into the house at number six hundred and sixty-six Phantom Lane. The dream went like this: I was walking in the house all alone when I got to the stairwell that leads up to the attic. I see a light at the attic door. I open the door, and the light is so bright I cannot see. That is when I wake up.

Because it was Halloween, I decided to have a look in the attic because of the dream. Was it a sign? A warning? I decided to forget my worries and just get into the attic to find something out. As I walked up the stairs, I heard whispers trying to keep themselves hidden. As the stairs creaked under my weight suddenly, they stopped. I had a sudden feeling that I was not

alone. I opened the door and, there was nothing but a cracked mirror in the corner. I looked around the room I saw a movement in the mirror, I whipped around and was transfixed, like I was covered in hardened cement. As if I was in a dream, finding myself right up close to the mirror. Then I heard whispers around me saying "touch the mirror". I found a strange wanting to touch it, as if it would do something for me. My hand moved to touch it, and as I did, I felt like I was weightless, and blacked out.

I woke up and that is all I could remember. Covering the mirror up I remembered that I had blacked out in the corner and woke up in the middle of the room. Someone had moved me, but who? I then heard a lady say in a hushed tone "I told you to move that mirror, Ezzie. She has found it and now knows that something is up here. If we do not tell the others there will be trouble if we do not do something!" Another voice piped up. "We should tell her since she can hear us." An elderly woman and pale young lady appeared out of shadows in front of me.

To be continued....



Image above:

Ella Rule, Year 12 (resident of Boronia) receives her YWI award for February for her lovely story about Cicarias. Ella desires to be an influential writer in future.

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NOTE: All Young Writer Initiative submissions are printed as received, without editing.

Vigilant Baby-Proofing vs. Supervision:

What's the right approach for your family?

Cath Shelley

Keeping your baby safe at home comes down to two key strategies: baby-proofing your space or keeping a constant watchful eye on your little one.

Baby-proofing, or modifying your home to remove potential hazards and make it safer for your child, might include such things as securing sharp furniture edges, covering electrical outlets, installing safety gates or baby pens, or locking cabinets containing dangerous items. By setting up physical barriers and protections, you create a controlled environment where the risks are minimised.

One of the key advantages of baby-proofing is that it allows parents to reduce their supervision, without consistently monitoring. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, about 80% of injuries involving household products in children under 5 years old are caused by items that could be secured with safety locks, such as cabinets containing cleaning products, medications, or sharp objects.

However, a study published in the Journal of Pediatrics found that injuries occurring during active play were 50% less likely to result in significant harm if the child was under direct



supervision. This is where the power of supervision comes into play.

The benefit of supervision is that it's adaptable. For instance, falls are the most common cause of nonfatal injuries in children under 4, with the National Safety Council reporting that falls account for approximately 40% of all unintentional injuries in this age group. While baby-proofing can reduce fall risks, supervision ensures immediate intervention in the case of a stumble or climb.

However, the downside of relying only on supervision is that it's exhausting and requires constant vigilance. You can't always predict when a danger will arise, and it's easy to get distracted. As babies explore more of the home, keeping an eye on them all the time becomes more challenging.

Parents who opt for more of a flexible area for babies to roam the house under direct supervision can experience additional developmental and behavioural benefits.

Allowing flexibility in surroundings can improve problem-solving skills and motor development as little ones navigate changing household obstacles and challenges. In addition, by watching their progress and stepping in only when necessary, babies can begin to develop a sense of control over their actions. This helps them learn to make choices, take risks (within safe limits), and develop a sense of self-efficacy.

There are also documented benefits around this approach playing a key role in emotional regulation and social development. When babies interact with their environment, they are also learning to process their emotions. If they face a setback, like falling down while trying to walk, a reassuring presence and guidance helps them develop resilience. Positive reinforcement during these moments builds their confidence and emotional regulation. In addition, actively engaging with your child while they explore teaches them the foundations of social interaction and attachment, building trust and security.

By combining baby-proofing with times of active supervision, you're creating a safe and nurturing environment for your little one to thrive, without exhausting yourself or spending every waking moment watching your little one.

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International Day of Forests March 21st

2025 theme is Forests and Food

International Day of Forests is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of all types of forests and trees outside forests. The aim of the day is to celebrate and draw attention to the vital role that forests play in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, and food security.

Australia has a broad range of forest ecosystems from rainforests to dry eucalypt forests and mangroves. These forests play a crucial role in the country's habitat preservation efforts and act as a natural carbon sink that helps combat climate change. There are many reforestation programs in Australia. Nestlé's Global Reforestation Program, has committed to planting 10 million trees in Australia (that's one for every household). Since 2022, 2.5 million have already been planted.

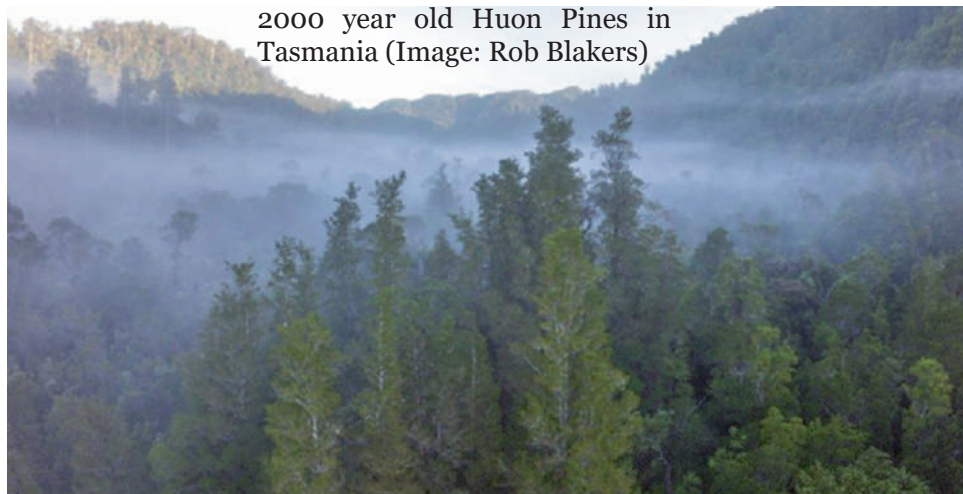
Interesting facts about our forests:

- 8000 years ago, nearly half of Earth's land was covered by forest. Today, just over 30% of the world's land is still covered by forests.
- 17% of Australia is covered in forest. That's about 3% of all the world's forests. This means Australia is the country with the 7th highest

amount of forest in the world. About 25% of this is rainforest.

- The Daintree Rainforest, located in tropical North Queensland, is the oldest surviving tropical rainforest in the world, over 110 million years old. It is incredibly diverse, being home to the most species of plants and animals found anywhere in the world
- In January 2022 a team of conservationists found a wild river in Tasmania with unlogged and undisturbed groves of 2000-year-old Huon pines. This was a remarkable find as sadly most of these ancient trees were logged out last century. These are Australia's longest-living trees, and the planet's second behind America's bristlecone pine.
- 80% of all the world's animals and insects live in forests. Despite only covering 31% of the

2000 year old Huon Pines in Tasmania (Image: Rob Blakers)



world's land, forests are home to four out of five of all land creatures. If we lose forests, these creatures lose their homes and can no longer survive.

- It's not just animals and insects that make the forest their home. According to the UN around 20% of the world's population depend on the forest for their livelihood.
- We need trees to live. Trees are beautiful and provide us with some of the food we eat. However, more importantly, they give us the air we breathe. Trees take in carbon dioxide (which we can't breathe) and give out oxygen.

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Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston

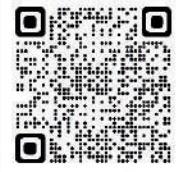
I'M HERE TO HELP!

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- Immigration, citizenship and customs
- Passports
- Pensions, and My Aged Care
- Child support
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In Aston we are delivering:

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- ✓ 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."

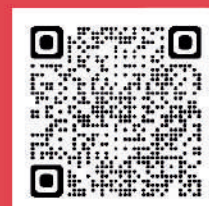
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Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston



SCAN ME!
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WEBSITE



International Women's Day has become a time to reflect on progress, to call for change and to celebrate the courage and determination of the women who changed history, and those who will advance gender equality into the future. Time to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. It is also an opportunity to unite, network and mobilise for meaningful change.

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which was the first global policy document on women that included a specific focus on girls' Before 1995, only 12 countries had legal sanctions against domestic violence. Today, there are 112 countries with National Action Plans on women, peace and security – a significant increase from only 19 in 2010.

This year's theme "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation, particularly young women and adolescent girls, as catalysts for lasting change.

The 2025 Young Australian of the Year is Dr Katrina Wruck, an indigenous woman, who has been recognised for her research on how to break down dangerous 'forever chemicals' into benign ones. Based on her research, Katrina has set up a profit-for-purpose business, Nguku Kula Green Labs, which is poised to transform the consumer goods sector by harnessing the power of green chemistry. What 30-year-old Katrina has accomplished in just a short time is remarkable and is an inspiration to other young women to study STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) programs.



Little River

Dr Gianne Ficatas

Veterinarian at Boronia Vet Clinic

River was presented to us in June of 2022 as a newborn puppy weighing in at 100 grams. She was born as a Bull Mastiff cross Rottweiler but was much smaller compared to the rest of her litter mates.

River was rejected by her mum because of her size and required hand rearing and bottle feeding. Our lovely clients, Kez and Kate, took her in and dedicated the next few months of their life to nurturing, growing and gaining River's trust.

When she presented to us at 7 days old, her abdomen was very distended, which was likely due to worms, and her tail was deformed. The main concern for River was the presence of a heart murmur. A heart murmur develops when there are changes to the blood flow in the heart, as blood is likely moving in the wrong direction. This was a big concern for us as we were not sure of the underlying cause of the murmur. Some puppies may have "innocent" murmurs, where the size of their heart relative to their blood flow causes a murmur that resolves with time, however given River's complicated situation and other co-morbidities we wanted to further investigate what was going on internally.

An echocardiogram (which is an ultrasound of the heart) was performed, which showed severe dilation in the left side of the heart due to large amounts of blood volume returning to the heart inappropriately. This was likely due to the presence of a PDA, which stands for a "patent ductus arteriosus." This is a normal hole in the heart that is present during foetal development in utero, however, shortly after birth it should close to allow blood to flow appropriately to the lungs. Unfortunately in River's case, this hole remained open and this meant her blood was not being directed to the correct place. If left untreated, eventually this was likely to develop into congestive heart failure and become rapidly life-threatening.

Time was running short for River, as there was definitely evidence of resulting left-sided congestive heart failure. River was referred to a specialist cardiologist for further evaluation. Even with surgical correction of this "PDA," it was difficult to predict if this would resolve the congestive heart failure that had already developed. However, River's committed owners elected to give her the best chance at life and take this risk. The surgery itself involves placement of a "ductal occluder" which is a device that enters into the bloodstream via an artery in the back leg, which will eventually go to the heart. After placement of this device, imaging is performed to check if the hole in the heart has occluded successfully. This procedure

River then...



went smoothly for River but now we had to continue her on heart medications to prevent any worsening of her heart failure.

River's owners were instructed to measure her resting respiratory rate while sleeping... the number of breaths per minute. This

allows us to determine whether any fluid is accumulating within the lungs, which is a good indicator of congestive heart failure. Thankfully, this number remained low for River. We repeated her echocardiogram ultrasound, which confirmed that the dimensions of her heart had reduced markedly.

Thankfully years on, River is medication-free for her heart condition and is living her best life. It is unlikely that this will impact her life moving forward. She has had to overcome many hurdles in life including her anxiety, which she is medicated for, and her deformed tail which she needed amputated. While life has dealt her some difficult cards, she has always taken it in her stride and always gives us the best version of herself.

We adore seeing how far you have come River!



River now...

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

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Phone: 9762 3177

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Volunteers Power Community Groups in The Basin and Boronia

The lifeblood of any community is its volunteers, and throughout The Basin and Boronia, their dedication keeps local clubs and initiatives thriving. With support from the Ferntree Gully Community Bank, several groups have received grants to continue their invaluable work, strengthening our community.

At Ben's Place, volunteers work tirelessly to provide food to those in need, stocking shelves, packing parcels, and offering a friendly face to those struggling. Thanks to a recent grant, the food pantry can expand its reach, ensuring more families receive the support they need.

Meanwhile, Boronia Bowls Club has installed a new security system, allowing volunteers to continue running this welcoming space for social connection and sport. Their efforts ensure the club remains a safe and vibrant hub for the community.

For Boronia Soccer Club, dedicated volunteers put in countless hours coaching and mentoring young players. A new grant has funded



Bendigo Bank Grants Night 2024

upgraded goals, giving athletes of all ages better facilities to train, play, and grow in the sport.

These groups, powered by volunteers, are at the heart of our community. Their time, energy, and passion keep essential services running and create opportunities for people to connect and thrive.

The Ferntree Gully Community Bank is proud to support over 72 organisations and charities, contributing more than \$5 million back into the local community—ensuring the spirit of volunteerism continues to make a lasting impact.

1812 Theatre

Spider's Web by Agatha Christie

Clarissa, the second wife of Henry Hailsham-Brown, is adept at spinning tales of adventure for their bored diplomatic circle.

When a murder takes place in her drawing room, she finds live drama much harder to cope with, especially as she suspects the murderer to be her young stepdaughter, Pippa

Worse. Still, the victim is the man who broke up Henry's first marriage.

Clarissa's fast-talking places her in some hair-raising situations, as she comes to learn that facts are much more terrifying than fiction.

Season: February 20 – March 15 at Lowe Auditorium



ANDREW WILLIAMS
Independent for Aston

VOTE 1 - ANDREW WILLIAMS

A better Aston and a better Australia

As an independent, my job will be to **represent you, not a political party.**
I have a plan for a better Aston and better Australia - see my website or Facebook for how I will do this.

Your vote has value.

For every first preference (Vote 1) vote, the taxpayers pay \$3.38. Last election the major parties received over \$68 million in taxpayer funds.

Have the major parties earned your \$3.38?

I am a true independent

I am not doing any preference deals

Simply VOTE 1 - Andrew Williams

Then **vote 2** for the party or candidate that you would want to form government. This way, if I do not end up in the top two candidates, your vote has still gone to the party that you would prefer to govern the country, not a party that I have done a deal with.

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**Your voice for
Aston**

Rediscover the Magic of Cinema with the Croydon Film Society at Metro Cinemas Boronia

Have you ever experienced the collective thrill of watching a film in a theatre filled with like-minded enthusiasts? Now imagine being part of a community that not only shares this joy but amplifies it by bringing together the best of world cinema. Welcome to the Croydon Film Society, where every screening is a celebration of storytelling, culture, and connection.

The Croydon Film Society has found a new home at Metro Cinemas Boronia. While the move from Croydon meant saying goodbye to a handful of members, the society has gained new enthusiasts and there is still room for more members to join. The selection process for movies is rigorous, with the committee watching nearly a hundred films to curate a program that is both unique and thought-provoking. What sets them apart is the entire experience. After each screening, the foyer buzzes with lively discussions as members share their thoughts and interpretations. For those looking to dive even deeper, a group often heads to the local café for coffee and extended conversations. These moments of connection make the



Croydon Film Society more than just a film club; it's a community where friendships are formed.

Affordable and Flexible Membership

The Croydon Film Society believes in making world-class cinema accessible to everyone. For just \$120 annually or \$100 for concession holders, members can enjoy 18 screenings, bringing the cost down to \$6 or \$5.50 per film. Even better, memberships can be shared between two people, with one attending each screening.

The 2025 season kicks off on Monday, 3rd February, with screenings held on alternate Mondays (excluding school and public holidays) at Metro Cinemas Boronia.

This year's lineup promises to be a rich tapestry of stories, from the evocative landscapes of Finland to the vibrant streets of Sudan. Whether it's an Australian indie gem, a Japanese masterpiece, or a thought-provoking Iranian drama, every film has been carefully chosen to offer a glimpse into different cultures, histories, and perspectives.

To join, simply email or call. With a welcoming atmosphere and an unparalleled program, there's no better time to dive into the world of cinema: <https://www.croydonfilms.org.au>

membership@croydonfilms.org.au

0490 663 159



CPP Community Theatre, based in Bayswater, is a not-for-profit amateur theatre group encouraging an appreciation and understanding of dramatic art.

We are very excited to announce that our Play for 2025, *Macbeth*, is coming live to audiences in Boronia this April. We are incredibly excited to bring this play to life, as it is the first time our group will have performed a Shakespeare Play.

We would love to be able to share this play and our love of dramatic art with our local community.

"In a play that explores the themes of ambition, guilt, and the corrupting influence of power, we meet Macbeth, the ambitious nobleman whom three witches prophesy will become King of Scotland. Spurred on by the witches' prediction and the ambition of his wife, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth murders King Duncan to seize the throne. His ascent complete and his destiny fulfilled, he is consumed by guilt and paranoia,

descending into tyranny and committing further atrocities to maintain his power. As Macbeth's reign of terror spirals out of control he faces rebellion, a wife consumed by madness, and the inevitability of his ultimate downfall. It is a production you will not want to miss."



SEASON DATES: April 4th - 12th

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

Boronia K-12 College, Performing Arts Centre

Albert Avenue, Boronia, VIC (park at Rangeview Road end)

<https://cppcommunitytheatre.com.au/>

Hats

Billy Keen

When I was a young man in South Africa I wore a hat for a few years. It was the fashion, and we were all a bit flamboyant in those days. It was the late sixties after all, with lots of flower power and several wars going on. I wore my fedora to hide my short back and sides, my regulation army haircut. That hat was the eponymous item in my short story, 'You Can Keep The Hat,' but I didn't keep it for long. I don't think I had another hat for decades after that, apart from the woolly beanies I used to wear in Britain when the weather was cold, which was most of the time. Hats don't feature much in what's left of my memories.

Now though, I live in Australia, and I've got a few hats. The truth is I'm going bald, so the Australian sun (and there's a lot of that about) began to irk me. I'm used to sunburn, I was sunburned all through my youth, but never on my head like this. A hat is necessary, fashion be blown!

But I have trouble finding one to fit on my big head. At high school, we used to wear bashers, rigid straw hats with a rectangular profile. I took a seven and three-quarters, the largest they stocked. Since I resumed the hat habit, my search of the second-hand shops, op shops we call them here, rarely turned up one to fit. I was too skint to consider a millinery shop, if such places even still exist.

What happened to the milliners? Theirs was a powerful Guild early in the French Revolution. Everybody needed a hat, milliners were essential workers, as were the hairdressers.

Continued on page 19.

Collectors Corner - Neil Thompson

Danny Nolan

Neil Thompson had a problem. Neil is a passionate collector but just not of one particular item. Some of Neil's collectibles are small, clean, and in presentable cases, whilst others are large, unwieldy, and would look great hanging in a barn or a pub. Neil's wife likes her house to be clean, neat, and modern with lots of pictures of the kids and grandchildren. Lucky for Neil, he owns an office. Though now retired, Neil still uses his office to do some part-time consulting and rents the rest of the area as a hub for smaller businesses. This leaves him plenty of room as well as wall space to house his eclectic collection without taking real estate from those using the office, while at the same time creating a unique work environment.

Neil's collection takes influence from those who inspire him. Hanging on the walls are many framed jumpers, equipment, and photos of sporting stars, not just his favourite team's stars but people who have achieved personal as well as their sporting code's upper limits. People like Jim Stynes, Ron Barassi, Kevin Sheedy, Nick Reiwooldt and Tony Locket.

Also adorning the wall is an iconic cast iron Furphy water cart end from the early 20th Century that has been restored and backlit. Another Furphy Foundry item that has been



repurposed is a pig feeder which has also been meticulously restored, (which, in a great bit of period connection is advertised on the water cart piece) and has been made into a glass-topped table to reveal the circular cast iron trough underneath. On the table is an assembly of ancient tobacco tins, magazines, and collectible coins and pins.

In the corner, standing a good six-foot tall, is a Cigar store Indian, something that anyone watching old Westerns would instantly recognise. Neil tells a story that the people who sold it to him tried to tell him it was a native American coffin. Neil

knew better, it now holds some of his wine collection.

Taking pride of place in Neil's personal office is a map of the Kokoda Trail, which he has traveled. This has culminated as a defining part of his latter years, using the experience of the trip and the history of those who fought there during the Second World War to improve his attitude towards his health and physical wellbeing. In turn, he has used the lessons learned to share with others, especially at-risk youth and has done many lectures with various groups as a result.

Draped over the frame rests his father's Slouch hat from his service in the RAAF and in the

bookcase are lots of reference books about the Kokoda Trail.

Talking with Neil, it's hard not to get caught up in his enthusiasm.

On the table, in glass display cabinets are

smaller, more enthralling items. One particular item caught my eye... a coin that was found off the Western Australian coast that can be attributed to the Batavia; the Dutch ship that was wrecked in that area 150 years before James Cook's Endeavour sailed up the East coast of Australia. Also incorporated into the collection are pieces that Neil has gathered on his travels. Neil found small pieces of cast iron building and farm implements from when Lake Eildon was nearly empty and placed them into a frame to make a wonderful piece of history/art/presentation box. This is one idea I might try myself. There was so much more and Neil has a story for all of them. We both agreed that a passion for collecting will always keep your mind actively engaged, but hey, who wouldn't want to have your place of work also be your own personal Man Cave?



Life Can be Tough

Des Palmer

Have I ever told you how tough I've got it? I haven't? Oh that's just because you haven't spent much time around me recently, so, interested or not, here goes.

I have to get up early, I mean early, early. My alarm clock is set for 4.50am every morning. Yeah just that is tough enough, I know. I have to drive to the western suburbs to work, work an 8 hour or sometimes a 10 hour day then drive home again. It does my head in, properly.

Oh ok, I get it, boo hoo you may say or maybe tell someone who cares. Or maybe it's a 'welcome to my world' scenario, where you reckon you've got it tough too. As if, I have a tough life you know, just face it!

Sometimes though, you can suddenly get a reality check which throws a slightly different light on things. As I told you I normally work in the western suburbs but I recently got thrown a lifeline and spent a week on a job site in Richmond, a thirty minute drive when you leave Boronia at 5.30am. It is on the corner of Swan Street and Burnley Street. My dear cousin Martin and his wife Kaye lived a stone's throw from the site for 30 years but only recently

shifted to the other side of Richmond.

This particular morning I'm going to tell you about was no different to any other morning really, except something rather amazing to witness was in store for me; it's incredible sometimes when you think about things, 15-20 seconds either before or after and I would have missed it. Right place, right time.

From where I parked my car I had to walk under the railway line, and as I looked up I saw a rather stunning looking young woman running towards me. Now I ain't that old that I don't sometimes look at a woman and think she is



attractive but this young lady was definitely attractive; and so superbly fit she could easily be an Olympic athlete, fit as a mallee bull!

I kept watching her run towards me and realised an older man was running directly behind her, wow, she's out running at this ungodly hour with her father, amazing. As we got closer to each other I saw that the man jogging behind her was holding on to her tee shirt at the shoulder. Got closer still and realised, he had his eyes closed!

It was then I heard her say to him, "we're going to veer left now then go up a ramp," that the penny finally dropped; the man was completely blind! Here we had a young woman taking a blind man out running, at 6.15am. I was gobsmacked!

I kept walking and said to a young man of maybe twenty walking in front of me, "Hey clobber, did you just see that?"

"Yeah, pretty inspiring stuff wasn't it?"

"I can't believe what I just saw," I said to him, "and we reckon we're doing it hard working on a building site."

"Exactly" he replied, by this time we reached the site gate and went in separate directions.

I don't think I've got it that tough anymore.

Radio EASTERN FM 98.1

Come and meet the Radio Eastern FM 98.1 team at Knox Fest on Saturday March 1st.

Come and have a chat about joining our volunteers in the operation of your local community radio station.

We are sure to have a role for you. We'll also be interviewing Mayor Cr Lisa Cooper and many community groups and exhibitors live on Radio Eastern FM 98.1 radio from 10am-2pm.

Meet the Volunteer for Knox and Hello Zindagi teams at our marquee! Pick up a free copy of our Program Guide.

If you run a local business, consider adding local radio and community newspaper advertising to your social media marketing mix.

Askusaboutourinexpensiveon-airsponsorships which are highly sought after by local service businesses who need to reach people in Knox and surrounding areas. Interested? Simply call 9722 9981 for information.



Hats - From page 17...

They were militant milliners, and mad as hatters at the cheap imports from Belgium. This fashion for hats has lasted for ages and was still around in the nineteen fifties when I was a boy. For a man to be properly dressed required a suit, a tie and a hat, those old black and white movies and newsreels show everyone in hats. They dropped out of fashion for a while after that. Beatniks, mods, and rockers preferred fancy hairstyles and helmets, and it wasn't until the hippy era that hats made a modest comeback. Hence my fedora.

But now that I'm old, and no longer skint, I decided to spoil myself. I've been wearing a Panama that I bought for ten bucks from a hatstand in a chemist, of all places, for many months now, but it is too tight. I wear it high since it won't jam down, so it is at risk of blowing off in a gust. Damn it, I thought, I can afford a decent hat, so I searched online for milliners. They are few and far between. Only two in Melbourne, one in the city and the other in St Kilda. But an online search for hats is a firehose. I was spoiled for choice.

My size, seven and three quarters, was outdated; old hat. These days they go by your circumference in centimeters, so I had to convert. Multiplied by pi, and then by two and a half (there are two and a half centimeters to an inch) it came to sixty-two. Ah yes, the Extra Large size fits fifty-eight to sixty-one, that should do in a pinch. There was a nice Panama, hand

woven in Ecuador, knocked down to fifty bucks in a clearance sale. Fifty bucks!?

Oh well, I needed that hat so I pressed the buttons, and it arrived three days later.

It was too big! I had to dig out the old tape measure and wind it around my bonce to check. There you go, my circumference is fifty-eight centimeters. Has my head shrunk over the years? It feels as fat as ever, but there's no doubting the tape measure. Besides, instead of riding high like my previous Panama, this new one came down to my ears. I had to resort to packing the lining with paper. A sheet of A4 folded up tight, front and back makes it snug, but it still doesn't wedge on as tight as I'd like. It's the wind, you see.

Losing my hat in the wind is usually a minor inconvenience, but when I have to cross Dorset Road, which is quite often, it is a different matter, one of life and death. Because the moment the wind catches my hat I instinctively reach out, break stride, and veer off-course. This is dangerous when dodging across a gap in the traffic. These days I take the thing off and carry it across the road. Jude says I should get a strap to go under my chin but that doesn't appeal to me. Beckett's character Molloy solved it by tying a bootlace from a hole in the brim to a safety pin on his lapel. But I reckon I'll just stuff more paper in the lining. Two copies of this (or that) hat story should do it.

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2025 Student Leadership at Boronia K-12 College

At BK12, we are strengthening our approach to Student Leadership, driven by our commitment to empowering students and providing them with greater opportunities to have a meaningful voice in shaping the direction of our school.

To support this vision, we have introduced an enhanced Student Leadership structure, which includes 21 leadership positions across the College. This structure includes College Captains in the Junior, Middle, and Senior Schools, supported by College Vice-Captains. Additionally, we are excited to introduce House Captains this year, with both a Junior and Secondary

House Captain representing each of our four houses. This new leadership model is designed to provide students with greater responsibility, encourage collaboration, and ensure their voices are actively heard and valued in school decision-making.

We believe that fostering strong student leadership not only builds confidence and skills but also creates a more inclusive and dynamic school community.

<p>SENIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Lucinda T</i></p> <p>A goal of mine whilst being a leader is to promote a general and genuine sense of pride and respect amongst students at BK12. I want to do this by focusing energy into making sure teachers and students can work well together, to aid in fostering mutual respect and reducing any potential discomfort or resentment staff/students have when it comes to attending school.</p> <p>My main interests surround philosophy and psychology, which are reflected in my reading habits, as well as the movies I watch. I also have a genuine interest in injustice and how it can be addressed, fueling an interest in true crime media.</p> <p>During my time at BK12, I've enjoyed the community and the meaningful relationships I have been able to foster, particularly with staff. It is comforting for me to know there are teachers who know me in every part of the school and promotes my strong sense of belonging.</p>	<p>SENIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Emily M</i></p> <p>As a College leader, I am to foster a closer community that allows us to accommodate different learning abilities, respect each others' values and celebrate excellence across all levels of education.</p> <p>Outside of school I thoroughly enjoy art in various forms, which is reflected in my subject selection and hopes of pursuing a career in design. I also take part in Calisthenics, which has been a part of my everyday life since 2011.</p> <p>So far, as a student at Boronia K-12 College, I have enjoyed building positive connections with a multitude of peers and staff, as well as the encouragement and excellence that has come from their mentoring.</p>	<p>SENIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Ashley B</i></p> <p>My goals whilst being a leader include aiming to make the school more student run, more connections with the Community, more respectful relationships and an overall better school environment.</p> <p>Some of my interests and hobbies include art, music, reading, adventuring, animals, movies and hanging out with friends.</p> <p>Something I have enjoyed in my time here at BK12 is the amount of student opportunities, the friends I have met, the subjects offered and the feeling of belonging here.</p>	<p>SENIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Baelan C</i></p> <p>A goal of mine as a leader is to improve all students' time at school. I aspire to make school great for all students and ensure that they have an excellent time.</p> <p>My interests include sport, gaming, tech/PCs, space and science, history, music and food.</p> <p>Some things I have enjoyed from my time at BK12 are sporting events and camps.</p>
<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Matthew P</i></p> <p>A goal of mine whilst being a leader is to set up a Journalism club across the school. This links into the values of Community, Aspiration and hopefully Excellence too.</p> <p>Some of my hobbies include learning languages (particularly Ukrainian) and cycling. I also write for numerous newspapers and do lots of advocacy/volunteering work in the community. I am particularly interested in combating agism and helping people - particularly those with POTs and long-Covid (like me). I also adore Ukrainian Calligraphic Script.</p> <p>I have enjoyed many things in my time at Boronia K-12 College, with this being my 11th year. Particular highlights for me were my Grade 6 Expo, as well as the Fete last year. I also love how amazing all of my friends and teachers are.</p>	<p>SENIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Cruz T</i></p> <p>A goal of mine is that I want everyone to be able to respect one another in the school.</p> <p>Some interests of mine include football, going to the gym and carpentry.</p> <p>Something I've enjoyed so far at BK12 is meeting new people and making new friends.</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>CJ S</i></p> <p>My goal is to help everyone who is feeling a bit down and to make them feel better and help them.</p> <p>Some interests of mine include Tech, Electricity, Math, Games and Engineering.</p> <p>Something I've enjoyed at BK12 so far is Robotics and the fact that Boronia K-12 is the best school I've been to because all of it's done for me to get through the days when things get tough and/or are too easy.</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Mitchell F</i></p> <p>My goal is to make the school a bit safer, a better environment for people. This relates to Community and Respect. It makes kids actually want to come to school.</p> <p>Some interests of mine include Sports, particularly Basketball. I actually do refereeing on the weekends.</p> <p>Something I've enjoyed at BK12 is the people, the teachers, the friendliness. InterGen was also a highlight, where we went to places with elderly residents of our society to combat agism and the gap between our generations.</p>
<p>JUNIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Bella C</i></p> <p>I really want to be a role model and someone that all students aren't afraid to talk to when they have a problem or issue. I also listen to their aspirations and take action on their ideas to make the school a better place for our community. My goal is to make our school proud to have me as one of their leaders.</p> <p>I am passionate about writing, drama and the visual arts. I enjoy writing detailed narratives with lots of descriptive language and complex characters. While I love all visual arts areas, sketching and shading with pencils really piques my interest. I am really enjoying studying the moving arts this semester as I love acting and performing.</p> <p>I have enjoyed making lots of cherished friends here at BK12. One of the highlights has been visiting the LIG kinder students and spending time with my buddies. This semester, I am really enjoying my sketches, Poem Studies (cooling) and Moving Arts (drama) have been so much fun. I can't wait to continue our electives throughout the year.</p>	<p>JUNIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Connor W</i></p> <p>My goal as a leader is to make school a fun place for everyone. I want to make sure that everyone is included in our community.</p> <p>My favourite things I like to do are mountain bike riding, camping, engineering and building things. I really enjoy summer and winter sports.</p> <p>At Boronia K-12 College, I have enjoyed excursions and incursions. I have loved trying new activities and making new friends. My teachers are always wonderful and I love that I can do electives in Grade 6.</p>	<p>JUNIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Emily F</i></p> <p>My biggest goal as a leader is to get people to enjoy and get involved in school and feel like the school community is fun and safe! This relates to the value of Community and a bit of Respect.</p> <p>I do basketball and I play for South East Eagles, I also really enjoy crocheting and swimming!</p> <p>At BK12, I've enjoyed making friends throughout the years and all the sport days (and district/division) and camp and Gumbuya World!</p>	<p>JUNIOR SCHOOL COLLEGE CAPTAIN</p>  <p><i>Prue R</i></p> <p>My goals as a leader include things like an event similar to the run for the kids for our school. This relates to the college value of Community by connecting our students with the outside world and our other members of the community who are not attending our school and are looking for one.</p> <p>I love performing arts and gaming. I also love playing a good game of UNO with my family. I enjoy performing with CPP Community Theatre and Stage School Australia.</p> <p>At BK12, I have enjoyed being on the Student Voice Team for the past 2 years, the swimming carnival and athletics. I have also enjoyed the PBE afternoons, the community events such as the food bank food fight and the school fete last year.</p>




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NEW COLLEGE VALUES, VISION AND MOTTO

VALUES

- COMMUNITY** - We value a strong sense of Community in which the individual is valued, and the collective is celebrated.
- ASPIRATION** - We value the pursuit of doing your personal best by setting goals and overcoming challenges.
- RESPECT** - We value treating all members of our school with kindness, fairness, and understanding to ensure everyone feels safe and supported.
- EXCELLENCE** - We value striving for high quality learning and wellbeing curriculum and programs to support every student to strive for excellence.

VISION STATEMENT

At Boronia K-12 College, we foster a **safe** and **inclusive** learning environment where every student feels a strong sense of **belonging**. We are committed to **empowering** students to become **knowledgeable**, **resilient**, and **curious** learners who are equipped to engage with the local and **global** community. We inspire a shared passion for **learning** and encourage everyone to strive for their personal best.

THE BK12 WAY IS TO BE..



MOTTO

- BELONG** - Everyone belongs to our school
- BELIEVE** - Everyone believes in themselves
- ACHIEVE** - Everyone can achieve their goals

At Boronia K-12 College we **CARE** about our students and ensure they
Belong, Believe and Achieve.





2025 OPEN NIGHT

Join us from 5pm on Tuesday 25 March

5.00pm	Welcome Sausage Sizzle
5.30pm	Information Session
5.45pm	Student led School Tours
6.45 to 7.15pm	Music performance, food samples, coffee & tea, Q&A with Learning Area Leaders

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2026 Year 7 students will enter our Open Night Raffle to win a brand new laptop! T&C's apply.

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35-37 Albert Avenue, Boronia, VIC 3155
T&C's - Laptop provided to raffle winner on commencement at BK12

Boronia K-12 College New Values, Vision & Motto

Boronia K-12 College has had a strong and positive start to the school year. The school environment is calm, focused, and well-settled, with students quickly returning to their routines. It's a pleasure to witness the vibrant energy of school life and to reconnect with students and families following the summer break.

This year marks the 13th anniversary of Boronia K-12 College, and we are excited about the future. We have introduced a new set of core values – Community, Aspiration, Respect, and Excellence – alongside a refreshed vision and motto. This marks the beginning of a new era for the college, one driven by strong leadership, accelerated improvements, and a continued commitment to exceptional teaching and learning. Our focus remains on enhancing both student learning and wellbeing outcomes.

Our staff are unified and motivated, working together to ensure that we continue our journey from "Good to Great." My goal is for Boronia K-12 College to be the school of choice for local families, and I encourage members of our community to visit and see firsthand the exciting developments happening here.

Introducing our new values, vision, and motto is just the beginning of this exciting new chapter.

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Local Community and Club News



Are you looking to participate in more activities and develop more friendships in 2025?

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

We are a friendly group of men and women who participate in 22 regular activities throughout each month (including 3 different card games, eating out for lunch or dinner, pub trivia, travel, sport, coffee and

chat groups, social outings, live theatre (amateur and professional) and many walking groups.

As well as attending our regular activities, our 220 members have enjoyed many events over the past few months.

These have included a 5-day trip to Mt Gambier and surrounds, a club Christmas Party, attendance at musical tribute performances (Michael Buble and Hits of the 60's), a trip to the City to see "Tina - the Musical," travel to Geelong to play Bocce (with another Life Activities Club) and a trivia Day in our hall at 160 Underwood Rd Ferntree Gully (near Ferntree Gully Station).

During 2025 we have many more exciting and enjoyable events planned. Some of these include a day at Werribee zoo, Line dancing, Ferry to Portarlington, "Annie" the musical (in the city), Trip to Traralgon, an Oaks day celebration and a monthly guest speaker and lunch. Stay tuned for dates and booking information.

We are a friendly group of people who warmly welcome any newcomers who may wish to participate in any of our regular or one-off activities.



We are now one of 5 congregations forming the Knox Uniting Church

BUT you will still find the usual warm welcome. COME AND JOIN US ON A SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM

Meet our new minister, Rev Russell Croxford. We have a user-friendly worship service... You will be made very welcome.

COME ALONG TO OUR CRAFT GROUP...

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MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARER 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.

EARLY NOTICE – OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET is on Saturday 3rd May from 10am – 2pm. All stalls will be under-cover.

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Email: yvc.vic@gmail.com

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 10.30 am on Tuesday the 25th 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.

During February some lucky members went on a bus trip to Marysville to visit Bruno's Art & Sculpture Park OR Stevenson's Falls. As always, it was a wonderful day out for all concerned. Our two photos show examples of some of the amazing sculptures at Bruno's, Marysville. Also during February, a group of members went to The Round theatre in Nunawading to see "Make 'Em Laugh," the story of Donald O'Connor. Very much looking forward to future concerts at The Round this year.

This month, a group is undertaking a Ferry Trip from Southbank to Williamstown. Beautiful Port Phillip Bay!! What a treat! Also in planning is a 6-day trip to the West Coast of Tasmania around November 2025. Our Social Committee is coming up trumps again!! We have a monthly newsletter (Knox Natters Matter) which will keep you up to date with the many fun social activities available.

Contact Jill (on 9801 4363) for further information.



Boronia VIEW (Voice, Interests, Education of Women) will be meeting Friday 14th March at 11.30am at Eastwood Golf Club Liverpool Rd, Kilsyth, with a 2-course lunch costing \$35. It will be the Club's 35th birthday so come along (dressed in floral if you wish) and join in the fun. There will be a raffle, trading table, and book stall with all monies raised going to the 8 children that the club sponsors through 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 e.g., book group, cards, film and coffee mornings etc. Also occasional outings.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602



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