

Boronia & The Basin

April 2025

Issue 342



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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

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GREAT JOB FIRES

(see story page 5)

Image compilation Nicole Zhou, from CFA sources



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Editorial: Danny Nolan

Locally Sourced

My hot water service finally died in January. I walked out to the deck on a glorious Sunday morning to eat my breakfast and I could hear the sound of water running.

I wandered around the side of the house and there, pretending it was a waterfall, was the unit shooting water in every direction. I shouldn't have been so surprised. It was installed 35 years ago. So in terms of value for money, it couldn't be beat. I couldn't remember the last time I needed a plumber, especially for something of this magnitude. I decided to wait until Monday but in the back of my mind, I was constantly thinking, "Where am I going to get a Plumber?" and "How much is this going to cost? Do I need to remortgage the house?" It was during this time that I noticed one of the many copies of this paper that I have lying around my study. It clicked. We have a Local Service Directory (LSD) in the paper. I do a bit for the paper, but the advertising isn't one of them. That's the domain of John Edgley who has been doing it for a million years. Or seems like it. When I had a good hard look I discovered I had actually used some of these businesses myself and others I had seen their vans or Utes & Trailers parked outside houses up and down my street and around the neighbourhood.

So, diplomatically, I picked the one who I thought I'd seen the most (To be fair I'd seen all three listed plumbers at one time or another) and made a phone call, taking a chance of doing it on Sunday instead of waiting. As to be expected for a weekend, I got an answering machine and left a message with my assessment of the work. I did get a call later that night, to confirm what I needed and I received an email with a quote for a supply, installation & disposal of the old unit and a timeline and it came in at half of what I envisioned and budgeted for. I did say that I couldn't remember when I needed a plumber last but it must have been decades. To cut a long story short, it was installed with the least amount of fuss. Professionally and neatly. And made me realise, you don't have to look too far for what you need. Sometimes in an emergency, what you need is right under your nose or at your fingertips.

And the point of all this. Our advertisers are local and support this paper. So I did my bit and supported them, maybe next time you need a service check the BBCN LSD first. It can't hurt. When you pick a local, their reputation rides on it.

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.

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

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To view index to previous articles, back to 2019, search Trove: https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-294385690 Bound editions 1994-2016 at Boronia Library

Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

Page 3
(non) "Bird"

Dusky Antechinus
(*Antechinus swainsoni*)

If you want to do yourself a favour, buy a copy of 'A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia' by Peter Menkhorst and Frank Knight. It lists every mammal found in this marvelous continent of ours, the one we have degraded and abused and attempted to destroy so much, with every invasive feral species known to man, both plant and mammal, attempting to obliterate our wildlife, and still, somehow, they persist.

Before the white man arrived, before feral cats (the greatest threat to our small to medium-sized mammals) and foxes, you would have literally been tripping over these little animals which have now all but disappeared from the landscape. And yet, somehow, they survive.

I recently spotted a Dusky Antechinus in Wicks Reserve in the Basin, it was quite confiding and let me and my two mates, Mark and Dom get crippling views of it, feeding in the leaf litter right near the rotunda.

Now if you are unaware of what an Antechinus is, it could very easily be confused with the introduced house mouse. A quick diagnostic feature of our small native mammals is that the two common introduced rodents, the Black Rat and the House Mouse both have much longer tails than our native species. Normally our native mammals have tails shorter than head and body length combined.

There are 3 species of Antechinus found in Southern Victoria with the Dusky being the largest (Agile and Swamp Antechinus are markedly smaller). They are entirely

terrestrial and are partly diurnal, and feed on small invertebrates ie insects in the soil and leaf litter, but will also prey upon small animals like skinks.



The breeding cycle of this little fellow reads like a horror story though, all males die before reaching 12 months of age and females normally only live 2-3 years. In August each year the males all go chasing ladies and do so at their own peril (no comment) as they cease feeding and simply waste away, feeding running a distant second to, you know the... oh work it out will ya! Want me to draw you a diagram or something? What a way to go! Hang on, don't print that please editor, I redact that statement, I meant to say, that's horrible!

We are incredibly lucky in Knox to have such amazing bushland and wetlands to still see wildlife like the Dusky Antechinus. Wicks Reserve in particular is an absolute hotspot for many creatures, Gliders, Possums, Owls and Bats and many more fascinating and incredible things to see. Take a look for yourself one day, but one word of advice, walk slowly, look and listen closely and take everything in! Many people think the Australian bush is lifeless and sterile, the opposite is true, it's up to you to find it!

You can do your bit for our wildlife in Knox by being a responsible cat owner, follow Knox City Council's cat curfew and keep your domestic cat indoors at night, especially if you live near a reserve like Wicks.

Source: 'A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia'. Peter Menkhorst and Frank Knight.



CAN YOU HELP?

At the moment we have a vacancy for a 'Driver' – you would be required to drop off around 900 papers to 2 or 3 private residences and 11 businesses on a Thursday morning.

We are also looking for 2 permanent volunteer 'walkers' to deliver papers in the areas bordered by

- a) Moncoe St and Harcourt Rd. 130 papers
- b) Mercia Ave and Bayview Cres 52 papers

If you are interested in joining our volunteer crew please contact us here at BBCN via contact@bbc.org.au.

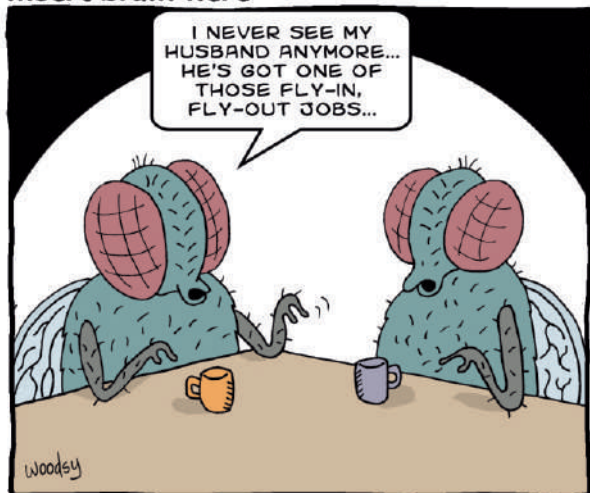
OUR LOVING NEST

DAYANGANI SILVA

Taken dried twigs and sticks from the forest,
Top of a shady tree, built our nest.
Kept tiny glow-worms for warmth and light,
Brought sweet nectar, to quench your thirst.
We had three shadows in our nest,
Happiness and peace, but not a silent nest.
With the sun shine, They sing "tweet, tweet."
Thanks to God for, giving us a gift.
Once they fluttered their wings, at the doorstep.
Saw some birds, flying around the nest.
Loveliest memories, kept in our nest.
But, one by one, you left our nest.

We all bind with love in our hearts.
They have to feed, their little ones
They all live in their own nests.
Every morn, we hear their nice songs.
Loveliest memories in our hearts
Haunts in our minds and dreams every night
We too Grands rest in the nest
Take our blessings and shine in our eyes.
Wherever you are, Be Safe and Fine!
Shadows never leave their loving ones.
Loveliest ones, you all Love us.
Fly together to see your Grands!

insert brain here



by woody

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Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston

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Authorised by Mary Doyle, ALP, Suite 4, Level 1, 420 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South, VIC, 3152.

Tax cuts for every taxpayer	\$300 off power bills	Cheaper medicines
Free TAFE	Free Medicare Urgent Care Clinics	Cheaper child care
Pay rises for aged care & child care workers	Reducing HECS debts	3 increases to minimum wages

These are all cost of living measures introduced by the Federal Labor Government **because we understand the pressure families are under, and every little bit helps.**

And if we're re-elected, we'll do more.



Authorised by Mary Doyle, ALP, Suite 4, Level 1, 420 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South, VIC, 3152.



Mary Delivering for Aston



dedicated to their wife and outlined the reality faced by the families left to carry on at home. It described the uncertainty of not knowing anything and reminded me of the practicalities of that. Should dinner be kept for the fire-fighting family member? Is it a false hope to keep it warm? Will Dad or Mum be home in time to help settle the kids for bed?

These may be trivial questions in the scope of a bushfire, but they are inconveniences that need to be managed during a stressful time. In

addition to managing the worry about whether their partner will come home at all.

Perhaps that sounds a little melodramatic to you. Maybe it is. But as someone who was separated from that orange 'Watch and Act' zone by a single road, I have a new appreciation of the stress that bushfires put on entire families and not just those who stand between us and the fire.

So thank you to the firefighters and the teams at Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and the CFA. You are heroes and you deserve recognition. And thank you to those who stay at home and keep 'normal' life ticking on with the steadfastness of a clock. Those who note every tick of that clock as they countdown until their loved ones come home. I don't think it is too much of a stretch to say 'thank you' on behalf of Boronia and The Basin Community News.

Thank You Fires

Kim Hanson, BBCN Editorial Team

I spent the weekend of the 15th and 16th of March, obsessively checking my phone. The VicEmergency app to be precise. Many of you would probably relate to this as I was watching the yellow, then orange, rectangular shape that represented the Sheffield Rd/Montrose Bushfire which broke out in the Dr Ken Leversha Reserve on the Saturday afternoon. If I wasn't in the app, I was checking one and then the other local fire brigade's 15th's Facebook pages for news.

On one of my many Facebook checks, I came across a post from a firefighter. The post was



Images courtesy of CFA Victoria

Collectors Corner: Greg Jolley Stamps

Danny Nolan

Growing up in the 1960s-70s stamp collecting was a hugely popular pastime. Just about every kid had a stamp album of some sort. Just to let you know, a person who collects stamps is called a philatelist.

Greg Jolley recalls how his passion grew in stages. Like most kids, he collected stamps but the urge fell away to more teenage pursuits. After joining the army in his twenties, Greg started collecting again to pass the time but concentrated on specific series.

It wasn't until he met his partner, Lyn, who also shared his growing passion for stamps that his collection went into overdrive. Greg collected stamps that weren't just from different countries but series such as individual monarchs or the countries associated with the British Commonwealth and in his words 'practically everything'. Along the way, Greg discovered the process of Post Marking. The unique mark that is left on a stamped envelope from an individual Post Office.

This opened a whole world of collecting that involved history and travel. In a way a stamp treasure hunt that could lead you anywhere throughout Australia. Many towns and their



post offices have ceased to exist, thus making the ability to obtain these items a challenge and leading to some of them being quite collectible and in turn worth a bit of money. Greg talks of trips all over Victoria on the search for elusive post offices on his hunt for new samples. He would travel with a pack of five-cent stamps, usually four rows by four columns commonly called a block, to have them postmarked. Greg showed me the bible of Post Mark Collectors, a thick hard-cover reference book that came in two volumes called The Numerical Cancellation of Victoria by Hugh Freedman that lists all of the known places in Victoria with the locations (or relative whereabouts) and the rarity of each mark. Hugh Freedman became a constant correspondent with Greg and passed away just

before they were arranging a first-time personal meet-up. A story that still makes Greg emotional as he recalls Hugh's memory with some fondness.

Unfortunately, Greg realised his collection had become too large and unwieldy and with his children not sharing his love of philately, he decided to catalogue and sell his vast collection. Greg currently occupies the small shop that nestles under the elevators in the Boronia Mall where you can visit and talk and maybe buy some new additions for your collection.

He also has a huge collection of Lord of the Rings movie merchandise but that's for another time.

From 28 April, rubbish bin lids are changing



knox.vic.gov.au/BinLids

Share your feedback

Responsible pet ownership benefits everyone



Council is renewing our plan for how we manage dogs and cats for the next four years – let's make sure it's pawsome! We want to hear from you whether you're a pet owner or not.



Last chance to have your say by 13 April
knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay



Anzac Day – Uncle Dan’s story

Adrian Lynch

This Anzac Day is the 80th anniversary of my Uncle Dan being shot down over Germany. Uncle Dan was a member of the RAF 460 Squadron, Bomber Command, during WW2. He was 24 years old at the time. Most of 460 Squadron were Australians. On the morning of this day in 1945, a raid over enemy territory took off. He said the mission was a fruitless one as Germany was losing the war and the Allies



controlled the air, but the commander of Bomber Command, Bomber Harris, really wanted to get after the German elite, the SS. The target was the SS barracks at the base of Hitler's mountaintop retreat. The raid was going well. The bombs were dropped and targets were hit. Hitler also had a house halfway up the mountain. They saved a bomb for that and knocked it over too. Shortly after, the plane, a Lancaster Bomber with a crew of seven, was hit by ground fire, disabling the engines. The pilot ordered everyone out. Uncle Dan, the bomb aimer, situated at the very front of the plane was first out. When he landed he could not see any of the others, or the plane and assumed they were all lost. Uncle Dan landed on one side of the mountain and the others bailed out on the other side. The second last to bail out before the pilot was to be the rear gunner, but when he was about to, he yelled at the pilot 'I can't jump. My parachute is torn!'. The pilot said 'Hang on and I

will do a belly landing'. It was a successful landing, and all had survived. However, there was no sight of Uncle Dan and they all assumed he did not survive. They were all rounded out shortly after by German ground troops. Uncle Dan said 'It wasn't hard. They just followed my footprints in the snow.' What he didn't expect was a middle-aged corporal in charge of six trigger-happy, 12-year-olds with machine guns. Uncle Dan was sent off to a prison camp and the others went to a different camp. He was there for about three months before the camps were liberated. He was ill and was transferred to a hospital in Holland for another month. All the crew were eventually reunited back in England. The Lancaster had a crew of seven. Uncle

Dan was from Tasmania, the pilot from Perth, three others from Melbourne, one from Sydney and one Englishman. The Englishman went his own way after the war and was not heard from again. All the others held no ill feelings towards him instead, they had a lot of sympathy for him and his badly destroyed country. During the war, a bond was formed between them all that was to last a lifetime. Back in Australia, they would get together every year or two for a golf day. A piece of the Rear Gunner's parachute was signed by all the crew and is on display in the Perth Museum. The last crew member passed away in 2022 in Camberwell. He was 100 years old. He broke his leg when he landed. The torn parachute was used to bandage him up. In 1995 Uncle Dan went back to England for the 50th anniversary and to Hitler's mountaintop retreat in Germany. While he was there, a woman approached and asked him 'Have you been here before?' He replied 'Ah yes, I have been' but he did not say it was from high above dropping bombs and smiled to himself. Uncle Dan said the plane was shot down by a 21-year-old girl operating an anti-aircraft gun. The shots went across the wings hitting all four engines. He said he would have liked to have met her. He said 'She was a damn good shot'. Of the Lancaster plane he said 'They were held together

by ten thousand creaking rivets that you hoped all held'. Of the war he said, 'We did our duty!' He did not talk much about the war, but over time, he said little bits here and there and we were able to piece a few things together. Sadly the contribution of Bomber Command was not recognised until 2012. Uncle Dan lamented this but did complain about it. He passed away in 2010 and will always be held in high esteem and remembered very well by all the family.



Boronia Mall
EASTER
EVENT

Saturday 12th April 11 - 3pm

CENTRE STAGE
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Exciting New Childcare Centre Opens in Boronia Junction

Boronia families now have access to a new state-of-the-art early learning centre, with the grand opening of Boronia Junction Early Learning Campus at a former Zone Bowling site at Boronia Junction Shopping Centre on Boronia Road. Conveniently located next to Woolworths and adjacent to Boronia Train Station and bus hub, this cutting-edge facility is set to transform early childhood education for local families. The new centre, designed for children aged 0 to 6 years, combines world-class education with an inspiring and engaging environment. One of its standout features is a 150-metre mural wall, painted by renowned international artist Marco Pannacchia showcasing the iconic wildlife, flora, and fauna of the nearby Dandenong Ranges including the beloved Puffing Billy.

A New Standard in Early Learning

Under the leadership of Sophie Waters, a dedicated childcare professional with 15 years of experience, the centre promises a nurturing and high-quality learning environment. "The

Woodlands team has created a space where children can explore, learn, and thrive in a

setting designed to spark their curiosity and imagination" Waters said. Families can expect a comprehensive educational program that goes beyond traditional childcare, offering:



-Robotics & Computer Coding: Preparing children for a tech-driven future for jobs not created yet:

- Yoga & Meditation: Promoting mindfulness and well-being

- Language Program: Enhancing early language development

- Bush Kinder Program: Connecting children with nature and outdoor learning

- Creative Arts Program: Encouraging self-expression through visual and performing arts

- Full-Time Exercise Coach Supporting physical development and active play

A Playscape Like No Other

The centre features an adventure-based outdoor wonderland, designed to inspire creativity and active play. Children will have access to a real

fire truck and fort, a splash deck with a water-cooling station for hot days, and a forest-themed foyer with a stunning six-metre indoor tree.

With state-of-the-art educational and care rooms, this facility is set to become a leading early childhood destination in Boronia.

Families interested in securing a place for their child at Boronia Junction Early Learning

Campus are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Spots are filling fast! Families can

Register now at Woodlandelc.com



"Learning is not about filling heads with content, it is opening minds to new possibilities."

Dr Arthur Shelley (Becoming Adaptable)



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Authorised by Andrew Williams PO Box 2687, Rowville, Victoria 3178

Vote 1 Andrew Williams INDEPENDENT FOR ASTON

In Australia, mining companies avoid paying taxes to Australia, and we let them. If we introduced a Norway style resources tax then all of these costly items would be available - and our budget would still be in surplus.

Why wouldn't we?????

check out my policy position on my posts at www.andrew4aston.com/home/posts



A True Independent

National Infrastructure Maintenance Standard - ensuring our roads, schools and hospitals never fall victim of State Government neglect

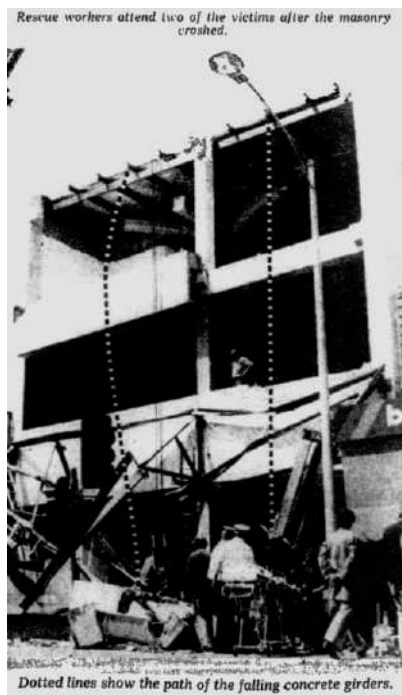
Commonwealth laws to tackle youth crime at its source.

Strengthening laws to stop price gouging by the grocery cartels.

Strengthening laws to stop companies engaging freely in shrinkflation

Taxing international investors out of our residential housing market.

Supporting Australia's security by actively seeking to remove the 78,000 illegal non-citizens from Australia.



Boronia's Fallen Facade 1981

The Falling Facade

Danny Nolan

I've been getting some great insights into the Boronia Shopping District lately, thanks largely to Ray Peace's new book *Boronia & Its Death Trap Crossing*. While it concentrates on the train crossing, it also spends a great deal of time exploring the growth of the area immediately around the intersection of Boronia and Dorset Roads. One incident that piqued my interest and made me go look a bit deeper, was the accident that happened on the afternoon of November 5, 1981. It resulted in the deaths of two elderly sisters when pieces of the facade from a construction site fell and crushed them. Ilma Rich was killed instantly at the site and her younger sister Grace Witney died later that night at Box Hill Hospital. The building in question was one of the first "high rise" buildings in Boronia at three stories and was to house the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES). The building was very near completion and was due to be finished within weeks of the accident

happening. There was an inquest that ran for several months and culminated in late 1982 with the end result stating it was not worksite shortcuts or the fault of workmen, but a series of errors in communications in planning and design. In the end, the scapegoat was the pedestrian crossing in front of the building. One can only guess the reasoning being that the ladies were waiting to cross because if it wasn't there, under a building site, the tragedy could have been averted. Thus, making it Boronia's 2nd Killer Crossing. The Lights were moved the ridiculously short distance in front of the arcade to the station, which in turn were moved again a decade or so ago to where they are. The building still is the tallest in the shopping precinct (excluding the Coles carpark) and is situated at 252 Dorset Road.



The building today

At the time (November 1981) the story was featured on the front page of *The Age*, titled "Two women die in slabs fall."

Knox Community Gardens Society – Where Our Community Can Grow

Rod Felton

KCGS has recently started a Wednesday morning social event at the gardens. Please feel free to visit the gardens anytime between 10am and 12pm for a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and a chat. Zoe and John are looking forward to seeing you there. This invitation is open to anyone who may enjoy some social interaction. The gardens are also usually open on Tuesday morning from 9am to 12noon. Park in the carpark at the front of the gardens and come right in!



KCGS is now in a composting relationship with Knox Infolink who provide emergency relief items as well as information and referrals to local services to support people in need. <https://www.knoxinfolink.org.au/>

Infolink were looking at ways to dispose of their compostable waste and so after some discussions with Geoff (our composting expert), they provided funds for a 400 litre Aerobin, which is now located next to our existing hot composting bins. Geoff now incorporates the Aerobin and their compostable waste, which is delivered several times a week, into his existing composting process. Geoff is at the gardens most Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12pm. Please walk in and say hello! The photo shows Anne (Infolink), Carol, Michael and Geoff showing off the new Aerobin.

What a magnificent day we had for KnoxFest 2025, held recently at Wally Tew Reserve in Ferntree Gully. The weather was ideal and the event was very well attended. At our marquee, trading was brisk and most of our fresh produce was gone by lunchtime, with seedlings and plants sold by the end of the day. The kid's free activity was a hit as well, with many happy children taking away a plant they potted up themselves. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, to buy some produce, marvel at our big pumpkin or to just say hello.

We are located at 51 Kleinert Road Boronia. website knoxcommunitygardens.org.au, facebook @knoxcommunitygardens or email knoxcommunitygardens@gmail.com

Knox District Woodworkers

Saturday March 1st saw huge crowds enjoying the glorious weather at the annual Knox Festival. For the local Knox and District Woodworkers Club it was a great opportunity to share the satisfaction of creating small wooden toys and gifts with the younger members of the community. With the help of club members, children were able to glue, nail, sand and screw the various pieces of a kit toy or gift to completion. Over 200 children produced items which included dinosaurs, teddy bears, pencil cases and tool boxes which they took home for painting and decoration.

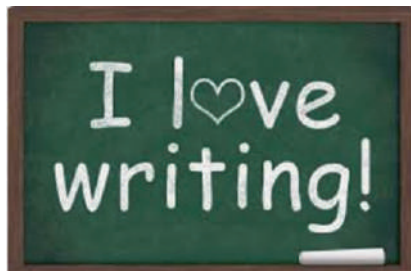
One participant who was certainly much older than most of our young woodworkers admitted that he had been coming annually for over ten years and felt he had to continue the tradition. We'll expect to see him again next year, though he doesn't seem to need much help these days.

The club can also accommodate local groups such as cubs and primary school groups, and library holiday programs. These can be run at the club rooms or at the organisation's premises.

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

or email secretary@knoxwoodies.org.au.



KIDS
ZONE

"Dream", the Young Writers Awards for April, 2025 is shared below for your enjoyment. All submissions are published as submitted, without editing. We apologise that not all submissions can be published, but those which are, receive a \$50 voucher and a certificate.

Submissions should be checked for compliance with the submission guidelines detailed on the website (especially the 400-word limit). Please upload your submissions using the QR code, and confirm permissions in the online form.

Prize money is generously provided from a Bendigo Bank grant.

We look forward to receiving your contributions to BBCN.



Dream

Alexandra Andrew, Year Boronia Heights Primary School

So there I was, floating into the sunset, flying over crashing waves. I pass by curious birds, close enough to hear the flapping of their wings. I look down and watch the playful dolphins swim by. I clutch the strings attached to the balloons that hold me up. It felt like a dream.

But then it all fell apart. I begin to feel the soft patter of rain kiss my cheeks. The storm clouds roll in, blocking what was left of the sunshine. Out of the corner of my eye I see a flash of light. I look into the distance and see shards of lightning, followed by the roll of thunder. The birds flee, and the dolphins dive under the waves. The storm was getting closer. The rain was getting stronger.

POP! POP! POP! I look up and see the piercing rain destroy the balloons holding me up. POP! One last pop is enough to send me into a spiralling descent. I plunge into the ice-cold water, sinking quickly into the murky depths. I try to swim but all my attempts fail. My vision blurs, my movements slow and I start to lose consciousness. The last thing I see is a blinding light creeping closer.

I twitch awake in bed, panting heavily. My clothes are drenched, sticking to my skin. I throw the heavy covers off my body and sit up. It was all a nightmare... wasn't it? In the corner of my room I see a single balloon floating with a note attached that reads:

'YOU'RE WELCOME!'

Boronia K-12 College Discovery Day

A Fun and Educational Experience for Local Grade 5 Students

It was a privilege to welcome grade 5 students and staff from four of our local primary schools – Wattleview, Bayswater Primary, Bayswater North Primary, and Bayswater South Primary – for an exciting and engaging Discovery Day at Boronia K-12 College. The students rotated through hands-on classes, including Food Studies, Art, Robotics, Music, Materials, Maths, and Science, giving them a unique opportunity to explore a variety of subjects within our excellent facilities.

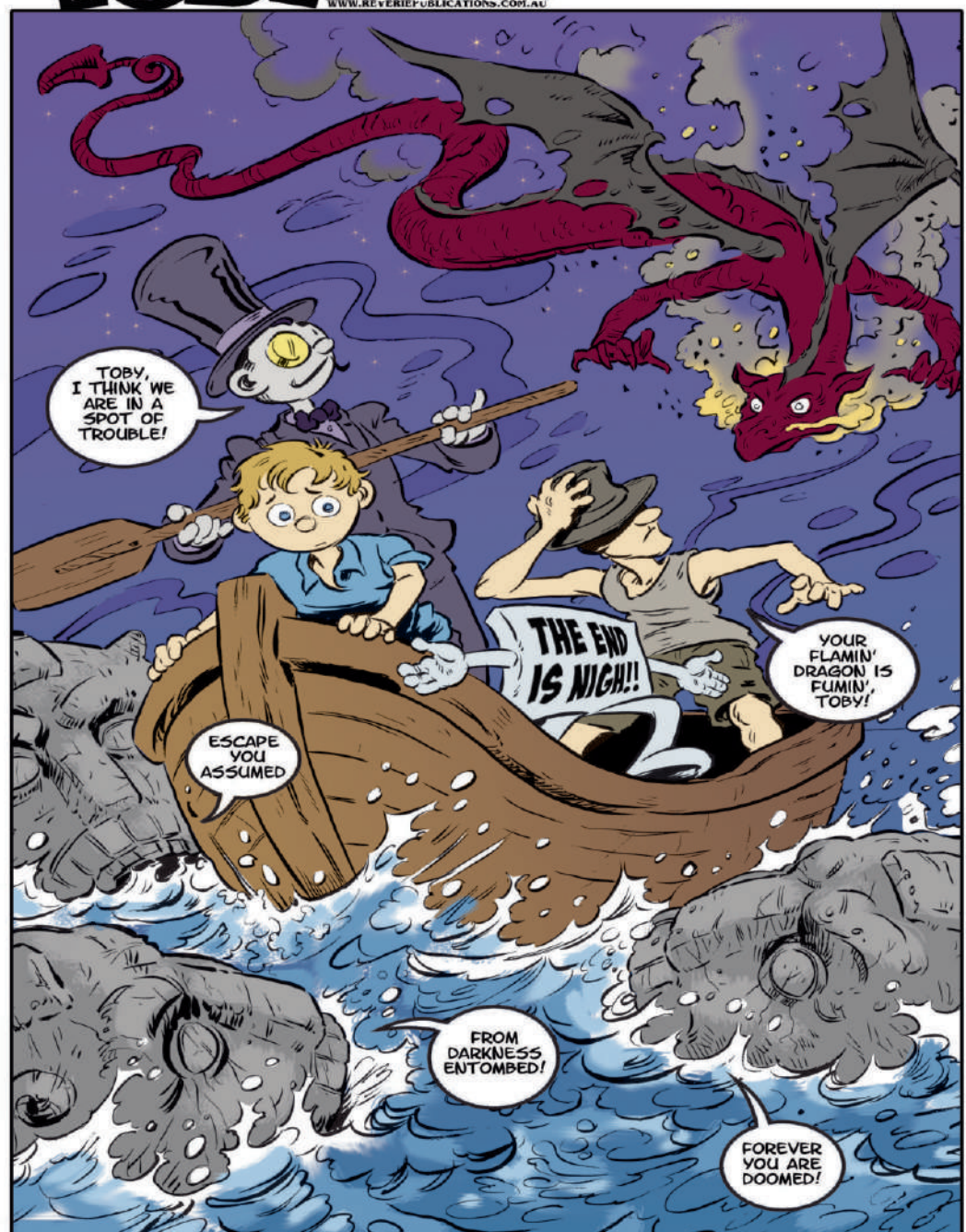
During the recess break, the students enjoyed a quick snack from the school canteen before heading out to the secondary playground to stretch their legs or shoot hoops on the multipurpose courts. The day offered a wonderful balance of learning and fun, with many students discovering new interests and skills along the way.

It was fantastic to see the students so engaged and enthusiastic throughout the day, and we hope they had a memorable experience. We are already looking forward to hosting the grade 4 students from these schools in the future!

TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

PART 26: Story so far...

Toby's adventures are only just beginning.



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

In Issue 2
STARTING NEXT MONTH

KIDS
ZONE



Enjoying Easter without chocolate

Cath Shelley

Easter in Australia is a time of excitement and joy, especially for young children. The colorful eggs, bunnies, and hopping energy make it a festive celebration the whole family looks forward to.

When my high energy son was 16 months old, he had his first easter egg at this time of year. The result was a hilariously hyperactive mess, a skipped nap, and a late night. While the science linking sugar directly to hyperactivity is actually mixed, it's worth monitoring how your little one reacts to the sugar and caffeine.

As that time approaches again (if you're like me, with another little one even younger!), for parents who are cautious about giving their young ones chocolate, the question becomes: How can kids still enjoy Easter without the sweets? There are plenty of fun and creative ways for children to celebrate Easter without chocolate being the star of the show. Here's three to get you started;

1. Host an Easter Hunt – with a Twist!

An Easter Hunt, doesn't have to be about the chocolate eggs they find. Instead, hide small toys (bunnies or ducks!), plastic eggs or even baby safe treats! Even better, focus on the game aspect and create an Easter themed scavenger



hunt for your baby or toddler to play. Do this, by hiding clues around the house – here's one to get you started:

This clue is on some shelves

So go and take a look

It's hidden among words and pictures

Inside your favourite...

2. Easter Themed Sensory Bin

For younger children or toddlers, sensory play is a great way to experience the fun of Easter without the sugar. Set up an Easter sensory bin by taking a large tub or basket and filling it with a base material (coloured shredded paper, or

coloured rice/beads for example) then add items like plastic eggs, pastel-colored pompoms, fake grass, and small bunny figurines. This allows kids to explore textures, colors, and shapes while staying engaged in the holiday theme. This is also a great way to explore your chosen cultural or spiritual connection to Easter within a simple play setting.

3. DIY Easter Crafts

Easter crafts are a great way for little ones to get creative. Gather some simple materials like colored paper, markers, glue, and scissors (suitable for their age) to make Easter cards, bunny ears, or egg-shaped decorations. You can help them make adorable bunny masks, create their own Easter baskets, or even design festive garlands to hang around the house. For even more fun, try your hand at decorating hard boiled or blown out eggs!

Keep in mind too, that Easter craft can be simple, and to a budget – the amount of fun that can be had by making bunny footprints around the kitchen is limitless – and all you need is flour and a broom.

Easter is all about celebration, joy, and togetherness. With some creativity, you can make this Easter just as exciting and full of colour, as a classic chocolate egg!

Free school holiday activities at local libraries

Joy Shelley



There are heaps of free events at the Eastern regional libraries.

Visit: <https://events.yourlibrary.com.au/series?sn=school+holiday+program+autumn+2025>

All are free, * indicates booking required. Activities to suit all ages including: Easter activities, Story times, Craft activities, Learn to dance, Create a comic book, Circus workshop, Virtual reality fun, Mini golf, Egg crash test dummies and Rubiks cube challenge.

Here are some examples of events at our local libraries.

Boronia Library

We're going on a leaf hunt!	08-04-2025 at 11:00AM	All ages.	Autumn inspired storytime and create some unbe-LEAF-able art!
Paint with Nature	09-04-2025 at 11:00AM	Ages 6-12.	Paint a beautiful picture using natural items BYO apron
Uh Oh! Accidents!	15-04-2025 at 11:00AM	All ages.	A Storytime with a fun craft activity!
Make a rain stick	16-04-2025 at 11:00AM	All ages.	Make your own rain stick to hear a swishing sound like raindrops.

Millers Homestead Basin Library

Daffodil Storytime	10-04-2025 at 11:00AM	All ages.	Children's author Cindy J Howells share with us her lovely book, A Golden Bulb. Children also get to plant and take home their very own daffodil bulb.
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Bayswater Library

Mario Maker	07-04-2025 at 2:00PM	Ages 7-12*	Learn how to make your own Mario level on our Nintendo DS consoles then have a turn at playing someone else's creation.
Bilingual Storytime	10-04-2025 at 11:00AM	All ages.	This Chinese Adventure storytime will feature stories, songs, and rhymes in both English and Mandarin followed by a craft activity and social time.
Snap Band Decorating	11-04-2025 at 10:00AM	All ages	





Jackson Taylor MP

Member for Bayswater

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

Delivers for Boronia & The Basin

It's not every day you celebrate a 21st birthday, so let's have three cheers for the legends at The Basin Bakery who recently celebrated 21 years of service to locals and all those who've had the chance to walk through their doors – here's to many more years!

Works Continue at Alchester Village

This project has entered a new phase recently which sees interim traffic signals now being used at the site. As part of the work to add the extra significant capacity to the intersection there will be restricted traffic movements, so please pay attention to on-road signage and take care when moving through the intersection. There will also be occasional lane closures, and these will be notified to the community through on-road side signage, as well. Please continue to get around the local businesses in this precinct, I know they appreciate the community continuing to support them during construction. And of course, thanks for all your patience while this work has kicked on. The new lights and intersection are still on track for completion mid



this year.

In Other News

- Caught up with new Baird Ward Councillor, Cr Peter Lockwood to discuss local priorities.
- Delivered funding to Boronia K-12 for essential maintenance works.
- Nearly 5,000 solar panels, hot water systems and battery subsidies delivered locally. Go to solar.vic.gov.au for more information.

- Delivering kinder kits to every kid in 3-year-old kindergarten.
- The new dog park and playground at Wantirna Reserve funded by the State Government is due to start works mid this year!
- Held my 7th annual Principal's Breakfast to say thank you to our educators and have an opportunity to hear from them about what's happening on the ground.
- Planning being finalised for upgrades to St Joe's Primary in Boronia for the upgrades promised.

Shout-out

Thanks to locals for coming and saying g'day at my recent mobile offices in Boronia at Alchester Village and Dorset Square. It's the best and most important part of my job, to continue to get out there and listen to our community. So thanks to those who stopped by, I'll see you out again soon!

Also, a shout-out to all the new school leaders across local schools, best of luck for 2025!

Councillor Paige Kennett

The City of Knox has 28 organisations providing various food relief and services for our community. In The Basin, Boronia and Ferntree Gully we are thankful for 10 of these organisations taking care of our community including Infolink, Aussie Veteran's Op Shop, ADRA Op Shop and Foothills Community Care. Sadly, one of these organisations, Ben's Place, closed this month. For anyone looking for support and food relief following this organisations closure, please call Knox Council or check the Knox website for updated information, or contact me, we are all here to provide support.

On Have Your Say – The Council is asking for your feedback on – Animal management through the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Council Projects - Progress continues on the

Boronia Green Spine project on Chandler Rd, with larger-width shared paths, increased canopy trees and ground covers.

Works at Tormore Reserve began in February. The \$6.2 million dollar pavilion is a joint project between State, Federal and Local Government delivering a modern social area, office space, storage, kitchen and full change room facilities. This project is due to be completed by June 2026.

Upcoming Events -



school holidays are coming up in April! The Knox Library has a range of free activities for all ages to enjoy such as Forensic Detective Workshop, Chocolate Making and a Games Afternoon. Carrington Park is offering school holiday pickleball and squash games, and Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre has kids pottery classes and African drumming. Check out Knox's website for information on dates and times.

Do you have any questions for me? As you Chandler Ward Councillor, I welcome you to contact me. You can also follow me on Facebook for regular updates and news – search Paige Kennett – Chandler Ward Councillor – Knox

Cookie's Rescue

PET'S PIECE

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic



Cookie was seen by us in early January as she had a remarkable accident that rocked our community. Cookie was out for a usual off-lead walk with her pet sitter (family member Christine) when she was startled by something in the

distance and attempted to chase it. As a result, Cookie had accidentally fallen off the cliff edge at Quarry Reserve in Ferntree Gully. Where Cookie had fallen was an accessible cliff, where Christine was unable to gain access to try to help rescue her. Understandably, her family was very stressed and panicked about her, and made multiple phone calls to different departments including the local council and the police seeking assistance to help. Unfortunately, the only rescue team that was able to have the resources to try and save Cookie was the CFA. Huge amounts of teamwork were required from different regions including Upper Ferntree Gully CFA, Monbulk CFA and Wandin CFA which led to a major



rescue operation.

When speaking to Caroline about her experience she recounts the stresses of not being able to see Cookie but only being able to hear her cry. There were periods where she would be silent and this would make everyone worried that she possibly may not still be alive. Just adjacent to the cliff that Cookie was on, was a rapid 50-meter drop, where Cookie may have fallen off at any time if they were not careful. This rescue operation had to be extremely well planned, slow and delicate, to try and keep Cookie calm without startling her. Ropes, a basket, and the strength of the community and volunteers were required to help coax Cookie into the basket and successfully pull her up the cliff to save her.

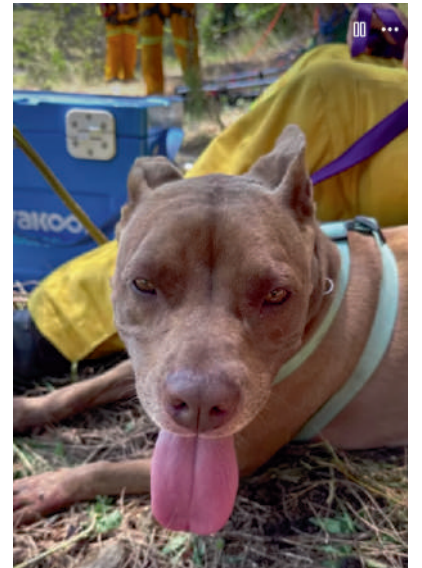
It was a very hot day and Cookie was exhausted, overheated, and inconsolable, as were her family and the huge rescue parties involved. After SEVEN long hours in the grueling heat, with lots of blood, sweat, and tears, Cookie was able to be successfully roped up to safety. As you

can imagine, this was a very emotional day for everyone involved.

That night, Cookie presented to our hospital for bruising and swelling on her feet. She also was unable to weight bear and walk on her front right leg.

Thankfully, she was otherwise well and healthy, despite the major events that occurred that day. The next day, once she was rehydrated and in better spirits, we put her under a general anesthetic to X-ray her limbs and assess the extent of the injuries she had sustained. Thankfully, there was no evidence of any fracture to her legs, or damage to her organs, despite the situation she was in. We believe her injury is purely soft tissue related and she has been on anti-inflammatory/pain relief medication to help with the swelling. While this injury may take months to heal properly, we know that her courage and strength will get her through this hurdle.

We cannot be prouder of our local community for working together on this incredible rescue and giving her a second chance at life. It is moments like this that make us want to give our pet an extra big cuddle tonight as we never truly do know what is around the corner - quite literally.



Councillor Peter Lockwood

Caught up with Jackson recently in Boronia at the Victoria Elixir Cafe. He is a great supporter of our local area and has provided a steady stream of grants for Boronia Revitalisation and for our friends at Knox Infolink who provide a free breakfast. We also have Foothills Community Care providing meals on Wednesday evenings. Fabulous work.

We have so many people struggling right now. Our local support organisations provide thousands of meals each week to people who never expected to be in this kind of trouble. Rents are sky high, emergency accommodation is as scarce as hens teeth and people struggle to buy food even though they have jobs.

We have so many great volunteers pitching in. We are always grateful to them for their caring attitude and great efforts. A shout-out too to FOFA- Feed One Feed All- run by the inestimable Lillie Giang. She and her volunteers produce 1200 meals each week.



Well done! Thank you.

I like to get out and about in Boronia and often drop in to the Drop-In! Meet me there sometime and have a coffee and cake and say hello to Alpa. She makes great cakes and a great lunch too. I will be there on Saturday morning May 10.

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavets.com.au

Serving the community for over 45 years

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

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

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

A Strummers story by Rob Fairbairn

Bugs and Beasties

Mnnnnnn.....Slap! And another one bites the dust. After only a few weeks in the migrant hostel, I had learned how to efficiently despatch marauding mosquitoes. Even in the dark, my nine-year-old hearing had become so attuned to their high-pitched whine that I could easily identify their exact location. When their numbers became too great, however, I would climb out of bed, turn on the light, and bring out the big guns: a rolled-up newspaper. One blow from which could account for several of the little buzzers at once, leaving specks of tiny, black, blood-spattered corpses all over my dull green bedroom walls.

For three years, these irritating insects feasted on the blood of the Fairbairn family, my mum being their primary victim. "I'm being bitten to death!" she would exclaim while reaching for the bottle of Calamine Lotion. The war between mum and mosquitoes would continue to the end of her life. She always maintained that they had a particular liking for her English blood. Mosquitoes weren't our only insect adversaries. Our open windows also permitted the unimpeded entrance of blowflies and bush flies. Many years after, when recounting tales of our arrival in our new home, my mother would

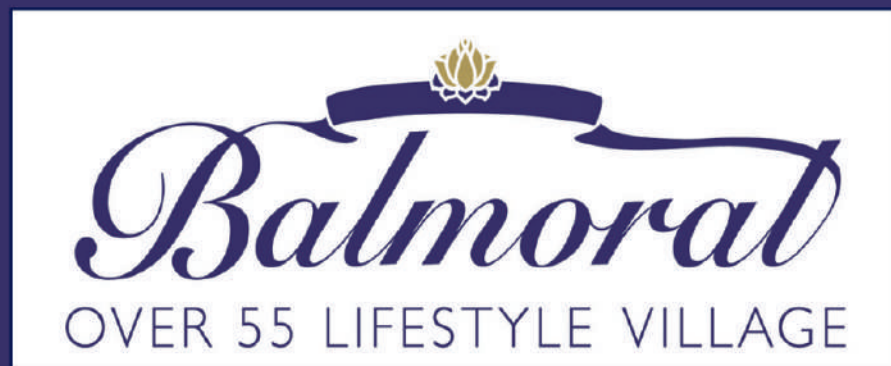
recall sitting disconsolately amongst our unopened suitcases and weeping "What have we done, Bill?" as bugs as big as bottle tops buzzed around the single, unshaded, fly-specked light bulb. Back home, we had tiny midges, houseflies, and spiders, but nothing like the insect life we encountered in Australia. On hot summer evenings, battalions of huge beetles and giant moths battled for position around the arc lights which illuminated the hostel's small soccer pitch, while during the day, swarms of bush flies buzzed around you, especially on a picnic or at a barbecue. We soon learned the "Australian Wave", frantically flapping our hands in front of our faces as these irritating invaders attempted to enter every orifice.

In our hostel units, insect incursions were nigh on impossible to prevent, so the only tactic we had was to ambush the little critters once they had breached our nonexistent defences. Before the widespread use of aerosol insecticides, one weapon of choice was a foul-smelling, no doubt extremely toxic product which we bought in bottles to refill the canister of a crude pump-action spray. Its reach was wide, so we covered our eyes and mouths (not to mention any nearby



food) as its operator chased their target around the room, pumping madly. Next was the fly swat, a grilled, flexible paddle similar in shape and size to an egg flip. This was particularly effective, in the absence of rolled-up newspaper, for killing slow, stationary blood-gorged mosquitoes, less so for flies who, despite their huge size disadvantage, seemed much quicker and smarter than the average human being. Thirdly, there was flypaper, wide strips of poison-impregnated paper which were suspended from the ceiling. Once an unsuspecting insect had settled on its sticky surface, there was no escape, and it would die from exposure to the toxic chemicals. This product was relatively cheap and less labour-intensive but not so aesthetically appealing, as it hung from the ceiling like some grotesque, malodorous, corpse-flecked mobile.

As I sit in my well-screened, double-glazed, hermetically sealed house, I am thankful that there is less need for stinky sprays, fly swats, and ugly sticky papers. But I've also noticed, on country drives, the declining occurrence of insect-spattered windscreens. Where are the Christmas beetles? And why are there fewer Bogong moths and native bees? Recent studies have shown that insect extinctions are occurring eight times faster than that of birds and mammals. As natural habitats disappear, so do the bugs and beasties. It's a situation for which we should all feel saddened and ashamed. Well, maybe not you, Mum.



A life without compromise

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available in the heart
of Wantirna South.



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Retirement
Living



MEMBER



The 1812 Theatre

The Thrill of Love

A divorcee with a young child to care for, Ruth works in the land of nightclubs where there's more than just a drink on offer. The girls work hard, play hard and dream of a movie-star life.

Then she meets the wealthy, womanising David, a racing driver with whom she becomes obsessed. Fame comes – but not in the way she imagines.

Why does their relationship end in murder?

Why does she plead guilty but offer no defense?

Why does she show no remorse?

And who is she trying to protect?

Amanda Whittington's play The Thrill of Love tells the true story of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, and takes a fresh look at the woman behind the headlines.

Season: April 3 – May 3.

THE FERN TREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY AT THE HUT GALLERY

157 Underwood Rd Fern Tree Gully

Open Fridays 1-4, Weekends 11-4

Or when our flag is flying

APRIL EXHIBITION

March 29TH - 27TH April

"FOUR MEDIUMS"

Opening & Awards Presentation 13TH April at 2pm

Acrylic, Oil, Watercolour and Pastel

This exhibition is open to anyone to enter artwork.

An excellent exhibition showcasing many subjects

In one or more of the four mediums.

This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the amazing

Creativity of many talented artists.

FREE ENTRY, ALL WELCOME

Artworks and Gifts for sale in the Foyer

Workshops and Classes



The Basin Theatre is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of Heisenberg, the critically acclaimed play by Simon Stephens. This captivating production is directed by the talented

Michelle Swann and stars the exceptional Helen Ellis and Keith Hutton. Heisenberg invites audiences into an intriguing world of chance encounters and unexpected connections. The story follows two strangers whose lives are forever altered by a seemingly random meeting in a bustling London train station. Their journey is a testament to the unpredictability of human relationships and the profound impact of fleeting moments.

This unforgettable production will be staged for a limited run of only 10 performances, from 24th April to 4th May 2025 at The Basin Theatre. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a theatrical gem that promises to leave a lasting impression. Join us for a spellbinding performance that explores the beauty of serendipity and the intricate dance of human connection.



Vote 1 Andrew Williams INDEPENDENT FOR ASTON

Every candidate receives a \$value per vote.

During a cost of living and housing crisis, the Labor and Liberal parties passed legislation to increase the \$ value from \$3.38 per vote to \$5.00 per vote - an increase of almost 48%.

This change will cost taxpayers an extra \$20 million. They are out of touch.

Yes, as an independent, I get the same payment, but I am sourcing my election material from local Aston businesses. This means taxpayer \$ are going back to Aston businesses.

Send the major parties a message that we will not be put second any longer.

Want to know more about where I stand on the issues that matter

go to

www.andrew4aston.com

and check out my posts

page for more information.



A True Independent

I am a true independent which means I am not preferencing any party. **YOU PREFERENCE THE PARTY THAT YOU WANT TO GOVERN AUSTRALIA**

Vote 1 Andrew Williams then Vote 2 for the party that you would prefer to govern Australia. If I don't end up in the top two - your preference goes to who you choose. It is your vote - your preference - not mine.

An independent voice to represent the voters of Aston - Not a voice to represent a political party

Student Leadership at Boronia K-12 College: 2025 House Captains

PATERSON SECONDARY HOUSE CAPTAIN



Jackson B

My main goal whilst being a leader is to help students aspire to the hobbies, helping students aspire to things that makes them want to follow their dreams.

My main hobbies consist of playing and listening to music, watching cricket and spending time with friends and family.

At BK12, I have enjoyed the classes we have, from advanced Maths to PE. There is something for everyone.

FREEMAN SECONDARY HOUSE CAPTAIN



Elle B

A goal of mine as a leader is to increase sport and activity participation in school through inclusivity. This relates to both the Community and Respect College Values, as respect is vital with inclusivity and our community will grow with more students participating.

One of my lifelong hobbies has been basketball and it has always been my favourite. Some other hobbies I have include reading and watching shows and movies. I also love music (listening) and played the bass guitar for a little while.

Something I have enjoyed so far at Boronia K-12 is that all teachers genuinely care about all students, which has been told to me by students and substitute teachers in the past. I love how all teachers care and put in the effort for every student.

HOLLOWS SECONDARY HOUSE CAPTAIN



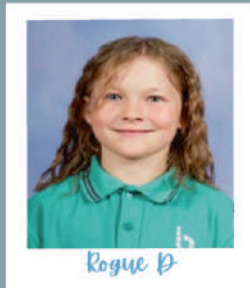
Myra S

My goal for my duration as a leader is to make everyone in my house feel included, relating to one of our school values of Community.

Some of my interests/hobbies include listening to music and playing netball.

Something I've enjoyed about my time at BK12 is the opportunities and excursions that the school provides us with.

PATERSON JUNIOR HOUSE CAPTAIN



Rogue B

My goal as a house captain is to have another downball tournament, to gain confidence, set a good example and develop my skills in leadership roles.

An interest of mine is cricket - running around for a ball, hitting the stumps to get people out and whacking a ball. I also enjoy drawing, writing, riding motorbikes, music and screaming.

Some things I've enjoyed so far at BK12 are the excursions! Having plenty of time in and out of school, the downball tournament and the constant trying to improve everything.

FREEMAN JUNIOR HOUSE CAPTAIN



Tilli C

My goal is to get more people involved with sporting events and activities. This goal relates to community because while you are participating you are bonding with your peers.

My hobbies are netball, hanging out with my friends. I really like the beach, and also animals like my two cats.

At BK12, I've really enjoyed making new friends, all the sporting days and the teachers who have helped me along the way.

HOLLOWS JUNIOR HOUSE CAPTAIN



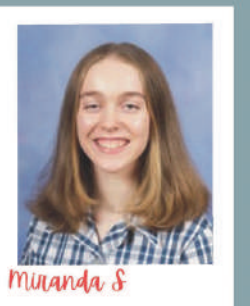
Evie S

My goal as a leader is to help people understand that the house captain role is not just about sport.

I like playing netball, swimming, hanging out with friends and family.

So far at BK12 I've enjoyed all the swimming events, other sport events and especially the volleyball.

CHANDLER SECONDARY HOUSE CAPTAIN



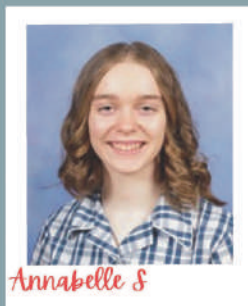
Miranda S

As a house captain this year, I aim to improve engagement in school events and school spirit (cater to peoples' interests and attention spans). This relates to Community and Respect by getting more people engaged.

Some interests of mine include reading, writing, art, relaxing, singing and dancing.

Something I've enjoyed at BK12 was Year 9 camp. It was amazing!

CHANDLER SECONDARY HOUSE CAPTAIN



Annabelle S

As a leader, one of my goals is to foster a strong sense of community in the school, especially related to the houses and bringing the year levels closer together through teamwork and camaraderie. I want to be present and help out during school events, and I want to represent the student body during SVT meetings and bring positive changes to the school.

I enjoy reading, listening to and playing music, as well as dancing and being creative.

From my time at BK12, I value the relationships I've been able to develop with the teachers and my friends and peers, as their support makes coming to school and dealing with the workload more bearable and enjoyable.

CHANDLER JUNIOR HOUSE CAPTAIN



Roy O

A goal of mine as a leader is making all kids happy and make others enjoy athletics.

My favourite sport is footy and my hobbies are practising footy, going for rides and playing Fortnite with friends.

Something I've enjoyed so far at BK12 is participating in all sports and activities, including athletics. And my friends and being part of something, especially because I'm House Captain.

Local Community Updates

Boronia Lawn Bowls Club

Graham Wynn

Established in 1952, Boronia Lawn Bowls Club, like many other sporting clubs, faced some challenging times during Covid and shortly after with dwindling memberships and participants. This greatly impacted the performance of the club, and indeed, in years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, despite the club having 2 sides promoted, there were also 4 sides were relegated during the same period, and the general atmosphere round the club, was not one of great optimism and hope.

At the start of the 2024-2025 season, a new President was elected, Graham Wynn, along with a new Club Coach, Mark Houston, plus new committee members. Their goal was to not only improve the results of the teams, but also to raise optimism and enthusiasm for the future of the club. Small changes were made with structure, team selections, player performance monitoring and coaching, and at the end of



season 2024-2025, of the 6 weekend and midweek sides, the club achieved;

- 5 finalists

- 4 promotions
- 3 pennant winners.

This has been the most successful season the club has ever achieved. Along with this, due the quality of the greens, thanks to the amazing work of our Greenskeeper, Guy Wallace, both Bowls Victoria and Eastern Ranges Bowls Region, have requested on numerous occasions this season, that Boronia host their finals and tournaments. This is also due to the great organisation and time that many volunteers at the club put in to run these events.



There is a renewed optimism around the club, and confidence in the future, as we are now able to recruit players from other clubs, due to the strength of the team's performance. We have also seen a great increase in new members, thanks to the work of our membership coordinator, Wayne Gunstone.

The club hosts Barefoot and Social Bowls every Friday evening, so a great opportunity for those who have not tried Bowls, to come along. You can contact the club on 9761 1996 or email president@boroniabowls.org for further details and information.

Special Olympics
Australia
Melbourne Eastern Ranges



1ST EVER MER BOCCE CUP 2025

ALL-INCLUSIVE DOUBLES COMPETITION

3 FRIDAYS
2ND & 9TH MAY
FINALS ON
16TH OF MAY
6.45PM-8.30PM

MIXED DOUBLES
TEAM UP WITH A
CAREER, FRIEND, MUM,
DAD, SISTER, BROTHER
ALL OTHER 50 CLUBS
ATHLETES ARE
WELCOME TO JOIN IN

Winners with the highest scores

Gift Vouchers Prizes for 1st - 2nd - 3rd - 4th

Consolation prizes for all other athletes Let's make this a yearly competition and have some fun with our family and friends

Everyone must book by Tuesday 22nd of April for all 3 sessions

by email or phone to Michael or Ian as we need

to make up the Doubles teams

Ian 0417 469 959

email melbourneeasternranges.bocce@specialolympics.com.au

Michael 0419 330 977

email melbourneeasternranges.bocce1@specialolympics.com.au

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Cnr Phyllis Street and Warruga Avenue, Bayswater

Vicar: Rev'd Sujit David



St Stephen's has been a worshipping presence in Bayswater since 1908. Did you know that St Stephen's was originally located in the High Street of Bayswater but relocated to its current location with the first service on June 11th 1974? At first services were in the hall with a new church consecrated in 1978. The "old church" from the High Street site had been relocated to the new site and this became known as St Laurence Chapel.

The "new church" in keeping with church designs of the 1970's, was built of grey Besser brick and featured two large contemporary stained-glass windows and a large cross on top of the church. Much of the furniture was built by parishioners in the 1970's.

The "old Church", lined in timber also has several beautiful stained-glass windows and is still used for mid-week services as well as meetings. It is a beautiful sacred space.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday April 13th 2025 - 9.30am Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - April 17th 2025 - 7.30pm Foot washing and vigil

Good Friday - April 18th 2025 - 9.30am Holy Communion and 3.00pm Stations of the Cross

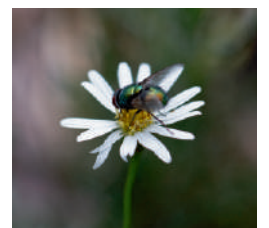
Easter Eve - April 19th 2025 - 8pm Service of New Light

Easter Day - April 20th 2025 - 9.30am Holy communion

www.ststephensbayswater.org.au 03 9729 2092

Knox Environmental Society

Now that it is autumn, most of the plants in the native garden are taking a break from their peak flowering season. There is still some colour in the garden, but nothing compared with spring and summer.



One of the plants that still has flowers present is Twiggy Daisy-bush *Olearia ramulosa*. This shrub grows up to 2 metres tall and spreads to 1 metre. The Twiggy Daisy-bush's masses of small, white daisy flowers appearing between October and May make this an attractive garden plant for a shady spot.

Cut-leaf Daisy *Brachyscome multifida* is another long-flowering plant that tolerates full sun or full shade. The profuse flower display comes in purple or white and both are available at the KES nursery now.

Autumn marks the time when we move into the peak planting season after the heat of summer. To celebrate the Knox Environment Society is holding our Autumn Festival on Saturday May 10, from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. Once again there will be presentations during the day, plus exhibitors, activities, gardening advice from our experts and plenty of plants for sale just ready and waiting for the autumn planting season.



The Knox Festival at the beginning of March was a great success. The KES was pleased to be part of the festivities, with the nursery open all day. Keep an eye out for more information on our website at www.kes.org.au.

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Local Community Club News



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 22nd of April, 2025, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay on.

Coming up this month, is a tour of the Ambulance Museum in Bayswater. Not sure how our social committee find these hidden gems, but they come up trumps every time.

And, for a complete change of scenery, during May we are off to tour the old Pentridge Prison - H Division no less!!

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!!

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Kerry (on 0419 995 084) for further information.

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



Join the Life Activities Knox community! We are a welcoming and diverse group dedicated to engaging in a variety of activities that cater to different interests. Our offerings include indoor events at our Hall in Ferntree Gully, outdoor walking groups, community theatre outings, and dining experiences. To explore what we have to offer, feel free to contact Lorraine, our Membership Secretary, at 0438 068 334.

In the past three months, we have held a productive planning meeting where exciting new activities were proposed. We successfully toured



Rayner Orchard and resumed our popular Exercise Sessions at Wattle Hall on Thursday mornings, attracting many enthusiastic participants. Upcoming events include a tour of the Block Arcade, a Line Dancing demonstration (potentially becoming a regular activity), and a Ferry Trip to Portarlington with lunch. We will also visit the beautiful Lotus Gardens in Yarra Junction. We invite you to experience three activities of your choice to discover the fun, friendship, and sense of belonging that our Club offers. Join us and find the activities that resonate with you while making new friends along the way!



Boronia VIEW (Voice, Interests, Education of Women) will be meeting Friday 11 April at 11.30am at Eastwood Golf Club with a 2-course lunch costing \$30. This will be followed by a lady talking about her experience with Dragon Boat Racing which was developed as a form of exercise for women who have had breast cancer as well as a fun and friendship group. There will be a raffle, trading table and book stall with all monies raised helping support the club's 8 sponsored learning For Life students 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 eg coffee, cards and book club etcetra with the occasional outing.

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

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Meet our new minister, Rev Russell Croxford who will be preaching on the 1st Sunday of each month – as well as at other times.

EASTER SERVICES:

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Easter Sunday 10am – join us for a special celebration.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday & Friday morning from 10am-12 noon.

COME ALONG TO OUR CRAFT GROUP, from 11.30am each Friday at the church.

MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS held each Friday from 9.30am during school terms. Call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET is on Saturday, 3rd May from 10am – 2pm.

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Check out our Facebook page and Website

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