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Boronia & The Basin

May 2025

Issue 343

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

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Australia's
Biggest Morning Tea

 **Cancer Council**
See Page 5



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Editorial: Irene Smith

Supporting the Fight Against Cancer: Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

This month, around 1,200 people across Australia will host Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, with all funds raised going to the Cancer Council to support vital cancer research and services. In a world where many causes compete for donations, it's worth asking: why is Cancer Council so widely supported?

The answer is simple - cancer affects nearly all of us. We are either personally fighting this insidious disease, are in remission after months of gruelling treatments, or have lost a loved one to cancer. Even if we haven't been directly impacted, we've all witnessed the courage and strength of friends and family battling this illness. It's a cause that touches us all.

At BBCN, we have two valued team members who are currently struggling through cancer treatment. Their resilience is a constant reminder of why this cause is so crucial.

For me, this year marks the 25th Biggest Morning Tea I've hosted. Why do I continue to do this year after year? Because I firmly believe that research is vital to finding successful treatments for all types of cancer and, one day, perhaps a cure. But it's not just about research—funding also helps provide much-needed support for nurses who offer comfort and care to patients and their families. These support workers are a lifeline for so many, providing both emotional and physical care during an incredibly difficult time.

I understand the pain of losing loved ones to cancer. In 1989, I lost my mum to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Since then, I have lost my partner to multiple myeloma, my sister to a non-operative brain tumour, and too many friends to various forms of cancer. I'm sure many of you reading this could share a similar story of loss and heartache.

In their honour I am once again hosting a Biggest Morning Tea this year.

If you would like to support my event, please scan the QR code or visit <https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/IRENESMITH>

Your contribution, no matter how big or small, can make a difference. Scan the QR code to see how to contribute.

Together, we can help fund the research, support, and treatments that will save lives and give hope to families like ours.



Boronia & The Basin Community News

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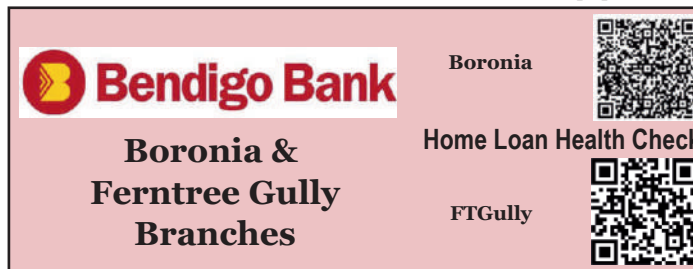
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This community newspaper is run totally by volunteers. We aim to provide the people of Boronia and The Basin with an effective medium of communication, information and expression and to promote community identity, cooperation and pride. We welcome 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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back to 2019, search Trove:
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Bound editions 1994-2016 at Boronia Library

Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

Page 3 Bird

Des Palmer

Australasian Darter

Anhinga novaehollandiae

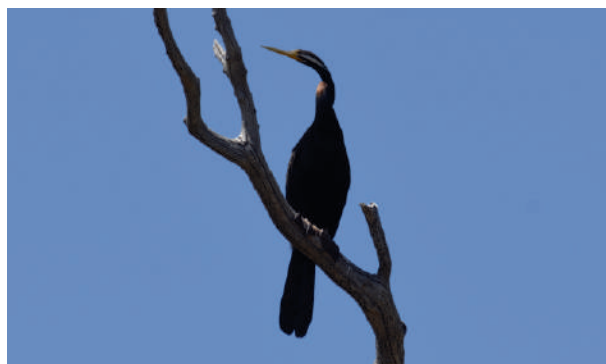
Often referred to as Snake bird, these birds are very similar to the familiar (that rhymes) Cormorants and behave and hunt in a likewise manner. A diagnostic identification feature is that all cormorants, on diving, do a traditional 'duck dive', ie head first, whereas the Darter submerges himself body first, simply sinking under the surface. Hence the name Snakebird as the body is mostly submerged when the bird is on the surface with only the long neck and 'stiletto' bill visible and on approaching will 'writhe its neck and head somewhat snake-like.' (Pizzey and Knight)

If you want to see a Darter, go to Lillydale Lake, it is an absolute monty to get one, several in fact, with their loud 'brassy clanging' (P&K) calls echoing across the landscape, an odd sound. They are very confident around people here and I have had some very close up encounters with them, unusual as they are normally a very secretive bird. Another reliable spot to get them is Birdland reserve in Upwey, I can't recall going there and dipping out on Darter.

I have occasionally been asked by people why Cormorants and Darters are often seen drying their wings on perches adjacent to waterways, why aren't their feathers waterproof? The answer to that question is that by allowing their plumage to become sodden they are not hindered by buoyancy, like a diver wearing ballast, and can then swim much faster in pursuit of their prey, mostly small fish. And can they motor underwater! Of course the downside of this is that the feathers become too waterlogged to fly, hence the saying 'like a shag on a rock' and birds seen with wings extended are doing just that, drying out their feathers so they can become airborne again.

If you do go to twitch one, take a close look at each bird, breeding males have a coppery coloured neck and a white patch running down from each side of the neck but apart from that they are all black and in fact at first blush are easily confused with the Great Cormorant. Females are basically the same but are white on the neck and body. Immatures are similar to females but are paler. Well, what are you sitting there for, like a shag on a rock yourself, go on, go to Lillydale Lake yourself and see one. Go on, I'm deadly serious, are you crazy or something?

And on the subject of Lillydale Lake, what a beautiful spot it is. I was over there recently with some of the Boronia Birdos (A new name for our field trip group, we communicate via whatsapp so get in touch if you want to join in) and the weather was perfect but the whole feel and



outlook of the place is next level, people everywhere, birds everywhere, absolute gold!

Well, you know how I can go on and on about birds and carry on like a pork chop at a kosher barbie? I can't think of anything else to write about Darters. I will finish on this though, I have had some correspondence on my being too political in these articles and have vowed to take that onboard and keep my opinions to myself. However, and isn't there always a however thrown in for good measure, I will never stop talking the truth on some subjects, that is if my editor will print it, especially on subjects like the defeat of the recent referendum which was not taken up by the people of this country. As Paul

Keating once said, this nation will never be at peace with itself until it fully reconciles with our black brothers and sisters.



Eucalypt Identification Day



Learn about our local Eucalypts and how to identify Eucalypts.

Where: Parkland between Patrick Court and Wells Avenue, Boronia.

Sunday, June 15th at 9 am.

RSVP: Des Palmer:
arc-up-welding@live.com.au



CAN YOU HELP?

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

We are also looking for 1 permanent 'walker' to deliver papers in the area bordered

by 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

A Miner Moment

Patrick Kelly

He's back!



I've learned the sound of his clawed feet landing on the fence as he assesses where to start.

This buddy has joined me for coffee every morning for the past few weeks.

He jumps around fairly clumsily to get as much nectar as he can. He doesn't seem to be getting any more graceful.

The bees seem to bother him even less than the fact he falls out of the tree regularly, fluttering his wings in semi-alarm. He's only a few months old.

He's gotten more bold as time goes on - my whistles to him have maybe set him at ease. Or he likes 774 - could be either. It's probably the traffic reporters.

His timidity has started to fall away. He's now close enough that I can see his little beak and face is absolutely covered in orange pollen.

He's right above me now, dropping leaves. I'd better cover my coffee.

A quick song to tell me he's happy. It's not an iconic magpie warble, or a rosella call. It's not even particularly lyrical - but it's his. Maybe he just wants to join in as those rosellas fly over us.

Every morning. Even the cat knows, sitting at the screen door making his own even less lyrical 'ekekek' call.

He loves this tree - I guess he is part of the honeyeater family. Maybe I'll keep this ugly, spindly tree after all.

He's ready to start his day now. And he's off.

See you tomorrow buddy.

insert brain here



by woodsy

Pet's Piece

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic

Blocked cats - I can't pee!

Stress can be a major contributing factor to our patients' wellbeing and can affect their health negatively. It can be quite challenging to determine when a cat is stressed, but various symptoms include inappropriately urinating, straining to urinate, bloody urine, reduced appetite, or pacing.

Stress can occur in cats for different reasons, including fighting, new people or pets, boarding at a cattery, or moving house. It has been noted that cats living with two or more cats are more likely to suffer from stress, as well as cats that do not have access to enough clean litter trays.

When cats become stressed, they can often develop inflammation within the urinary tract which can cause the tip of the penis to become blocked. This will stop the cat from urinating and is an emergency, as toxins will build up within the blood and can damage the kidneys. If a cat remains blocked for a prolonged period (over 6 hours), this can be life-threatening.



We recently had a very special patient named "Spencer Mc Pickles" who presented to us as he was straining to urinate and only producing small amounts. He would try to urinate frequently, and blood was noted in his urine. He was urinating outside his litter tray in unusual places at home. This is when his family decided they needed to bring him in. We sent Spencer home with some pain relief to give him time to see if he would urinate on his own, as he was not completely blocked. However, unfortunately he came back a week later and was unwell. He had not urinated at all, was vomiting and lethargic. This is when we admitted him for urgent surgical attention.

Spencer Mc Pickles was firstly stabilised before being unblocked. To unblock him, we had to put him under a general anaesthetic and pass a urinary catheter into his urinary tract. This allows flow of urine into a collection system which was left in place for 48 hours whilst he was in hospital. We then removed the urinary catheter and monitored him to ensure he could urinate on his own. After we were happy with his progress, he was sent home for ongoing monitoring.

A blocked cat is most common in male, overweight, indoor cats that live sedentary lifestyles. There are other causes of obstruction which include urinary stones, cancer, urinary



tract infections. However, these are less likely in this subset of cats. Radiographs or ultrasound may be performed to rule out other causes. Boys and girls will differ quite a lot due to the anatomy of their tube that connects the bladder to the outside (the urethra). Female cats have a short, wide urethra and hence their risk of blocking is minimal (unless a large stone is present). Male cats have a thin, long, urethra hence their risk of blocking is much higher.

Unfortunately, this was not the last episode for Spencer Mc Pickles. 3 weeks later, he represented with the same issue. Cats that have been blocked once, are more likely to re-block again.

Due to the circumstances surrounding Spencer, he had a major surgical procedure performed to widen his urethra and prevent this from happening again in the future.

It is important to watch your cat when you are suspicious of it inappropriately urinating, to ensure they are still producing some urine. If there is no urine produced over a 24-hour period, then this requires urgent medical attention to assess for blockage. Additionally, if your cat is blocked, they will often be quiet, lethargic or not eating, so it is helpful to look for other symptoms.



Spencer Mc Pickles has been a very special patient of ours over the last 12 months and we adored having him in hospital. We are glad he is feeling much better and can now urinate in peace.

Reader's Letter

Don't Trash the Recycle Bins

Paul Street

There are six clothes recycle bins in Boronia, two Worldwide clothing recycler bins at Alchester village, two Deafness foundation bins near the Coles supermarket and two Sebastian foundation bins in the Woolworths supermarket car park.

All the clothes recycle bins will take clothing, footwear and handbags which should be checked for ID documents or any rubbish before being placed in the recycle bin. These bins will not take kitchenware (including China), furniture, books or toys (but the Deafness foundation will take toys).

Recently while I was making a donation of three bags of clothes to the bin at Alchester Village, I found a cardboard box on the bin.

Anything left outside the bin is considered junk and will be treated as rubbish. I looked inside the box and found that it was almost half full of China. I took the box away with me and a few days later I gave the China to the op shop at Blackburn.

All three Op shops in Boronia will take books and DVDS. The Salvos and Aussie veterans will take working electrical appliances like TVs or radios. ADRA has CD talking books for sale.



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Montrose Fire Fizzles Out, But What Remains?

Daniel Barber

If you visited Dr Ken Leversha reserve any time over the last month, you would have discovered almost nothing reminiscent of the bush that thrived there before.

Approximately 40 hectares of land was reduced to ash on March 16th, with dozens of firefighting resources needed to control the blaze. The immediate outcome of this was the creation of an eerie wasteland, with the colloquially named “killer-trees” threatening to drop large branches on those below and many native animals becoming displaced, with their hollows and nesting sites destroyed.

Dr Emma Cash, operator of the Bungalook Creek Wildlife Shelter, describes the fire as a tragedy. “The fires have meant we cannot release at the site due to lack of habitat and food sources and many of our previously released wildlife may have perished,” Cash says. “It was several days before we started looking around the outskirts for animals in distress, due to the danger the area posed.”

Cash continues to say that the impact on the area’s wildlife may be far from over, citing a need for “significant weed management” before they overtake the area. “Invasive floral species are thriving,” she says. Alongside this, there has been “significant trauma” caused to the river flowing through the area. Cash states that the creation of “fire breaks” is responsible for this. The Victorian State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), explains this decision, placing “preservation of life” and “protection of residential property” high on its priorities whilst “protection of environmental and conservation assets” is last.

As of early April, Dr Ken Leversha reserve has entered the “recovery” stage, as per SEMP set by Emergency Management Victoria. This stage, amongst other things, is focused on ensuring “Victoria has thriving regions and a healthy environment” and will involve significant contribution from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Cash advises that all community members seeking to help in the reserve’s recovery should “[see] what local conservation groups work in the area” to see what can be done. “Installing nest boxes and planting a variety of native plants will provide alternative refuges and food sources,” she says, continuing that “keeping cats indoors” is always good for protecting native wildlife.

Yarra Ranges council and DEECA have been contacted for further comment. Follow BBCN on our new Instagram account for all the updates on this story: @boroniabasincommunitynews



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is Cancer Council Australia's most popular fundraising event and the largest, most successful event of its kind in Australia.

500,000 hosts have come together over the last 31 years to make a difference to Australians affected by cancer. In 2024 \$16,309,414 was raised with 23,411 morning tea hosts registered.

On 26 May 2005, the event broke the Guinness Book of Records record for the "World's Largest Simultaneous Tea Party" with around 1 million Australians participating and supporting Cancer Council on the day.

The official date is Thursday, 22nd May 2025, but you can register to host a Biggest Morning Tea anytime that suits you throughout May or June. There are heaps of resources in your online fundraising hub to make everything easy no matter what kind of morning tea you choose.

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/>

Sadly, all of us will be impacted by cancer at some point in our lives, and this is exactly what inspires so many to host a Biggest Morning Tea.

Each morning tea is as unique as the stories behind it. Just know that every cuppa is making a life-changing difference to those affected by cancer.

Thanks to cancer research, more people are surviving cancer every year.

You can host your own or attend one of the following in your area.



<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/IRENESMITH/biggest-morning-tea-vic>



<https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=35352>

Coonara Community House

22 Willow Rd, Upper Ferntree Gully, Wednesday 21st May 10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Join us for an inspiring and heart-warming Biggest Morning Tea event as we come together to raise funds for the Cancer Council and support those affected by cancer.

Share in a cup of tea/coffee and some delicious cakes as we chat and simply enjoy some togetherness. Make a donation and spin our winning wheel for your chance to win a prize.

EFTPOS and cash accepted. Bookings essential for catering purposes. This event is FREE to attend. If you are interested in staying on for our community lunch for a cost of \$6, please book through the link below

<https://www.coonarahouse.org.au/courses/the-biggest-morning-tea-event-only/>

Leave your rubbish bin out until 6pm

Do this every fortnight until you get your new red lid



knox



Knox Mayor's Message

Cr. Lisa Cooper

Changing bin lids

New state government rules mean everyone in Victoria has to have the same colour bin lids.

These changes are designed to support statewide waste education initiatives and help us all to put the right things in the right bin.

The lid on your rubbish bin will be changing from yellow to red.

We're asking residents to leave their rubbish bin out until 6pm on collection day, even if it has been emptied earlier in the day, and we'll change the bin lid over. Residents need to do this every fortnight until they get a new red lid.

There will be no change to your collection.

We need to change the lids on 60,000 bins so it will take us some months to get to everyone.

The old bin lids will be recycled into new bin lids.

For more information, visit our website at knox.vic.gov.au

Food support for residents

With the rising cost of living, many people and families in Knox are struggling to make ends meet.

Council is supporting local services to provide food relief for residents experiencing hardship.

There are places in Knox where you can access free food parcels or hampers

including pantry items, meat, bread, fruit and vegetables.

Toiletries, clothing, laundry facilities and showers are available at some locations.

Other providers offer sit down community meals and takeaway meals.

You can find food relief support near you at knox.vic.gov.au/relief-providers

Budget planning

It has been a busy time of year as Council develops our draft Annual Budget 2025-26, and we've listened to our community and your priorities.

Council brought forward consultation opportunities so we would know what's important to you before developing this budget.

We have spent time with and listened to a community panel that has been helping us shape this budget along with our new Council Plan and our health and wellbeing priorities.

The panel is a representative group of residents who have been helping us theme the feedback of more than 1000 people about what's important to them.

This information has helped Council decide our priorities over the next four years.

I invite and encourage all residents to participate in local decision making and stay up to date with local projects and initiatives via Council's Have Your Say page: knox.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Stay up to date with what's happening at knox.vic.gov.au

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY!!!!

Dayangani Silva

Darkest skies shedding tear drops.

Greeny grass, welcome the bubbles.

Little buds don't see the shiny rays.

Wet feathered friends not singing songs.

My kids on the bed seeing nice dreams

I think they ,playing with little Angels.

I'm busy with making tasty food.

Dad will come home before heavy rains.

He comes home on,horse back.

It will bring us grains full sacks.

He picks ripe grapes, apples and milk

Our little home is a nice paradise.

Thunder, lightning, disappear away.

Stop heavy rains, he is on the way.

He brings harvest to make our way.

I pray the God to have a nice day.



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Bridging the Digital Divide: Your Library Launches Loanable Laptops

Your Library is thrilled to announce the launch of our new Loanable Laptops program, expanding our Library of Things and providing vital technology access to the community. Over 20 laptops are now available for loan at any Your Library branch, offering a crucial resource for those facing cost-of-living pressures or other circumstances that limit their access to technology. These Loanable Laptops are a direct response to the community's needs, providing essential tools for education, employment, and everyday life.

Your Library's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Karina Lamb, reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to providing free access to technology: "At Your Library, we see firsthand how access to technology can change lives. Whether it's job seekers preparing applications, students completing coursework, or community building digital confidence, having the right tools is essential. That's why we're proud to launch laptops for loan as part of our Library of Things—helping to bridge the digital divide and ensuring no one is left behind," said Dr Lamb.

With the rising cost of living, many in our community face tough choices, and owning a laptop isn't always an option. Libraries have long been a vital safety net, and this initiative is another way we're responding to real needs—supporting employment, education, and digital literacy. By providing free access to technology, this is another step in making our libraries more inclusive, innovative, and responsive to community needs," Dr Lamb added.

The laptops are equipped with the Microsoft Office suite, making them ideal for school assignments, job applications, form completion, and general use. They also feature a range of apps for photo editing, coding, and video calling, and serve as an excellent learning platform for those new to laptop technology. Your Library members can borrow a laptop for up to three weeks, free of charge, with a Your Library membership. Laptops can be reserved online through the library's catalogue and returned to any branch. To further support digital literacy, Your Library offers free technology support sessions. Community members can book a small group session with a Tech Support Officer for assistance with laptops or any other device. Further information Media and general enquiries to:

Dr Karina Lamb, CEO, via
communications@yourlibrary.vic.gov.au
or 1300 737 277.



Bayswater Library move

Bayswater Library will relocate to a new purpose-built space within Mountain High Shopping Centre in mid-2025.

The library will feature:

- a 55% increase in floorspace
- two bookable meeting rooms
- two community rooms with a flexible dividing wall, accommodating gatherings of up to 40 people
- a dedicated gaming area
- an accessible toilet with a baby change facility

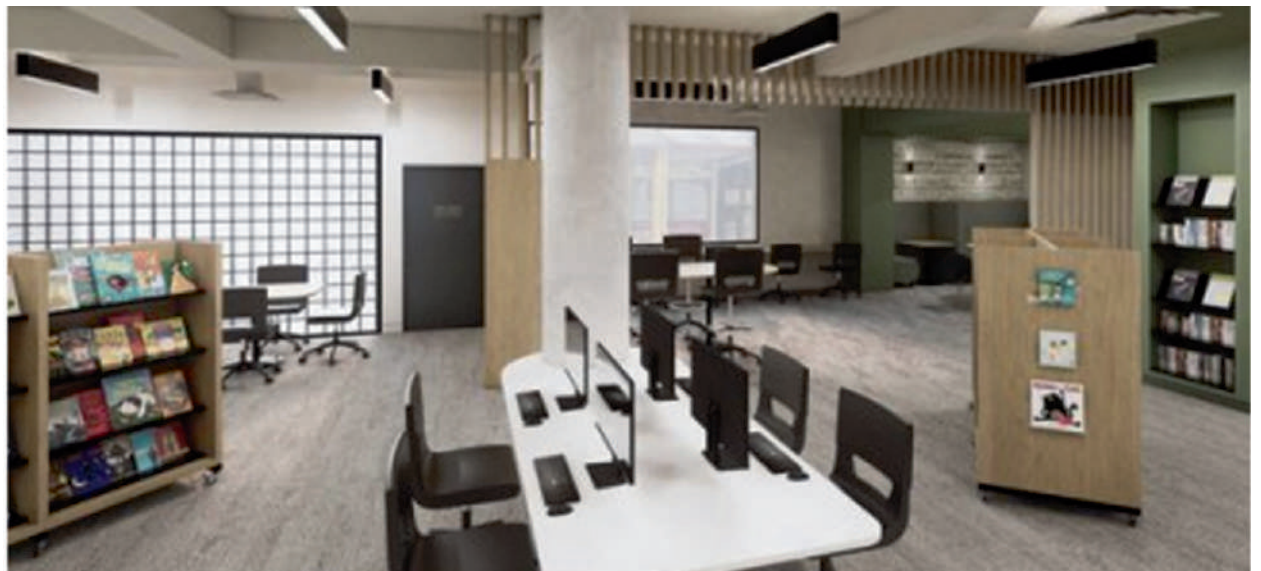
The interior design and layout of this brighter, modern space have been inspired by the natural environment and tailored to community needs.

Knox Mayor, Councillor Lisa Cooper said the new library, which was 55% larger than the old site, would provide even greater access for the community.

"The new location is designed to offer a versatile and inclusive environment for our community," she said. "With spaces for work, study and play, accessibility features and dedicated areas for meetings and gatherings, we are committed to creating a welcoming hub that meets the diverse needs of our community."

The current library will remain open until the new space is complete and operational.

There will be a brief closure of one week to facilitate the transfer of equipment and books. During this time, other libraries within the Your Library network will remain accessible to the community. Further updates will be available closer to the time.



Artist's impression of the new Bayswater Library.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

The state Government is delivering High Intensity Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) at more specialist schools across the state free of charge — giving hundreds of families across Victoria the extra support they deserve.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll this week visited Croxton Special School to announce that High Intensity OSHC services are now available at five more specialist schools — delivering on the promise the state Government made to Victorians at the last election.

The schools include Banmira Specialist School (Shepparton), Bass Coast Specialist School (Wonthaggi), Croxton Special School (Northcote), Croydon Special Developmental School and Eastern Ranges School (Ferntree Gully).

High intensity OSHC was developed to support specialist school students' families who say finding affordable outside school hours or holiday care that gives their kids the level of support they need is one of their biggest challenges.

The initiative began as a pilot at five specialist schools which resulted in significant improvements in educational achievements, improved wellbeing of students and their families, and 92 per cent of parents saying they had, or were planning to, take up extra work or training.

This year's expansion of High Intensity OSHC will be followed by a further five schools set to incorporate these services in 2026, delivering on the Labor Government's promise to build on the pilot program established in 2018.

The Government has invested \$1.6 billion in Disability Inclusion initiatives across the state and support students with additional needs who attend mainstream schools.

Toby and The Magic Pencil.

Comic Number Two.

Danny Nolan

If you have enjoyed our serialized comic Toby and the Magic Pencil over the last two years, we have some fantastic news. Beginning in the May edition is the continuation of the fast-paced tale. Thanks to Reverie Publications, we have been gifted the second comic in the series and will continue to bring you a new page every month. To our knowledge, we are the only paper doing this in a Victorian newspaper and we can't thank the generosity of creators Gary Dellar & Ben Sullivan enough.



You can also read "Toby" online at our website every month with links on how to purchase your own copy. www.bbcn.org.au click on the Toby link in the header.

To show their appreciation Reverie supplied last years Toby contest winners - Richard Harrison & Sammy Lawrence- with a copy of the national comic fanzine Comics & Cartoonist Australia where they were featured in an article about Comics in newspapers.

Image Left:

Toby Competition Adult winner,
Richard Harrison

Image Right:

Toby Competition junior winner,
Sammy Lawrence



TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

WWW.REVERIEPUBLICATIONS.COM.AU

Story so far...

Toby's trouble keep mounting on top of one another, on his way to find Gareth.



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

Our 10 and 11 year olds go camping!

Nicole Klep, District Leader of Cub Scouts

On 21st to the 23rd of March, 40 ten and eleven year old Cub Scouts went camping under canvas at Clifford Park Activity Centre, Wonga Park. Eight out of our ten Cub Units were represented. The weather was just perfect and the fun had by all was evident.



The Cub Scouts participated in archery and had a ripper of a time on the water slide. They learnt how to read a Melways, hiking maps, tracking signs, a compass and had to follow a compass course around the campsite. They screen printed on a dilly bag, which is a bag that they use to keep their plates and cutlery in. We had the Victoria Scout STATE radio team come in and run a space ship simulator activity where the Cubs had a mission they had to undertake and each Cub had a role on the ship. The radio team also ran fox hunting and a race where the Cubs had to find a marker, radio it in on the walkie talkie, listen to instructions and give the correct answer to get the next clue. They learnt about communication, listening and radio etiquette. This base was the Cubs favourite activity for the weekend.

Saturday's activities culminated in a campfire sing-a-long in the evening. The Cubs performed some amazing skits and learnt lots of new campfire songs. On the Sunday the Cubs, amongst other things, made scones and an omelette in zip lock bags in boiling water. An experience for Cubs and leaders alike. They all turned out very yummy indeed.

The weekend finished on a high for all the Cubs and they loved the blanket badge they all received. If you are interested in trying Scouting go to: <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/locations/all-groups/>

8th Knox, Boronia and 1st The Basin are the local Scout Groups. You can try three nights for free! So come along and join in the fun. Scouting is for youth from age 5 to 26 years and after 26 lots of fun is to be had by becoming a leader!



KIDS
ZONESubmit
YWI
entries
here

Right:

Alexandra Andrew was excited to receive the April Young Writers Award for her story Dream at the BHPS assembly. The award includes a certificate and \$50.



BBCN Young Writers Initiative

In May we have three Young Writers Initiative Awards, one each from Year 3, 4 and 5 - all from Boronia Heights Primary School. A nice variety of stories from our future writers. **Enjoy!** NOTE: YWI contributions are printed as entered (without editing) to reflect their original content.

Nan, THAT'S IT

Audrey Ng Year 5 Boronia Heights PS

The phone rang.

"Go get it Alice!" My Nan's voice booms. "Don't be LAZY!"

I went up to the ringing phone, I just had a feeling that answering it wasn't right.

"Hello?" I ask through the phone, "Hello?" Nobody answered so I hung up.

The lights went out-

"NANNNN???"

The next thing you know, she was on the floor, with blood bleeding out.

I hear the door open,

"What in the overworld?!" Comes an aggressive voice-It's Mum!

"Mum!" I called to her, "Nan fell! How scary?!"

"Dude!" Mum shouts and tears flood her eyes, "What are you doing? Mum!!!! Muuuuum?"

Her tears turned bright blue; I looked at Nan-She's not dead.

"Goodbye." Mum prayed, "Don't let me down!"

I know Nan's not dead-I really do know. How can she die when the lights go out?

"Hey Mum, I'm going to the butcher shop to get ham, okay?" I chirped, "I'll see you later!"

I ran to the butcher's shop like promised, but instead of going in, I stayed outside-I then saw a lady, with grey, polished hair. Her dress was all white and there was something familiar about her.

"Hey." I say softly,

No response.

"HEY." I say again, a little louder,

No response.

"HEY LADY!" I yell

No response.

"LADYYYYY!!!!!!" I scream so loud my lungs hurt

"Huh?" The lady turned around, then quickly turned back. I can see she was blushing.

"Are you, my Nan???" I question, eyeing suspiciously at the lady.

"Uhhhhh-No?" I looked at my phone, 12:54am. I just can't stop thinking about the weird thing that happened at the butcher's shop.

"Hey sweetie," Mum says softly as she tumbles to her spot on the bed next to mine, "Are you OK?" I look at Mum - can I trust her?

"Nah- it's fine." I sigh. I'm not trusting anyone, until this problem is solved. I know I can trust my Mum, I can't-She'd just think I'm making stuff up.

"NAN! YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!!!!!!" I yell at the wall, she's there-I can see. Well not really, I mean I can feel, we still share the same blood-RIGHT?

WRONG! She's not my Nan-she's replaced my REAL Nan.

"Why are you shouting at the wall?" Asks my big and annoying sister, Zoey. "Nonya beeswax." I snapped at her. She rolls her eyes and walks away,

This is it Nan, You're NOT dead...

Helping the Environment Jordan Dartnell. Boronia Heights Primary School 3B

Hi, I want to persuade you to help the environment grow because loads of animals are suffering, we are losing our rainforests and we aren't recycling much.

Firstly, loads of animals are dying because they are losing their homes. But we can help them stop losing their homes by cutting down less trees. Our trees need to survive otherwise we won't breathe without our trees.

Secondly, our rainforests are being cut down! The more rainforests we cut down the more beautiful trees suffer. We have got to stop cutting down trees.

Thirdly, we have to recycle more because lots of trees are dying. All because we're not recycling much. All of the forests that are being cut down is because we aren't recycling. So I would like everyone to get a new recycling bin but if you already have one don't worry.

So that is why I want to help the animals and the rainforests stay healthy and alive and recycle a lot more.

Nearly no Easter!

Matilda Dartnell, Boronia Heights Primary School 4A

It was Easter morning. I woke up and rubbed my weary eyes and gave a big yawn as I got up out of bed to wake my sleepy little sisters. When we were all up we went into the hall and something caught my eye, a splotch of blood. It wasn't dry and nobody had been up, so who was bleeding? I quickly checked my watch to check the time it was 3:00am. I peered out of the door to the lounge and saw the Easter Bunny! He was sobbing quietly. I pushed open the door gently and sat down next to the sobbing bunny and asked him what happened, he said that when he was coming back from putting Easter eggs outside he tripped over the step in the lounge and cut his foot so badly that he couldn't hop.

I asked him to show me the wound. It was a very large cut running down his foot. I knew what to do, so I asked my sister to get me a wet towel. When she came back I took the towel and dabbed the Easter bunny's sore foot. That stopped the bleeding, next I needed my other sister to get me some bandages. She came back with some strong bandages and I wrapped them around the Easter bunny's foot so that he could hop again. The Easter bunny got up and hopped around gleefully. Once he stopped he gave us a giant hug and said thank you so much for helping me, now I have to get going so that I can deliver all the eggs on time. With that he hopped out the door. We woke up the next morning to find a mountain of chocolate and lollies with a note on the bottom

"Thank you"

KIDS
ZONE

A Grandparents Guide: Understanding How Your Child Parents

If you're a grandparent, you might notice your adult child doing things differently with their kids than you did with yours. Or maybe you've been asked to mind the grandkids and received an instruction list far longer than expected?

You're not alone! From sleep routines to screen time, today's parenting may feel unfamiliar. But at its heart, it's still about love, safety, and helping children grow.

Modern parents are navigating a very different world. With endless information online—and ever-evolving research and guidelines—they're influenced by new standards and social expectations. After speaking to a local mothers' group, here are three areas where they felt things had changed the most:

Gentle Parenting

If a child is having a tantrum about leaving the park, instead of, "Stop being naughty, or we're not coming back," a gentle parenting response might be, "I know you're sad because it's time to go. It's hard to leave when you're having fun." The goal is to help children feel seen and heard while still following through with expectations.

A common misconception is that gentle parenting avoids discipline. In fact, it's about calmly guiding behavior and helping children build emotional awareness and self-control.



Sleep Sacks & Safe Sleeping

Safe sleep is another area that's changed. While past generations let babies sleep on their stomachs with blankets or pillows, today's advice is to lay babies on their backs, on a firm surface with no loose bedding. These practices reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Tempted to add a blanket? Ask about sleep sacks instead—you'll be top of the class!

Baby-Led Weaning

Feeding has evolved too. Many parents now use baby-led weaning, where babies skip purées and are offered soft, safe finger foods from around six months. It supports independence and

motor development. It might look messy—or even risky—but with supervision, it's both safe and empowering.

While it may feel like your own experience is being overlooked, your wisdom and support are deeply valued. Just remember—they're parenting based on what they've been taught. Asking, "How can I help?" or "Why do you do it that way?" opens the door to supportive conversations.

Yes, the rules have shifted—less sugar, more sunscreen, more talk about feelings—but the goal remains: raising healthy, happy kids. By staying open-minded, you can build strong bonds with your grandchildren and your adult children, too.

It's time to treat Mum special again - Mothers' Day (actually, we should do that EVERY DAY!)



Make a Special Gift for Mum

Creating your own painted flowerpots is a simple way to make a gift for mum. You can gather some terracotta pots, paints, and brushes and get crafty. Personalizing each pot with buttons and colours adds a special touch that any mum would cherish.

You can even write a message on them with a marker pen.

If you don't have a terracotta pot, you can use a glass jar, just add some coloured sticks and a ribbon. These flowerpots are a delightful way to show appreciation for all the wonderful mums out there. They're not just flower holders; they're a way to express love, creativity, and the joy of gardening.



KIDS ZONE

KIDS ZONE

Update from Jackson Taylor MP

I hope everyone had a restful Easter break and no doubt by the time you're reading this, we've likely well and truly moved into much colder weather – so make sure to rug up and keep warm. Some big news you may have missed was the Melbourne Airport Rail project will soon be underway – which I know is music to the ears of many (many) people. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our local RSLs for putting on moving ANZAC services to remember and thank our former and current service men and women – I was proud to lay wreaths on behalf of our community and the State Government.

Construction on Bayswater South Primary kicks off

This is what an upgraded Bayswater South Primary will soon look like (pictured)! Major construction works are about to kick off, which will see all classrooms upgraded across the school with works spanning three blocks. Another commitment of mine being delivered – and I can't wait to see the finished result for this wonderful school community.

Knoxfield Homes one step closer

We're progressing plans to transform unused land in Knoxfield into a new community at the



Artist's impression of Bayswater South Primary School

corner of Burwood Highway and Scoresby Road! Approximately 400 homes will be delivered – close to jobs, transport, hospitals and schools. The project will also enhance the health of local waterways with an improved, open-water wetland ideal for local wildlife. With a diverse range of housing options to choose from, we're getting ready for the sales office to open later this year to help locals find their new home.

In Other News

- Don't forget to claim the remainder of your School Saving Bonus, and we've recently banned school logos moving forward on school items like pants, skirts and socks to save you money.
- New Knox Athletics track and precinct major

upgrade complete. Proud that the State Government partnered with Council to deliver.

- If you're a trade apprentice using your car for work, you may be eligible to get 100% off your registration renewal.
- Three of the five new Metro Tunnel stations have had their keys handed over to train operator Metro in preparation for the new tunnel opening before the end of the year.

- RSV immunisation will be free for all newborns if their mother wasn't vaccinated during pregnancy and eligible infants aged up to two years who are vulnerable to severe RSV disease will be protected thanks to a dedicated catch-up program.

Shout-out

Big shout out to the Knox Baseball Club for their successful hosting of the State Little League Championships – amazing job as always by the wonderful volunteers.

Remember to get your annual flu vax to protect yourself and others as we head into winter – chat to your doctor for more info.

Also, a huge shout out to all the emergency services for responding to the Montrose fire recently, a big thank you from all of us!

What determines environmentally friendly?

Danny Nolan

The Solar Energy Facility at 49 The Basin–Olinda Road in The Basin (locally named The Basin Solar Farm) has moved a big step forward in being a reality with the Department of Transport & Planning granting the adoption and approval of Amendment C202Knox to the Knox Planning Scheme. Much to the disapproval of many Basin residents.

This has come after submissions from authorities including the CFA, Knox Council, Melbourne Water, and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have all been reviewed, considered, or applied.

The land is owned by the Salvation Army Property Trust which is the one applying for the Solar Farm to generate electricity for the property.

The block in question, which The Salvation Army has owned for over one hundred years, is 32 hectares in size and can be viewed from The Basin shops. It is part of a larger parcel of land that encompasses 88

hectares. It now houses the SalvoCare Eastern The Bridge Programme A residential Alcohol and Drug recovery program. It is assumed this and possibly future constructions will benefit from the Solar Farm.

The Salvation Army, it must be noted, is adding environmental and sustainable practices to their own property which is the preferred choice of a society moving forward, and in an area as environmentally fragile as the Dandenongs, it is to be commended. The Irony of the project is that green lush pasture is going to be covered by hundreds of square metres of black rectangles isn't lost on many who oppose it.



CITY NATURE CHALLENGE Friends of Bateman St Bushland (FOBB)

Follow on Instagram @friendsofbatemanstbushland for updates on events, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support their initiatives.

Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

FESTIVALS R FUN

Who doesn't love festivals? Not me. Any opportunity to leave the house, get lost in a crowd and indulge in a shared passion, whether it be for music or comedy or food or drink, indoor or outdoors, has got my vote. And this year I've enjoyed and sometimes been part of three festivals.

It began in late March with local gem, The Basin Music Festival. What joy! My musical sidekick Kevin and I spent most of the Saturday 'on site' beginning with our own performance as "Fairbairn and O'Mara" on the deck of the Acorn Restaurant (which, FYI I had a hand in naming). At 11 o'clock the town was still waking but the sound techs had obviously been busy for hours before, setting up PAs in the various venues. The young guy in charge of production in our room couldn't have been more helpful. He soon had us sounding schmick as we sound checked for our 11.30 performance. Our show went down well, despite the early start, and we were enthusiastically received by an audience admittedly consisting mostly of friends and family. Following our performance Kev and I wandered up to The Triangle, found a spot in the shade and settled down to enjoy the offerings on the main stage. What a treat! I was not familiar with any of the acts but most were young, that's not to say there was any lack of quality. Teenage power trio Chasing 'Planes were a standout, displaying songwriting, musicianship and stagecraft far beyond their years, putting me in mind of those other teenage sensations, Silverchair. Good luck to them, they deserve to go far. We finished our day back on the deck of The Acorn, this time with a beer. As we came away we reflected on the astonishing achievement that is The Basin Music Festival; how smoothly it runs, how it is giving encouragement and opportunity to mostly young and local talent and how this is only

possible through the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers. Long may it reign.

For my next festival experience I ventured into the 'big smoke', to The Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Whenever I am in the city I am caught up in the joy of feeling part of something bigger. Humanity! And during major events this feeling is amplified. Everyone is out to have a good time. Hordes of people, young, old and of different ethnicities flock to the city, reminding me of the magnificent multicultural melting pot that is our metropolis. The place was buzzing. My wife, daughter and I saw two local acts in two intimate venues. There are people who can repeat verbatim dialogue from movies, and regurgitate jokes from comedy shows. I am not one of those. I enjoy the moment then it is quickly forgotten. But I do remember being thoroughly entertained by the whimsical, sometimes musical musings and meanderings of Chaser alumni Andrew Hansen and the perfect power point presentation of trivia aficionado Julian O'Shea. After each show we topped off the experience with rice bowls in Flinders Lane and shawarma in Bridge Road, Richmond respectively. (Bridge Road was also jumping as local Muslims were breaking their fast during Ramadan).

The third festival from which, as I write, I have only recently recovered was CresFest, the festival of Folk and Roots Music in historical goldfields town, Creswick. That could have been a total disaster! The Basin was fun and stress free and I attended the Comedy Festival purely as a punter. But CresFest? For this we, like The Blues Brothers, were 'getting the old band back together' in a line up that hadn't performed for over forty years. What could possibly go wrong?

To be continued...



Making Knox more electric vehicle-ready

Share your thoughts on your current and future needs for public Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers to help shape Council's new Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy.

Feedback closes Monday 5 May.

We have identified a need to expand the EV charging network to help our community be more EV ready. This will provide many community benefits, including supporting more EV ownership, and reducing transport emissions.

Council is well placed to lead and facilitate the development of the EV charging network because Council manages a large number of public carparks and parking spaces.

The new Policy will guide how we grow the EV charging network on Council owned and managed land.

This is your opportunity to share thoughts on the draft policy, including possible locations for EV chargers, and how often you use public EV chargers.

We want to hear from both EV and non-EV drivers, businesses, EV charging operators and residents to understand their thoughts about this initiative.

Knox has over 25 public chargers, with Council owning and operating 5 public chargers at 3 locations (Knox City Council Civic Centre in Wantirna South, Fairpark Reserve in Ferntree Gully, and Knox Regional Netball Centre in Ferntree Gully).

The draft policy proposes that from 1 July 2025, Council will introduce a fee for Council owned and operated EV chargers. The fees are designed to cover operational costs.

There are many ways to have your say, including completing the online survey or attending one of our pop-up sessions.

Reducing transport emissions is a key initiative in our Climate Response Plan 2021-2031 which aims to reach net zero emissions for the Knox community by 2040.

For more information, visit our "Have your say" site:

<https://haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/ev-charging-policy>



Boronia & The Basin Community News is now also on Instagram!

Our Instagram presence will run in tandem with our Facebook, thanks to the generous support of our new young volunteers. We will be posting updates on unfolding stories, community information, and much more between printed editions.

Check it out here:
@boroniabasincommunitynews



Boronia K-12 College Open Night

Our Open Night on Tuesday the 25th of March was a great success, providing prospective families with a glimpse into our dynamic learning environment and co-curricular programs. It was a fantastic evening with students and staff coming together to showcase not only our wonderful facilities but more importantly the learning and co-curricular programs across Boronia K-12 College. The event was extremely well attended and included an opportunity for families to also tour our junior school facilities and classrooms. It was fabulous to see so many parents and students engaging with our staff and exploring the school.



Families enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle, an informative session about our programs, and guided school tours led by our Principal Team and leading teachers. Visitors explored both our Primary and Secondary campuses, gaining insight into our vibrant learning environment and meeting our passionate staff.

Our talented performers which included the College Choir, Senior Band, Junior & Senior Vocal Groups, and Senior Ensembles provided us with wonderful musical performances and added a lively and welcoming atmosphere to the event.

We appreciate everyone who attended and contributed to making the evening such a success!

Supporting the Hindu multipurpose community hub in The Basin

If re-elected, the current federal Government has committed to support the final stages of construction of the community hub at the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple in The Basin, in Victoria's Eastern suburbs.

This \$2 million election commitment will help complete this vital piece of community infrastructure. It will provide a central location for community members to access services, programs and gather to socialise.

The new community hub will be a significant expansion of the limited community space at the temple which has over 75,000 devotees visiting annually, the project reflects Labor's ongoing commitment to ensuring there is space to support growing multicultural communities in Victoria's Eastern Suburbs.

The hub will serve the local community by providing a space for youth development and

mental health programs, language education classes, senior citizens groups, interfaith dialogues, and much more for both the Hindu and the broader community.

Envisaged as an adaptable space, the hub will be used by the whole community and able to facilitate emergency relief and other efforts in times of crisis.

This commitment is in addition to the initial \$1.5 million of federal funding which has already been secured for the project.

Consistent with past practice, election commitments will be delivered in line with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles.

Mary Doyle MP, Federal Member for Aston, stated "The Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple has a long history in The Basin, and I am proud to support this important and vital piece of community infrastructure. This is such a vibrant and active community, with many local residents who will be able to access this hub, which will provide an inclusive and diverse space for everyone."

Knox Youth Advisory Committee Opportunity

Calling young people in Knox to Engage!

Applications are currently open for young people aged 12-25 years who have a connection to Knox to join our Knox Engage! Youth Crew.

The Knox Engage! Youth Crew provides a great opportunity for young people to:

- have their say in activities and events being delivered for young people in Knox
- develop leadership, public speaking and event management skills
- meet other young people from Knox.

You can apply to be part of the 2025 committee if you are between the ages of 12-25 and you have a connection to the City of Knox (for example, you live, work or study here).

Meetings are held monthly on a Tuesdays from 4.00 - 5.30pm at the Youth Hive in the Knox Library and will commence in May 2025.

Registration is required.

For more information and to register contact Alex in Youth Services on 9298 8000 or youth@knox.vic.gov.au

For more information visit:

<https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/our-council/about-council/council-committees/knox-youth-advisory-committee>



Exciting news for local families!



Goodstart Early Learning Boronia, Albert Ave has officially relocated to a new, bigger, and brighter centre on Iris Crescent

After 20 years at their previous location, the dedicated team—known for their strong community ties and exceptional early learning programs—has moved into a purpose-built space designed to better support children's growth and development.

Enrolments are now open for 2025 and 2026.

And we would love you to tour this much-loved centre in their new home!

You can Book a tour on 1800 222 543

URL: <https://www.goodstart.org.au/find-a-centre/all-centres/vic/boronia-iris-crescent>

Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple connects cultures through food and performance.

The Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple participated in this year's Basin Music Festival by presenting a performance and organising a stall featuring South Indian food and drinks as well as henna art. A full-length presentation of Devanrityam: Shanmatha was brought to life by Dr. Ranjanni Ganesan Rameesh, Daksha Ramesh Swaminathan, and Vishwajit Ramesh Swaminathan on behalf of the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple. Tailored especially for the local residents, the piece explored Shanmatha, the sixfold path of worship founded by Hindu philosopher Adi Shankaracharya, through the powerful medium of Devanrityam — an intricate blend of Vedic hymns, live chanting, expressive dance and rhythmic percussion.

A standout element of the performance was the integration of storytelling with insights drawn from science, psychology, mathematics, and more — all seamlessly woven into the narrative. This creative layering emphasised the continuing relevance of Hindu knowledge, scriptures, and philosophy, demonstrating how these ancient teachings are deeply embedded in our culture through the arts. This thematic connection was particularly poignant in the portrayal of Vakrathunda Vinayagar — the form of

Lord Ganesha with the curved trunk (who is the main deity in the Hindu temple in The Basin), symbolising the ability to embrace all paths and bless devotees with precisely what they need and seek. It was a powerful representation of how layered and inclusive Hindu philosophy is, and how Devanrityam becomes a vessel to express and experience this.



The performance created such an immersive environment that many audience members began chanting, singing, and even dancing along involuntarily. The boundary between performer and spectator dissolved — a rare feat that speaks to the power of Devanrityam as both ritual and performance art. This wasn't just a performance — it was a living meditation on spiritual practice, showcasing how ancient Indian philosophy can be made accessible and transformative through the art form of Devanrityam.



Throughout the festival, local residents were treated to freshly made vegetarian South Indian delights such as dosa, paneer wraps, laddu, mixture, falooda and lassi that featured a range of flavours - from the sweet to the savory. While also getting a taste of Indian art through the application of henna on one's hand.

Goodstart Early Learning
Boronia
Iris Crescent
 The heart of our community

Book a tour today!



1800 222 543



goodstart.org.au



enrolments@goodstart.org.au



Goodstart
Boronia
Iris Crescent

Enrol Now!



Have you heard the Urban Legend?

Danny Nolan

Urban legends -sometimes called modern legend or urban myth - as described by Wikipedia is a genre of folklore concerning stories about an unusual (usually scary) or humorous event that many people believe to be true but largely are not and usually attributed locally.

The term urban legend itself is relatively new and has only appeared in print since 1968 when it was used by American University professor Richard Dorson.

Before I came to live in this area, and even as a young teenager, I was aware of such a legend/myth that emanated from The Basin. The story goes that the bodies of children were hidden somewhere on Sugarloaf Hill after being beaten to death by overzealous guards at the Bayswater Boys Home (BBH). A name synonymous with other institutions such as Turana and Tally Ho boys' homes that no one wanted to be sent to when I was growing up.

mysterious circumstances. While not in the Braybon book he told police of two wards of the state who died of beatings in the 1950s and were allegedly buried in the Sugarloaf Hill area of the No.2 home. (This is the high area that separates the Salvation Army land and the Retarding Basin further down Liverpool Road.) That same year the allegation was acted upon and was investigated by Victorian Police. They conducted a forensic investigation on the No. 2 Home site and found nothing. They also interviewed former residents who said they had no knowledge of the alleged incident. No charges were laid nor prosecutions commenced over the claims..

These allegations were again brought up in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse hearing in December 2012 and the Salvation Army angrily denied it blaming the lawyers for being "false and mischievous" and that "Over time the allegations had become a matter of hearsay piled upon hearsay. The exhaustive police investigation did not find any such offence had been committed by the Salvation Army."

In 2013 Abuse survivor Brian Cherrie told a parliamentary inquiry "The homicide squad was at the Bayswater home approximately two years ago and they dug holes with a backhoe. They were looking for bodies, they didn't find anything,"

To me, this is ample proof that the events never took place, besides the evidence and at least two Police searches, the fact that to hide bodies in a place as accessible as Sugarloaf Hill at night and keep them hidden for so long just doesn't seem plausible.

Despite this, I have heard this story told a few times by people in their twenties only recently, inspiring me to write this piece. Did these two former occupants just incorporate this story into their collective memory because of all the abuse they received, that it was just another of a multitude of horrors?

The Bayswater Boys Home has a regrettable history and many evil people worked there, it doesn't help by adding to the horror with made-up stories. To be clear, the BBH was a small part of a massive problem that included all types of institutions from Religious to the judiciary. The real horror can be read in The Victorian State Government's Parliamentary Inquiry into Child Abuse Betrayal of Trust report, which was published in 2013, and The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse which was tabled in the Australian Parliament, on 15 December 2017.

Collector's Call

Danny Nolan

Denise O'Halloran and her Elvis Presley collection

Many people will recognise this issue's collector.

Denise O'Halloran has a busy life, not only does she volunteer for the Aussie Vets Op shop a few days a week, is on the Boronia K12 School board as well as the parents & friends, and works with the Boronia Scouts. She also has what she calls her favourite. Her "real job" working for the Knox Council as a Crossing Guard. Then there are her thirteen Grandchildren. Denise has a passion for Community but nothing comes close to her passion for Elvis Presley.

Denise has a whole room dedicated to Elvis (besides other pieces scattered around the house). In it are thousands of items including but not restricted to: pictures, stamps, coins, jigsaws, jackets, plates, cups, spoons, pillows & doona covers.

Throw into the mix 65 T-shirts, many figurines and dolls, and of course countless vinyl albums, CDs, and tapes. Her favorite piece that takes pride of place is a six-foot statue of young Elvis in his iconic pose playing his guitar whilst swinging his hips.

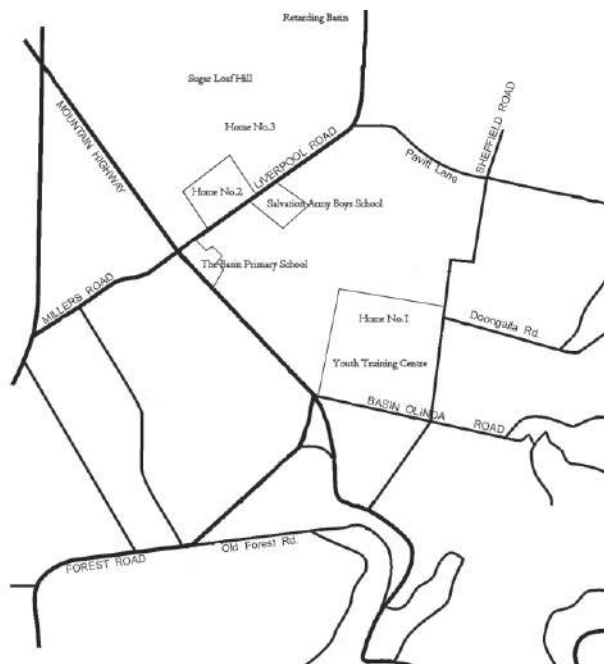
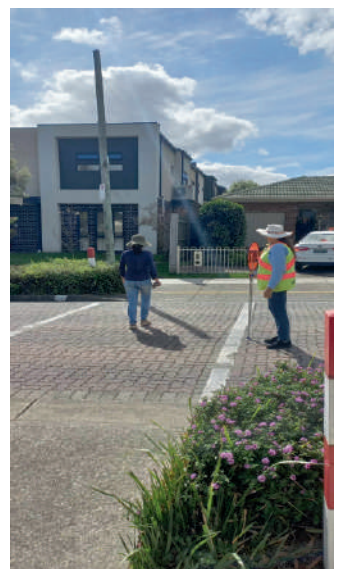
Denise, of course, has done the pilgrimage with a trip to Graceland. Elvis' mansion in the USA and spiritual home for millions of Elvis fans worldwide. Which she claims was a life changing visit, but still didn't satisfy her need for more things Elvis related.

She often has fellow volunteers at the Vet's Op Shop tap her on the shoulder alerting her to new Elvis bits & bobs that have been donated.

She still has a small Beatles collection, and now has a small cow collection that once was over 5000 pieces strong but was shrunk dramatically to house more Elvis.

That's what it takes to be a true collector.

Denise the Crossing Guard.



Location of the former Bayswater Boys Home

The story goes that the boys were listed as runaways and must have moved interstate or changed their identities. I also heard it a few more times when I eventually moved to Boronia.

Usually, these stories do seem a bit far-fetched. As the Home had a bad reputation, it felt like it was a story that added to that notoriety.

But sometimes legends and myths have their roots planted in facts, no matter how tenuous.

One of these original stories comes from the book Salvation - the true story of Rod Braybon's fight for justice. A harrowing recollection of his time spent at the Home during the 1950s, Mr Braybon stated three boys disappeared under

Knox Environmental Society Celebrating Autumn

At this time of year, not a lot of plants are flowering. But the Common or Pink Heath *Epacris impressa*, our state floral emblem, is one that is in flower right now.

At Wilsons Promontory recently, Pink Heath was already showing a wonderful array of colours, not just pink, but also shades of crimson and red too. The vibrant colours brightened any spot where it was growing.

This plant grows in heathland, shrubland, alpine or open forest. It is generally a small shrub around 0.5 to 1 m tall with small, pointed leaves.

The red, pink or white tube-like flowers appear from late autumn and through to early spring, with peak flowering in winter. It is attractive to Honeyeaters, particularly the Eastern Spinebill, which feed upon the nectar of the flowers.

Common Heath grows best in moist, but well-drained soil, in sun to part shade and is suited to growing in a pot.

Common Heath's range is south-eastern Australia including NSW, across southern Victoria into South Australia and Tasmania. Pleasingly, Knox is in its range, so KES Nursery also has Common Heath available for sale, but only limited stock at this stage.

While Autumn may not be a time of year for flowers in abundance, it is a great time for planting. The weather is not hot, there is more rain, and the soil is less dry.

Autumn Festival 10th May

At the KES Nursery we are celebrating autumn with an Autumn Festival on Saturday 10 May from 10am-4pm.

There will be talks and activities during the day

- Landscaping your nature strip
- Birds of Knox and how to plant your garden for birds
- Small garden and container planting – advice and activity
- Growing and caring for canopy trees



There will be exhibitors present

- Knox Community Gardens Society
- Knox Woodworkers
- Knox Repair Café
- The Basin Backyard Honey

Knox Woodies will have activities for children, as will Tisha of KES at her repurpose stall, which is also where you might pick up a last-minute Mother's Day gift.

So don't miss out on the fun – come and celebrate autumn at the KES Autumn Festival between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 10 May at 1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully (just across the car park from the Library).

See our website at www.kes.org.au for more information.



Volunteering Expo at Knox Civic Centre

Looking to volunteer in the future?

Join us for our FREE Volunteering Expo where you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with our 40 Not-for-profit organisation stallholders.

You will learn about the many wonderful causes, meet representatives and see what interests you!

Find out how contributing your time, skills and experience can help make a valuable difference in our community.

Following on from our successful 2024 Volunteering Expo where we had over 350 people through the door we can't wait to showcase and share these inspiring and passionate organisations with you!

Activities, prizes, tea/coffee and more!

One stop shop for all of your Volunteering questions! Volunteering has never looked so good!

Volunteers are happier, healthier and sleep better than those who don't volunteer. Just a few hours of volunteer work can make a difference to your happiness and mood!

Doctors are now even prescribing volunteering to some patients to combat mental health



problems, reduce loneliness and give them a purpose.

Find a volunteering opportunity that's right for you at the Volunteer for Knox 2025 Volunteer Expo Friday May 16 from 1.00pm – 5.00pm at Knox Council Civic Centre Burwood Highway in Wantirna South.

Volunteers contributed more than 70,000 hours to the City of Knox over the past year with the value of their volunteering worth more than \$3 million.

Knox's volunteer resource centre, Volunteer for Knox (V4K), helps prospective volunteers find opportunities and local community groups to recruit volunteers.

Manager Sally Dusting-Laird said over the past year more than 1600 people have expressed interest in volunteering positions.

"We have referred more than 300 Knox volunteers to some of our 178 registered organisations so far this year," she said, adding "Half our volunteers are aged under 35, many of our volunteers have degrees, they speak 36 different languages and more than 50% were born overseas."


Popular areas of volunteering include the environment, community services, disability services and education.

"About a quarter of all registered volunteers were jobseekers or students," Sally said.

"This has remained consistent over the last few years with volunteering being recognised as a pathway to employment."

For more information please contact Sally Dusting-Laird or Mandy Limb on 0429968822.

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Local Community and Club News



PROBUS SOCIAL CLUB BORONIA
 Boronia Bowls Club
 5 Marie Street,
 BORONIA

Contact: Keiran Smith

M: 0404 079 636

Email: keiran.smith59@gmail.com

Date/Time: Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10.00am

If you are retired and looking for things to do or want to meet new people then please consider trying out the Probus Social Club in Boronia.

We are a great, friendly social club and we hold a variety of activities and outings as well as having interesting guest speakers every month.

If you enjoy outings, dining out, movies, live shows, bus trips, walks, coffee meets and so much more and would like to make new friends, then please check us out. We welcome new members.



New Friends Group Formed to Protect Bateman Street Bushland

A new community group, Friends of Bateman Street Bushland (FOBB), has been formed by passionate locals who connected through the 2024 Nature Stewards program. This group is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Bateman Street Bushland while fostering community engagement and environmental education.

FOBB invites like-minded individuals to join their efforts in protecting this cherished green space. From planting days to educational walks, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and make a positive impact.

Follow them on Instagram @friendsofbatemanstbushland for updates on events, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support their initiatives.

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 27th of May, 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.

A very lucky group recently enjoyed a Ferry Trip from Southbank to Williamstown. And, at our April meeting we were entertained by a group of Irish Dancers. (Photos from both events provided.) During April, members toured the Ambulance Museum in Bayswater. Amazing what we find hidden in the suburbs of Melbourne! The history depicted was truly fascinating.

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.

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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Join us for worship on a Sunday morning at 10am. Meet our minister, Rev Russell Croxford who will be preaching on the 1st Sunday of each month. Our worship service also has children's activities and lots of singing! Followed by morning tea and fellowship.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET on Saturday, 3rd May from 10am – 2pm. All stalls will be indoors or under-cover.

Enquiries - contact 0421 769 067 or irenesmith2@bigpond.com

ON 29TH JUNE WE WILL CELEBRATE THE

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Call Sue on 0402 079 432

www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch

Website: https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au

Church office on 9762 6732



Will be meeting Friday 16th May at 1:30am at Eastwood Golf club with a 2 course lunch costing \$30. This will be followed by a mother/daughter mobile fashion business and they present various ways to co-ordinate outfits with some scarfe tying techniques. There will be a raffle, book stall and trading table with all monies raised helping support the club's Smith Family's Learning For Life students with financial help for their education. 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 clubs and occasional outings.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602



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