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# Boronia & The Basin

June 2025

Issue 344

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

*Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas*

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(See story page 5)

Cover design: Nicole Zhou,  
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**Editorial: Patrick Kelly****So, you want to be President?**

G'day, my name's Pat and I'm really proud to have been able to step into the role of President of the Boronia and The Basin Community News. It's certainly not something that I'd ever thought I'd be doing, but having given it a crack, I'm really glad I did.

My partner Steph and I (and our two cats) live in Ferntree Gully. But I've been working in our part of the world (Knox) for the past seven or so years. My day-to-day sees me being able to work closely with a lot of our great local community groups, including the BBCN.

Having helped out on a few paper delivery routes for the past little bit, I attended the annual BBCN Volunteers Lunch in 2024, when the indomitable John Edgley approached me. I'd gotten to know John well and when he suggested there may be a role for me to help the paper out, I was all ears.

I'd be lying if I said it wasn't a daunting prospect. But, I figured, if this is how I can help out, then why not? And I'm glad I did.

I was so proud to walk out the May edition – the first paper that I'd watched go together from start to finish. From the committee meeting, editorial meeting, the printing, down to me walking along Power Road in Boronia and popping it in mailboxes. Knowing how much work goes into each edition, I'm really thankful I can play a part.

It'd be remiss of me if I didn't remind everyone reading this that there are always opportunities for you to help, too. Big and small, there are always roles for people to play.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the legendary John Pernu, who, as my predecessor in the role, has set an incredibly high standard to meet – as well as our very hard-working and considerate committee of management. Each edition you read has care, effort and attention put into it like nothing else – and it's this team that drive that.

Ultimately, that's what our local paper – your local paper – is about. A group of locals, volunteering their time, sharing the news and yarns with the community they love. It's why the BBCN has been around for almost as long as I've been alive!

As a proud local, I hope to honour and do justice to this tradition of excellence. I can't wait to roll my sleeves up and get cracking.

**JULY HISTORICAL THEME**

The editorial group would like to run with a History theme for the July edition. We invite you all to send us articles or anecdotes about your community group or The Basin and Boronia in general. We are also looking for pictures to use for the front page.

**Boronia & The Basin Community News**

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We welcome all contributions from our community but can not guarantee publication. Articles published elsewhere should be acknowledged. We reserve the right to edit material. Email is preferred but not essential. Articles or letters that have no contact details, are abusive in nature, or contain racial or other vilification will not be published. **Submissions preferably should be 400 to 600 words, Georgia font, single spacing preferred. All photos should be submitted as separate jpg, png, heic or pdf files.**

This community newspaper is run totally by volunteers. We aim to provide the people of Boronia and The Basin with an effective medium of communication, information and expression and to promote community identity, cooperation and pride. We welcome your response to published articles, and request that such responses be courteous and objective.

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

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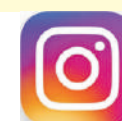
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**To view index to previous articles,  
back to 2019, search Trove:**  
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2943856901>

**Bound editions 1994-2016 at Boronia Library**

**Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga**

## Page 3 Bird

Des Palmer  
arc\_up\_welding@live.com.au

### Wilson's Storm Petrel

(*Oceanites oceanicus*)

My Pizzey and Knight field guide describes the Wilson's Storm Petrel as "one of earth's most widespread and abundant birds". Don't think you're ever going to see one in a hurry though, unless you go out to the continental shelf or venture down to Antarctica where they breed. Having said that, I will now say this (Malcolm Fraser quote, good man that, humanitarian.), I recently saw one out on Westernport- bay whilst fishing with my good friend Mark and my grandson Jeremy, (we cleaned up big time, best day's fishing I've ever had! I could elaborate if you want me to, actually, better not, we'll leave it for a long winter's evening).

The Crested Terns, Gannets and Little Penguins (and those extremely rare and endangered fish and chip munching species, Silver Gulls) were everywhere, diving and catching baitfish. I looked across and saw what I initially thought was a Welcome Swallow, what the hell's that doing out here I thought to myself (yes, honestly I did). Until I jerried..., that ain't no Welcome Swallow that's a Wilson's Storm Petrel, but do you think it would come near the boat, no, not on your nellie!

My Dad Keith was a merchant seaman after the second world war and travelled all over the world, I remember him saying he would often see these little birds, possibly not this particular species, although it could easily have been, there are so many species of Storm Petrel in the world (7 types recorded in Australian waters). He told me some sheltered on the ship he was on in the middle of the Atlantic in a raging tempest, they landed on the deck to seek refuge. The sailors referred to these little sea-birds as "Mother Carey's Chickens", and that's what he called them, a term passed down from long ago through folklore amongst the sailors of old, who believed that seeing these birds was a premonition of rough weather ahead.

Spending their lives at sea, only coming to land to breed, you wonder how a small bird like this could survive, something so small and delicate, and yet of course that's exactly what they do. My field guide says they breed in Antarctica and sub-Antarctic islands between November-May, then migrates north after breeding to winter in the tropics and all over the northern hemisphere, occurring on all the oceans of the world. Migration occurs over the shelf break, many, many kilometres offshore, so what the hell was my mate doing in Westernport? Possibly blown inshore by a wild storm? Who knows, these birds just seem to like breaking the rules sometimes I guess.

Storm -Petrels feed on the surface of the ocean on small invertebrates such as Krill and



Plankton, but will also take small fish and even insects whilst on land breeding. Like many sea birds, they have the ability to convert food into a stomach oil which is high in energy to feed their chicks, a highly specialised technique, deployed by sea birds which enables them to feed their chicks once per day. Similar to the Mutton birds we see on Phillip Island each year, at night when the adults return you can hear the hungry chicks in the burrow frantically being fed this oil. Ok doesn't sound particularly appealing to me, but I ain't a sea bird chick.

This has nothing to do with birds but my brother Stevo and I recently went to the Dandenong market, what a treat! I think every nation on the face of the earth is represented there, a meeting place for humanity. We spoke to some Afghani people, absolute gold to hear their stories. An old Greek lady told us how to cook Octopus, I couldn't consume an Octopus, I love them too much alive but yes it sounded delicious! I was getting a tad peckish by this stage and felt like yelling at her "Stop it".

It made me think of Henry Lawson's tribute to multiculturalism in a poem about the old days, in a poem called 'The lights of Cobb and Co' when he wrote, in a celebration of migrant's contribution to this land:

Some twenty thousand exiles, who sailed for weal or woe.

The bravest hearts of twenty lands will wait for Cobb and Co.

It must make us stop and think we are all humans on this planet, and we all must get along, just go to the Dandy market for living proof!

PS I forgot to thank my friend Alf for supplying the photos of the Darter for us last month, and for the photos this month of the Wilson's Storm Petrel.

### Eucalypt Identification Day

Learn about our local Eucalypts and how to identify Eucalypts.

Where: Parkland between Patrick court and Wells Avenue Boronia.

When: Sunday June 15th from 9 – 11 am

RSVP: Des Palmer

arc\_up\_welding@live.com.au



WALKING  
THE  
NEWS

### CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you, Annette for volunteering to fill the 'walking' vacancy advertised last month. We hope you enjoy being part of the team that delivers 13100 papers to every household in Boronia and The Basin each month.

We still have a vacancy for a 'Driver' – to drop off around 900 papers to 2 or 3 private residences and 11 businesses on the last Thursday morning of every month.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer crew, or for more information, please contact us here at BBCN via [contact@bbc.org.au](mailto:contact@bbc.org.au)

### READERS LETTER

#### Ibis - have they lost their home?

This is on Lucerne Road, Ferntree Gully, and has been happening a lot over the past two weeks. The numbers have built up since I saw the first two.

I am wondering if they have lost their usual habitat. Hoping you can enlighten me.

Irene Watt

#### BBCN response:

The Australian white ibis According to [wildlife.vic.gov.au](http://wildlife.vic.gov.au), the Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), is a native Australian wading bird which is widespread across much of Australia. Historically large ibis populations occurred at large inland wetlands where they would migrate to the wetlands with the most food (normally the wetlands that were in flood).

However, agricultural and water developments have led to droughts and declines in the quality of their natural habitat. The species began to expand into new habitats including urban areas which have more predictable food and water sources. Historically they were rare in urban areas, but since the late 1970's they have been established in urban areas of the east coast in increasing numbers and are now commonly seen in major cities.

Due to its increasing presence in the urban environment and its habit of rummaging in garbage, the species is colloquially known as "bin chickens".

For thousands of years ibis have been sacred to Indigenous communities and are excellent indicators of wetland health.



# Leave your rubbish bin out until 6pm on your usual rubbish collection day

- Do this every fortnight until you get your new red lid
- If you haven't received your new lid by 1 October, let us know



Learn more

[knox.vic.gov.au/BinLids](https://knox.vic.gov.au/BinLids)



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## Knox @ HOME program

Gain access to free sustainable living workshops, resources and a like-minded community. Sign up now.

[tinyurl.com/knoxathome](https://tinyurl.com/knoxathome)



## Parking in Activity Centres

Share your thoughts on parking in Rowville and Mountain Gate in Ferntree Gully. Feedback closes 23 June 2025.

[knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](https://knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay)

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## COVER STORY: Winter is Coming ...



As winter is coming, why not consider stepping into your local library for some fun and interesting activities to keep you and your family warm and entertained. Visit Knox library website for details.

Miller's Homestead in Boronia is part of the Knox library group. It is a beautiful place with lush surrounding gardens and spaces both indoors and outdoors for people to relax in. There is something for everyone at Miller's Homestead from Tiny tots to Seniors. For children there are story times, letter writing and musical groups. If you have a passion for Poetry or Crime stories you can join



Words aloud or Murky Melbourne. The Knox genies are an enthusiastic group dedicated to family history. Arts and crafts groups include The Coloring circle and the Crafternooners who meet to share techniques and enjoy each other's company. And don't forget the open mic piano group who welcome all piano enthusiasts from the age of 5 upwards.

Each month there are also many special events. Here are a few of the June events.

Art Beyond Waste exhibition – Knox artists, makers, and eco-conscious creators have transformed unwanted items into inspiring works of art using recycled and repurposed materials.

Growing Berries - with Kat Lavers

Learn about the different types of berry crops like strawberries, blueberries, currants, raspberries, boysenberries and mulberries, as well as their management needs like soil and pruning.

Musical Theatre - Songs for a new world Theatre SLAMS Music Theatre Company Inc. presenting Jason Robert Brown's 'Songs For A New World'. A moving collection of powerful songs about that moment in life when you hit the wall and have to make the choice to take a stand or turn around and go back.

Most events are free, but some have a cost involved and bookings may be required.

Millers homestead is located on the corner of Dorrigio Dr & Melrose Ct. Boronia

<https://events.yourlibrary.vic.gov.au/search?q=Miller> Contact: 0438 284 989

Image credits:

Daniel Barber and Penny Duke



### Gardening Companion Services

If kneeling and digging is a challenge, I am here to lend a hand with your gardening needs. I offer assistance with tasks such as weeding, pruning, planting, trimming shrubs, tending to the vegetable patch, and more...

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## Laundrette

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## Pet's Piece

*Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic*

### Why am I yellow?

Kulfi is an 8-year-old Maltese X Cavalier that presented to us recently as he was suddenly vomiting, lethargic, and not eating. He became very quiet, which was a concern to his family as he is often greeting them at the door with a lot of energy. As a result, Kulfi came to see us for a consultation.



On examination, it was noted that his lips and the whites of his eyes seemed yellow. This is clinically referred to as "jaundice". The next step for him was to collect some bloods to evaluate the

function of his organs, in particular his liver, as this can often cause signs of jaundice.

The bloods revealed marked elevation in his liver and gall bladder values. These were greater than 10 times the normal reference range. This made us quite worried for Kulfi as his condition started to deteriorate.

Kulfi was admitted to hospital and stabilised on intravenous fluid, pain relief and anti-nausea. He was showing no signs of improvement over the next 24 hours hence we needed to organise an urgent abdominal ultrasound to further investigate the abdomen, including the liver and gall bladder.

The abdominal ultrasound revealed a "gall bladder mucocele" with inflammation around it; this is a surgical emergency. The gall bladder, in health, stores bile acids and cholesterol for the digestion of fats and is released in response to a meal. After eating, bile should flow out of the gall bladder and into the small intestine for digestion. In Kulfi's case, a gall bladder mucocele is where the bile is thick and forms a solid structure that is unable to move through the bile duct. It has a high risk of gall bladder rupture due to the irritation and pressure it will cause.

After long discussions with the family about the next steps, we had to quickly consider referring him to a surgical specialist for urgent surgical attention and removal of this gall bladder, before it ruptured. He was referred to the incredible surgical team at Advanced Vet Care, a specialist hospital, where he was immediately

taken to surgery by specialist surgeons and operated on. This procedure carries a high risk, especially when the patient is so unwell. There are recommendations that if this mucocele is caught earlier on in life, prior to the animal getting sick, then there is a better outcome for the patient to have it removed prior to it becoming a problem. A lot of these patients may already have a ruptured gall bladder when they are initially presenting to the vet. Kulfi remained in hospital for a few days. He was then discharged to continue his care at home.

Thankfully, dogs can live a pretty good life without their gallbladder. Kulfi will need a diet that is low-fat and easily digestible as well as will require supplements to help support his liver, including antioxidants and vitamin E. He has been back to see us for repeat testing of his bloods. These show mild elevations in his liver, possibly due to inflammation but a significant improvement. This is expected to improve and return to normal.

We look forward to continuously monitoring Kulfi. He has made a miraculous recovery despite us being worried about almost losing him. We are so proud of how strong he is and love the fact that he comes into our clinic, bounding with energy and wagging his tail despite everything he has been through. We are very grateful to his committed family. Kulfi is so lucky to have them; they are lucky to have him too!



## Collectors Call

*Danny Nolan*

### **Madelyn Brown - Brassware sculptures.**

This month's collector loves to restore old to new. Madelyn has been collecting brassware figures and pieces since she was a teenager and loves to restore them to their previous glory. Pictured is her eclectic range of various creatures and objects of all sizes. Madelyn says she finds polishing therapeutic and loves to see old neglected pieces come back to life. She says she can find the brassware anywhere from collectables and antiques stores to local op shops and sometimes garage sales. Occasionally getting lucky and having a unique find on someone's hard rubbish whilst out for a walk.

Madelyn has refined her processes to the point where she has been commissioned to bring other people's pieces up to a presentable standard. This is also true of her silver polishing, which is a different story for later.



## Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

**181 Boronia Road, Boronia**  
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**\*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.

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## The Cubs try their swing style at mini-golf!

*Nicole Klep, District Leader of Cub Scouts.*

On Sunday the 4th of May about 60 Cubs from 7 Cub Units had a fun time at the Maroondah Golf Park in Chirnside Park, challenging themselves on the outside mini golf course. The weather was just perfect!

The competition was on again to see which unit could take out the 'Round Robin Trophy' and knock off the reigning champions 2nd Wantirna! We have a Round Robin Tournament event each year, the activity decided upon by the Cubs to see which unit will take home the trophy. Last year it was ten-pin bowling and this year the competition was mini golf!



We would like to congratulate all the Cubs on their fantastic golfing efforts and the winning Cub Unit was 2nd Wantirna again! They are certainly on a winning streak. The Cubs got a round robin campfire blanket badge to take home, which they loved.

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

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



## The Gully Market donations to charities

Gully market operating from the Upper Gully station carpark every Saturday and Sun, was pleased to make another \$5000 donation in April to the Angliss Hospital. It will purchase 2 special cribs for the maternity ward so that mothers who have had difficult births, or caesarean, can have their baby beside them for bonding and feeding. May is dedicated to breast cancer awareness, with another \$3000 being donated to the Otis Foundation, which provides retreats for breast cancer patients during treatment, or after treatment for up to four family members /friends. Sadly for some, it is their last holiday together. Google this fantastic foundation and donate. Meanwhile, the market needs the locals assistance, by supporting this little community market, so that we can continue to give back. Since Sept 2023, with these donations, it brings to \$31,500 we have given back to various organizations. Check out the Gully Market website. Ian Rice, president, Tracy Pate, treasurer, Rachael Foster, media, Dianne PA



Otis Photo: L-R Bec, Jody, Claire CEO Otis and Jenny. Absent Almila.

## Save our Breakfast Program

Since November 2021, the Knox Infolink Community Breakfast Program has operated, originally five, now four mornings a week, providing not only nutritious meals but also a gateway to essential services and support networks.

### A Holistic Approach to Support

The Breakfast Program is designed to address multiple facets of poverty and social isolation. It offers:

1. Nutritious Meals: Ensuring everyone starts their day with a full stomach.
2. Access to Services: Helping guests connect with local support networks through trusted relationships.
3. Community Connections: Building social cohesion and resilience by empowering guests to support each other.

This program serves as a soft entry point for those struggling the most, providing encouragement and ongoing social connections on their journey out of poverty.

### Community Impact

In just over three years, the Knox Infolink



Community Breakfast Program has served more than 21,000 meals to 949 guests. The program reaches those who need support the most, including:

- 119 people experiencing homelessness
- 228 people facing financial distress
- 141 individuals with mental health issues
- 134 people struggling with addictions

The program's effectiveness lies in its ability to build relationships of trust, listen to those in need, and facilitate engagement with necessary supports. Over 300 guests have received informal support, such as extra food and

clothing, while 211 guests have been provided with formal short-term case work. Additionally, 130 guests have been linked with external supports like Centrelink, Police, Housing support, mental health services and rehabilitation programs.

### Can You Help Save our Breakfast?

The Knox Infolink Community Breakfast Program is facing a funding challenge. The current State Government funding ends on October 15, 2025, after four years of support through the Boronia Revitalisation program.

Knox Infolink is seeking local businesses, organisations and individuals to help 'Save Our Breakfast' and see this vital program continue beyond October 2025.

Knox Infolink has DGR status and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Visit [www.knoxinfolink.org.au](http://www.knoxinfolink.org.au) for more information, including to request a copy of Knox Infolink's Breakfast Business Sponsorship Proposal.

This end of financial year, we ask you to consider sponsoring or donating to the Knox Infolink to make a significant impact on the lives of many in the community, fostering resilience and delivering tangible change at a grassroots level.

## Thousands celebrate The Basin Hindu Temple's annual chariot festival

On Saturday, 26 April 2025, the Sri Vagrathunda Vinayagar Temple in The Basin held its annual chariot festival which attracted Hindu devotees from all over Melbourne and as well as local residents.

Over 2,000 devotees and residents gathered to watch the beautifully hand-carved wooden chariot, carrying Lord Ganesha, being pulled through the streets of The Basin by devotees, young and old, in a grand procession. The chariot procession is part of a 10-day festival, now in its 17th year, and it honours Lord Ganesha, the beloved elephant-headed deity to whom the temple is dedicated. On the 9th day,



Lord Ganesha is placed in a chariot and taken around the streets of Melbourne. After the chariot returned to the temple, devotees lined up to present offerings, seeking blessings for prosperity and peace.

Federal and state ministers and MPs joined the celebrations, with the Federal government announcing a \$2 million grant to support the construction of the temple's new community hub, a significant boost for the growing needs of the community.

Adding to the festivities of the chariot festival, stalls set up by the temple, provided freshly made sweets and savouries made in the temple's community kitchen. Melbourne YUVA, the temple's youth group, offered hot drinks, their signature faloodas, and snacks.

"This festival is not just a celebration of our faith, but a powerful reminder of the strength and unity of our community. Watching devotees of all ages come together to pull the chariot and offer their prayers is truly inspiring. We are grateful for the continued support, including the generous funding for our new community hub, which will allow us to better serve our growing congregation and share our culture with the broader community," Shan Pillai, president of the Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam which runs the temple, said.

The day ended with 'annathanam' (free lunch), a South Indian meal prepared by the temple chefs in the community kitchen.

## MCG to SCG Book launch

I am pleased to share the good news with you that our book was jointly launched by His Excellency Gopal Bagley, High Commissioner of India and the Hon. Andrew Leigh MP Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury on Thursday 8 May 2025 at the Bradman Pavilion, Manuka Oval, Canberra. Adrienne Francis from the ABC was the MC. Special guests included Emeritus Professor Chennupati Jagadish, President of the Australian Academy of Science at the Australian National University.

The Minister's speech is available online [https://www.andrewleigh.com/speech\\_launching\\_a\\_retiree\\_s\\_odyssey\\_from\\_the\\_mcg\\_to\\_the\\_scg\\_by\\_prabodh\\_malhotra\\_and\\_anand\\_kulkarni](https://www.andrewleigh.com/speech_launching_a_retiree_s_odyssey_from_the_mcg_to_the_scg_by_prabodh_malhotra_and_anand_kulkarni)

All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the McGrath Foundation. The book is available at Dymocks Knox City, Snap Fitness Wantirna, Belgrave Book Barn and directly by contacting the author: [pcmalhotra@hotmail.com](mailto:pcmalhotra@hotmail.com)



## Boronia K-12 College Junior School Mother's Day Stall & Breakfast

Our Junior School was filled with love and appreciation as we celebrated our mums and special caregivers with two heartwarming events.

In the lead-up to Mother's Day, students thoughtfully selected gifts at our Annual Mother's Day Stall, eager to show their gratitude in meaningful ways.

Following Mother's Day, we were delighted to welcome families to our Junior School Mother's Day Breakfast. Guests enjoyed warm drinks and toast, had the opportunity to explore open classrooms showcasing the incredible learning from Terms 1 and 2, and were treated to a special performance by our talented Junior School Choir.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us—it was a beautiful way to honour the special people in our students' lives!

## BK-12 Year 9

### Camp Buttercup, Merrijig

From Wednesday 30 April to Friday 2 May, our Year 9 students took part in an unforgettable three-day adventure at Camp Buttercup in Merrijig.



The group set off bright and early at 7:00 am, heading straight to Bonnie Doon for a kayaking session — it was fantastic to see so many students embracing a new skill and showing a growth mindset (with the added entertainment of Mr. Walker and Mr. Groves capsizing!).

On Day 2, students tackled the tough Mount Stirling Summit hike, covering just over 10km and demonstrating great resilience to reach the top and enjoy the incredible views.

The final day was capped off with paintball, giving staff and students a fun chance to let off some steam before returning to school by 5:00pm Friday. Throughout the camp, students focused on developing self-sufficiency and problem-solving skills — setting up their own tents, cooking their own meals, managing their campsite (including keeping the fire going), and supporting one another across all activities.

A huge thank you to Mr. Walker, Mrs. McMillan, Mr. Camille, Mr. Collins, and Mrs. Van De Ven for their hard work and commitment across the three days. We hope all students had an awesome time and made memories that will last!

## Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

### FESTIVAL FUN PART 2

Continued from May edition...

#### Getting the Band Back Together

“Robbo” “JT, how are you? To what do I owe the pleasure?”

“I’m good...I’ll get straight to the point. How would you feel about playing a bush dance next year at CresFest?”

“Paradiddle?” “Yeah. We can’t pay you, but we can provide weekend tickets for the band and their partners.”

“Sounds good to me JT. I’ll ring around and let you know.”

“Ok, cool. I look forward to hearing from you. Bye now”

“Bye”. Judy Turner and I go way back. She was the original fiddler for Paradiddle, the folk band we formed in 1978. She created the marvellous Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club back in 1994, and in 2022, with her husband Neil, started the renowned CresFest Folk and Roots Festival of which she is now co-director. After hanging up I texted the four other members and put the idea to them.

Kev (vocals, banjo, guitar, tin whistle, bodhran, lagerphone, spoons) replied straight away, “I’m in.” Mark (vocals, guitar, banjo, mandolin, bodhran, lagerphone, spoons) was in but with conditions.

Athalie (double bass) rang. “Awww, I’d like to but I’m not sure whether I’ll be able to manage. Look, I’d better say no, is that ok?”. Athalie has ongoing health issues, so I understood perfectly. “That’s fine Atho, you have to look after yourself. I’ll ring Dave.”

I didn’t get a response from Greg (vocals, accordion, flute, harmonica) but made the executive decision to not pursue the issue further. He lives in Apollo Bay and would find it difficult to attend the regular rehearsals required for a band that hadn’t played together for over forty years.



I rang Dave (bass and vocals). “Sure, I’ll be in it. Can I bring Jane?” “Of course, JT said there’d be tickets for partners.”

We were off and running. I rang Judy with the news and left a message. “We’re all in!”

Some days later she rang back. When told the lineup, she asked why there was no Greg - and I gave her my reasons for his non-inclusion. With no Greg, Judy would be the sole melody player, putting a lot of pressure on her.

“We’re going to call it ‘Paradiddle Redux Family Bush Dance’, she said. “It’ll be on the Friday night.”

“That’s great, we’re really looking forward to it.”

“Oh, and another thing. We’re giving you a concert slot as well. It’ll be at Leaver’s Hotel after the dance. It’s a great venue. Waddya reckon?”

“Sure, Kev and I have been playing a lot recently, we should be able to put on a show.”

“Great! Catch ya!” Now it was getting serious. A bush dance with prescribed tunes for each set, all of which could be read from charts would be pretty straightforward. But a concert?

Regardless of whether we would or could still play and sing well enough, what would we sing about. In our heyday we were part of an Aussie folk music revival. Riding a wave of patriotic pride, dressed in our moleskins and op-shop waistcoats we sang enthusiastically of bushrangers, gold miners, cockies and coves.

But we are a different country now. The folk festivals of today reflect the cultural diversity of our nation; lagerphones and spoons have been replaced by djembes and cajóns and today’s folk bands are more likely to be singing about global warming and rising rents than jolly jumbucks and clicking shears. So, where did that leave Paradiddle? Could we still cut it? Would there be time enough to learn and practice a new repertoire? How would Mark cope with the pressure of learning new material? Will there be time to eat between gigs?

So many concerns. But I came up with a plan which I thought would make it easy for everyone. To be continued...



### Planting for a bird-friendly habitat garden

Would you like to attract more birds, especially the smaller birds, into your garden? Many people like to enjoy birds in their garden, but to attract birds you need a

different style of planting than just putting in some big-flowered grevilleas. Habitat gardens meet the many and diverse needs of birds, as well as shelter for nesting and protection from predators. To attract a diverse range of birds, structure your garden with a multi-layered design with plants of different heights.

Large trees, such as Eucalypts, are important but difficult to incorporate into a small garden, so instead choose medium trees and large shrubs. If you are lucky enough to have a big garden with Eucalypts, use large shrubs to fill the mid-storey layer.

There are plenty of choices in the mid-storey height range, including the Banksias or Hakeas to attract nectar-feeding birds. Hedge Wattle and Sweet Bursaria not only attract insects for the insect-eating birds but also offer protection

from predators with their prickly foliage. Prickly Currant Bush has red berries that are food for fruit-eating birds like silvereyes. Cockatoos enjoy eating the seeds of She-oaks.

Smaller shrubs fill the next layer and Correas and Silky Daisy Bush are useful plants here. The native Small-leaf Bramble, is a low growing, spreading shrub with pink flowers and smaller leaves than the related, introduced weedy Blackberry. Birds enjoy the fruit of the Native Raspberry.

Grasses, reeds and sedges form the backbone of the next layer. Their foliage provides food for small mammals and insects, including caterpillars, and their seed is popular with

parrots as well as small birds. Good choices here include the tufty Poas, Wallaby Grasses and Kangaroo Grass, the Flax Lillies and Mat Rushes. And small birds like the Thornbills enjoy munching on the insects that visit these plants.

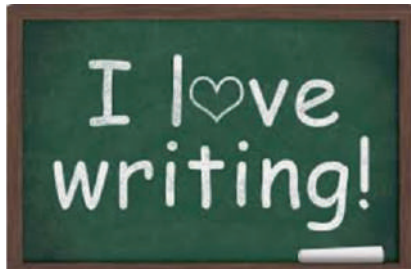
And finally, there is the ground covering layer of plants, such as Viola, along with rocks, woody debris or mulch and access to water, which can be at ground level or hanging from a tree or prickly tall shrub.

With a well-structured multi-layered garden, small birds can forage at ground level for insects or seeds and retreat into the tree or tall shrubs when danger is imminent.

The good news is that all these layers and plants are available at the Knox Environment Society Nursery at 1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully.

Adjacent photo shows an example of a multi-layered garden, but it probably would benefit from a mid-storey layer.

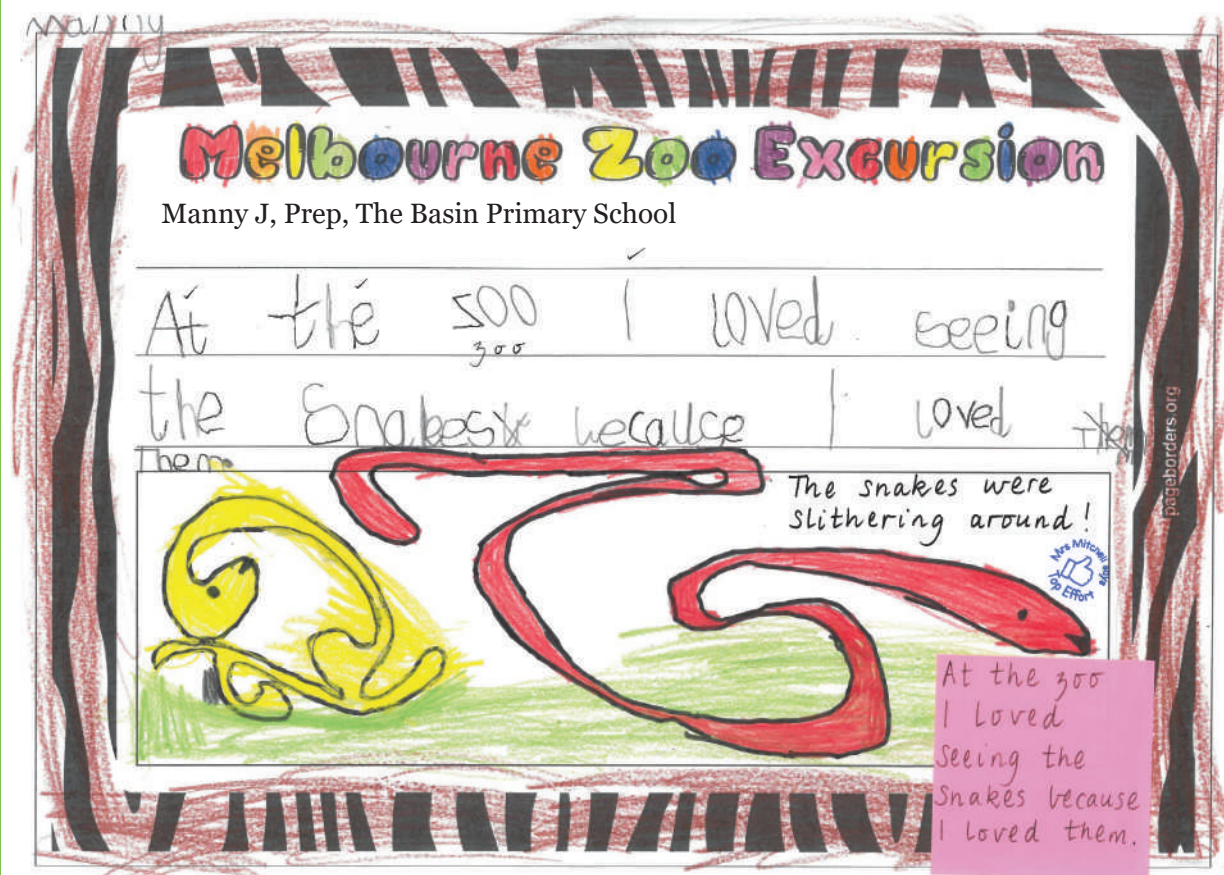


KIDS  
ZONESubmit  
YWI  
entries  
here:

Our three May awardees receiving their YWI Award certificate and \$50 at the BHPS assembly. Left to Right, Matilda Dartnell, Jordan Dartnell and Audrey Ng. Congratulations!

### BBCN Young Writers Initiative

In June we have two Young Writers Initiative Awards, shared below for your enjoyment. Manny's is our first one from Prep! It is good to see the variety of stories from our future writers.. **Enjoy!** NOTE: YWI contributions are printed as entered (without editing) to reflect their original content.



### An explanation for Manny's work

*Kate Muir* (The Basin Primary School teacher who facilitated the learning experience).

Our Preps are just learning to write. They are being brave in having a go at writing the letters to match the sounds that they hear. We are learning about Living Things: The Busy, Buzzy World of Living Things. We went to the Melbourne Zoo, and then the students wrote a sentence about what they saw or liked.

### Some insights into early learning in modern schools.

*A response from BBCN*

*to Kate Muir's learning activity*

Young people's exposure to learning in their early years makes a big difference to how they engage through their school years. The level of engagement impacts how well they learn and, therefore, what future opportunities they get and how they interact with the world. Engaging young learners in holistic learning experiences brings what they are learning into a pragmatic reality they can understand. Relevance to one's own context is a critical part of

how effectively a learner will take on the concepts being introduced and why they are important to develop further. The experiences generated by Kate (opposite) are an excellent example of creative socialised learning opportunities. This will no doubt heighten the enjoyment of learning for the students and form a solid foundation for their ongoing education and development. The quality of the learning artifacts generated by the prep students from the Zoo Excursion provides a good indication that the children enjoyed the activity and learnt a lot from it. It is such a pity that BBCN cannot publish more of these because of space limitations. Great work!



### The Slumber Party

*Henrietta Ewing -*

*The Basin Primary School, Year 4*

Once there were some girls named Henri, Phoebe, Mala and Emily. They went to Piper's house for a slumber party. The time they were meant to be there was 1 pm. Mala got there at 1:25, Henri got there at 1:15, Emily got there at 1:10 and Phoebe got there at 1:51.

When they all got there, Pipers cute, excited dog, ran out of the house to greet the girls. Piper ran out of her house and said "Hi! I am so excited!" and welcomed all the girls in to where they would be sleeping that night. All of them brought their sleeping bags and pillows and laid them out one by one on the soft carpet.

Then they played with slime, painted, drew and saw Pipers pet chicken called Cricket. Then they sat to watch Dog Man the movie. "Wow, that movie was good" said Emily. The others agreed. Then Piper's mum called out, "DINNER TIME! We are having pizza!" The girls gleamed with excitement, they all LOVE Hawaiian pizza. "YUMMY" they all said, "that was good." "It's time to go to bed," said Piper's dad.

Now, it was 9pm and the girls pretended to be sleep for 10 minutes. Piper checked in her parent's room, to find they were fast asleep. The girls snuck out of there sleeping bags and grabbed some snacks. Henri got some ice cream, Mala got a banana sundae, Phoebe got chocolate, Emily got chips and Piper got gummy worms. After they ate all their snacks, Piper said "let's have a dance party before bed!" They all said "YES!"

So, piper turned on some music and they all danced. After dancing, they all zoned off to sleep, by 11pm. They all woke up at 7am.

They had pancakes for breakfast. By then it was 8am Mala and Emily had to go. They all said bye. Then it was 9 am and Phoebe needed to go, Henri and Piper said "Bye." It is 9:30 now and Henri must go home. Piper gave Henri a big hug. "Thanks for joining the slumber party!" said Piper "That is ok" said Henri as she drove away.

KIDS  
ZONE

## Playgroup with Grandma

Joy Shelley

These days, many grandparents look after their grandchildren at least one or two days every week. Spending a day with their grandparents is a lovely way for children to have the comfort of family, whilst parents are at work. Whilst our daughter Cath was on maternity leave with their second child, she suggested that we take our grandson to the TSA community playgroup where she worked.

Traditionally play group was the first step in introducing structure and routine into a child's play with the comfort of the parent still present. Nowadays, it is more of a bonding and sharing session with a parent or grandparent, as many children have already spent time in the structured early learning centres.

In an ever-changing world of child raising, I was happy to see that playgroup has not changed much since our children were little, 30 years

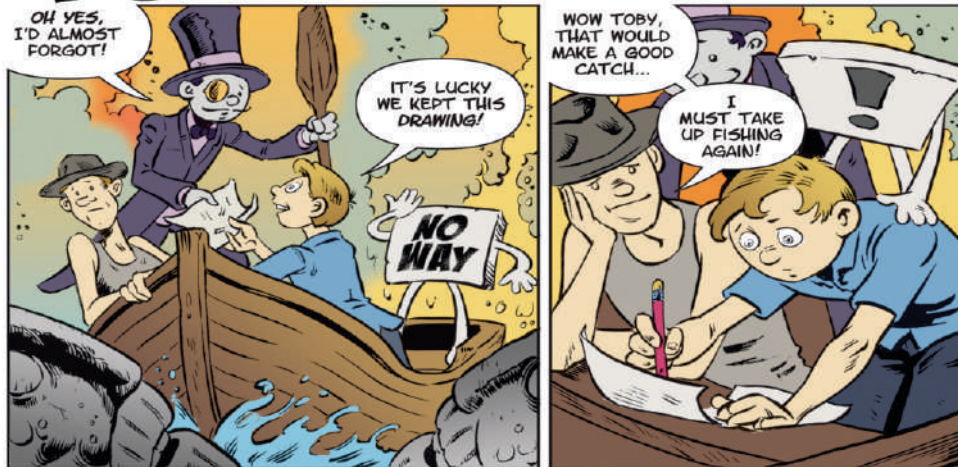


KIDS  
ZONE

## TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

Story so far...

Top Hat proves he is  
"Useful & Helpful"



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

ago. It is still a nice mix of inside play, storytelling, sitting down for playlunch, followed by outside play. Being in a small group with children of similar age enables them to socialize and develop new relationships with others within their comfort zone. It is also a chance for parents or grandparents to discuss what's happening with their children and learn from each other.

Now that Cath has returned to work, I have continued to take him to playgroup, whilst Grandpa has stayed at home so that the little one can get her morning sleep. Through this playgroup, my grandson and I have developed a special bond which we did not have before. Instead of grandpa being the standout favourite, there is a more even balance.

The last time we went to playgroup I noted that there were more grandmothers there than mothers. When I spoke to Cath about this, she told me that the organisation had noted a general increase in grandparent childcare in recent years with the rising trend of two working parents. In response, they called out to grandparents to specifically invite them to bring their grandchildren, resulting in a popular uptake.

The fact that there is a mix of mothers and grandmothers together works well and I am enjoying being part of a very welcoming group of people.

TSA Playgroup runs fortnightly and costs \$5.50 per session when paying for a term. They welcome all new members - grandparent or parent! **email:** [tsa@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tsa@templesociety.org.au)

## From little things big things grow!

Investments in education and development are always worthwhile. You never know what will happen in the future, but putting your time and effort into accelerating the development of others seems like a positive investment in our collective future. BBCN started the Young Writers Initiative in August 2023 and has witnessed some wonderful outcomes as a result. Two of the previous award winners have been instrumental in organising a Knox-wide writing program that will generate a book from young people (see page 12). Another previous winner has drafted a novel! BBCN cannot claim credit for what these wonderful young people are doing, but we are proud to help their confidence to back themselves and their ideas. Being published is a significant achievement that many never get the opportunity to enjoy. BBCN is pleased to provide this to support our young locals!

KIDS  
ZONE

## Knox Write Now! Young Writing Competition

Matthew Payne

Are you a young writer in Knox? Perhaps you are a winner of the Boronia and The Basin Community Newspaper's (BBCN) Young Writers' Initiative? Perhaps you like writing just for fun? If so, I have the perfect competition for you!

The Knox Write Now! Young Writing Competition is open to everyone aged 10 to 18, with the aim of publishing a youth short story collection! The winners in each age category (10-12, 13-15, 16-18), will be published in the compilation, which will eventually be able to be borrowed from Ngarrgo.

The Knox Write Now! Young Writers' Competition has been designed by the Knox Youth Literary Society, by young people, for young people. In conjunction with Knox Council's Youth Services Team, with some guidance from a local author.



If you don't have a short story - don't worry; we're also accepting extracts from longer stories. We don't want poetry, sorry. The word limit is very generous, at 3,000 words, so there should be no limitations.

Maya, a member of the Literary Society, and previous winner of the BBCN's Young Writer's Initiative encourages "this writing competition is run by youth for youth, I think it's such an

amazing opportunity and would highly recommend it!"

If you are lacking inspiration, some of our members have taken some photos around Knox that you can use as prompts. They are strictly optional - you do not have to use them.

The competition will open on the 1st of May, and close on the 30th of June. If you haven't already, be sure to check out the website and submit your story! We can't wait to read it!

**Entries close June 30:**

**[www.knox.vic.gov.au/knoxwritenow](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/knoxwritenow)**

**BBCN note:** Matthew and Maya are both previous winners of the BBCN Young Writers Initiative. We are pleased to be able to play a small part in the support of developing our young people.

## 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>

Goodstart Early Learning  
**Boronia**  
**Iris Crescent**  
The heart of our community

**Book a tour today!**

 **1800 222 543**  
 **[goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au)**  
 **[enrolments@goodstart.org.au](mailto:enrolments@goodstart.org.au)**



Goodstart  
**Boronia**  
**Iris Crescent**

**Enrol Now!**

## The Basin Solar Farm Preliminary works commence

The Salvation Army have had the planning amendment approved and gazetted to allow construction of a 4.2MW solar farm at 49 Basin-Olinda Rd, The Basin.

In preparation we have commenced some preliminary works including setting up Tree Protection Zones and upgrading the roads to meet the CFA requirements for all weather access around the property, allowing them to fight bushfires to protect both the site and our neighbours in the event of a fire.

We made a commitment to the Wurundjeri RAP that we would not do any works that required any disturbance to the soil so we will not be digging any footings or doing trenching for cables. Instead posts will be rammed into the ground. These will be done as part of the Tree Protection Zone and as the project progresses, the security fence and posts for the solar panel structure.

We commenced these works now because once winter sets in and the ground gets wet we will have to stop work until summer which obviously is not ideal.

As with any construction project there will be short periods when there will be unusual noises and for this project, ramming posts will likely take 2-2.5 weeks. The ramming only take 2-4 seconds per post with a gap of 1-2 minutes moving to the next post, so is not continuous



like pilings for multistorey buildings which can go on for hours at a time.

There should also be no vibrations as it is just folded steel posts pushed into the relatively soft ground. There's no rock or other materials that would create a vibration.

After that almost all activity will be limited to bolting premade structures together which will cause minimal noise.

We will comply with both the spirit and letter of the legislation with regard to noise management.

While we are entitled to begin work at 7am we have chosen to limit this type of work to after 8am weekdays and after 9am on Saturday (if required to work that day to catch up).

We thank you for your patience and tolerance during the next few weeks.

For further information feel free to contact the project manager at [info@abses.com.au](mailto:info@abses.com.au).

## Readers Letter

Are you aware that the so-called consultation that took place with the solar panels was an absolute joke of a consultation? I'm a resident and affected by it... majorly. I was sent the documentation to submit my input. However, all of the materials were ready on site at the Salvation Army farm. Not sure how you can call that a consultation when the materials are already on the land. This is a complete bulldozing-things-through with no consultation by the government, same as the fire station. No consultation, just ramming it down our throat. Our suburb is being ruined by the greed of the Salvation Army. My understanding was that it was never to be developed. That's why they would have donated it and all they've done is profit off in subdivisions. The Salvation Army has a lot to answer for including destruction of the land and the suburb.

Regards

Gerard Van Der Linden



# Open Day

## Tuesday 10th June

The Avenue School  
13 – 15 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully

Meet the teaching and wellbeing staff to discuss if our school could be a good option for your child.

3pm (local providers and school staff)

4 – 5pm (parents and students)



To RSVP call **9758 7859** or email us at [office@theavenueschool.vic.edu.au](mailto:office@theavenueschool.vic.edu.au)

## Fresh Faces at The Avenue School Bring Passion and Purpose

Since opening its doors in February, the school has continued to grow as a safe, supportive, and empowering learning environment for students undertaking the Victorian Pathways Certificate. We proudly welcome the new staff members who bring a diverse range of experience and a deep commitment to student wellbeing. Together, they strengthen the school's mission: to create a calm, connected, and purposeful learning environment for students who thrive outside the mainstream.

### Classroom Teachers:

Stephanie, brings 14 years of experience in teaching VCE Vocational Major subjects, performing arts, and leading after-school programs. With a strong focus on student connection, she inspires creativity and confidence in her students.

Marissa, has a career spanning more than two decades across both mainstream and specialist education. She has held a variety of leadership roles including VCE Co-ordinator and Curriculum Development Leader. Her strengths lie in relationship-building, student advocacy, and delivering engaging, values-based learning experiences.

### Youth Workers:

Kim, has more than a decade of experience supporting young people at risk of child sexual exploitation and social marginalisation. Her ability to build trust and advocate for vulnerable young women has earned her recognition across the youth sector. Her holistic support helps students feel seen, safe, and empowered.

Ishita, has a Master's in Counselling from Monash University and has worked as a school counsellor, inclusion aide, and behavioural therapist. She uses a trauma-informed, relational approach to support student wellbeing, and has had an uplifting impact on the students she works with.

If you feel your child would thrive in this environment, please enquire at [office@theavenueschool.vic.edu.au](mailto:office@theavenueschool.vic.edu.au) or call 97587859.



# 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*

### WORKS UNDERWAY PREPARING FOR HOMES AT KNOXFIELD

The Victorian Government is progressing with plans to transform unused land in Knoxfield into a new community with approximately 400 homes, including 10% affordable – close to jobs, transport, hospitals and schools.

Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts, Harriet Shing, today visited the site at 609-621 Burwood Highway, where installation of the sales office has begun – marking a key milestone in the revitalisation of the site into a thriving community in the area.

Works to establish a temporary access road will occur following the installation of the sales office which will open later this year ready to

showcase the diverse housing on offer at Knoxfield. Civil works for the first stages of the development are expected to commence later this year, subject to further approvals.

Delivered by Development Victoria, the project is also set to enhance the health of local waterways with an improved, open-water



wetland that will provide ideal habitat for local wildlife and facilitate improved treatment of stormwater into Blind Creek. The site will showcase best practice sustainability principles by adopting the Green Star Communities rating tool.

Development Victoria will work closely with Knox City Council and other key stakeholders as it progresses and will continue to keep the local community informed.

Local Member for Bayswater, Jackson Taylor said: “The Knoxfield residential development is key to the delivery of more housing for our well-established community. It’s exciting to see this project move ahead and we’ll continue to engage with the community on the housing and the new improved wetland as the development progress.”

### Where has the year gone...?

As always it’s wonderful to be able to say g’day to the readers of this great volunteer run publication. It’s a great opportunity to be able to keep you up to date on the happenings in our local patch and acknowledge some great people.

On that note, it was great to see the awesome people at Knox Infolink get a great shout out recently with 774 ABC Radio Melbourne’s Brekkie and Mornings programmes broadcasting live from Infolink’s breakfast program, which provides people who need it a warm meal four days a week at their site on Boronia Road. But – it’s more than just a meal. They provide a place for people to come, feel welcome, connect them up to services and get help in a whole range of other ways. It’s the first program of it’s kind and I’m so proud that this has been funded by the State Government since 2021.

Richard a local who uses the program had this to say about it: “...It gets me out of bed in the morning. It gets me motivated. There’s lots of people here that you can come in and have a chat. Lots of different programmes. There’s people here. We’ve had people from Centrelink come in to help you with your Centrelink

problems. We’ve had people from housing. I was homeless for six months, and so I had a lot to do with that”.

The program helped him when he was doing it tough, recovering from cancer, linked him in with a service to find him a home, provides a warm meal and friendship. It’s incredible. Thanks to Infolink team and to all the volunteers like the folk from Boronia Rotary.

### 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

- Grant provided to Knox City Cricket Club to increase female participation.

- Construction work continues the new Tormore Reserve Pavilion with construction set to wrap up mid next year.

- Construction has started on new learning facilities at St Joseph’s Primary in Boronia.

- Major works at Angliss Hospital ramping up with completion on the major rebuild due for completion in late 2026.

- From 1 July, Road Rule 79A will expand to protect roadside workers, including towing and roadside assistance crews. You must already slow to 40km/h for emergency service vehicle and now you’ll need to slow to 40km/h when passing any stationary emergency or incident response vehicle with flashing lights. It’s a simple action that can save lives.

**Shout-out:** Big thanks to all the wonderful volunteers across Knox for your incredible service to your organisations and community. Without you, Knox wouldn’t be the same.



## CPP Community Theatre Presents Seussical Jr

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

We are very excited to announce that for the first time in over 20 years, CPP is staging a Junior Musical. SEUSSICAL JR. is coming live to audiences in Boronia this July.

We are so excited to be giving the next generation of CPPers (some who are actually 3rd generation CPPers) a chance to shine, and we cannot wait to share it with our local community in the July School Holidays. A fantastic School Holiday activity for all kids!

"Seussical Jr. is a fantastical musical adventure that brings the beloved stories of Dr. Seuss to life in a vibrant, fast-paced show perfect for the whole family.

Follow Horton the Elephant as he discovers a tiny world on a speck of dust and goes on a journey to protect it, no matter what. Along the way, you'll meet colourful characters like the Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La Bird, and the Whos of Whoville, all wrapped up in a story about friendship, bravery, and the power of believing in yourself.

With catchy songs, playful rhymes and a heartwarming message, that 'a person's a person, no matter how small', Seussical Jr. is a celebration of imagination that will have audiences smiling from beginning to end."

Friday 11th of July, 2025 - Saturday 19th of July, 2025

Adult & Concession - \$36 or  
Children (6 & under) - \$26

<https://cppcommunitytheatre.com.au>



## The War of the Worlds Radio Play Final Tour Stop at The Basin Theatre!

Coming off a highly successful tour, The War of the Worlds, Howard E. Koch's gripping radio adaptation based on H.G. Wells' classic novel, arrives at The Basin Theatre for its final stop—a last chance to experience this electrifying theatrical event.

Played to full houses with rave reviews, this production has thrilled audiences across the country, bringing the intensity and suspense of the original 1938 broadcast to life on stage. Directed by Pip Le Blond, this masterfully crafted radio play features a stellar cast of Melbourne's finest actors, delivering powerful performances that transport audiences into the

heart of the Martian invasion.

Using masterful voice acting and atmospheric soundscapes, this radio play immerses audiences in the gripping tale of survival, resilience, and human ingenuity.

Performance Dates: June 12th – 22nd Venue: The Basin Theatre, Cnr Doongalla Road and Simsons Road, The Basin, VIC 3154 Tickets: Box Office on 0494 065 006 or online at [www.thebasintheatre.au](http://www.thebasintheatre.au)



## Adventures in Electioneering

Danny Nolan

I recently worked for the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in the recent federal election. It wasn't my first rodeo, but it was my first time doing pre-poll voting, at the aptly titled Pre-Poll Voting Centre (PPVC). In the two weeks before the main election date people who can't vote on that specified day, can do so. The people who apply and work these shifts are usually about retirement age in the majority.

Even though it's paid work everybody seems to approach the job as if they're volunteers. There is a sense of purpose and everybody wants to be there. Maybe it's because they know it's short-term employment and they can leave anytime they want, but I couldn't help but get the feeling they had a genuine motivation and wanted to help regardless.

Everybody seemed to really enjoy working there. A regular comment from voters was that they noticed everyone was either in a good mood or looked pleased to greet them.

Another myth was put to rest, that old people and computers don't mix. To work for the AEC these days you need to do quite a bit for the application. Applying online, training online, and some travel to do some face-to-face training. All the early voting rolls are on laptops linked to a network, so everyone has to work on these. So being computer savvy is part of the job.

The little notebook computers or ECL (Electoral Certified Lists) are super fast at finding voters with a minimal amount of search keystrokes and leave the old book lists and a ruler for dead.

Every morning, just before the booth opened vast numbers of party stalwarts gathered in their party shirts and banners. The larger parties outnumbered the independents by a huge amount but not in their enthusiasm in putting one of their "how to vote" pamphlets in a potential voter's hand before they entered. This went on from 8:30 AM till 5:30 PM every day without fail. One thing can be said about the

Party Faithful, they are exactly that. On my quite frequent peeks outside during shifts, I don't think I ever saw any of the volunteers communicate with other parties. Only their own people and voters approaching the polling centre.

One of the most important positions at the venue was queue controller and doorguard; the first person many voters saw after running the gauntlet of these party faithful shoving papers at them. A quick 'Good morning' or 'Hello' with a smile was the perfect way to defuse the look of confusion and sometimes anger that people had after suffering such an experience.

Our IOC (Officer in Charge), the AEC is only second to the Military when it comes to handing out acronyms, is the most enthusiastic boss I've ever had with infinite patience and an encyclopedic knowledge of all things regarding the processes involved in running the show. With how pedantic some of the processes are, that's high praise. I was thinking of putting her name up for one of the Australia Day honours. For services in dealing with very silly people above and below her responsibilities.

The Sunday morning following the election I visited the AEC website to check the local tallies (yes, I am a stat junkie) and I wasn't surprised to see our pre-poll venue fell just short of doing the total of all the other three Divisions' pre-poll centres combined. Which confirmed why we were so busy for those ten days before the election. Was it worthwhile? Yes, and fun. Would I do it again? IGIAG. That's for 'I'd give it another go'; an acronym that the AEC or Military hasn't claimed yet. Presently.



## John Pernu BBCN retiring president

by BBCN Committee

John Pernu has been volunteering for the BBCN for about 5 years, connecting with the paper because of his passion for supporting local community initiatives. Very soon after joining the committee, he stepped up in the biggest way possible to become president after Keith Cree.

At that time, the committee was going through a major transition with many of the original founders of the paper retiring and new members had to be found. He introduced significant changes to revitalise the paper which kept it relevant and sustainable. John was instrumental in shifting the organisation of the paper from a group of a few individuals to a collaborative team using updated processes to generate a paper with a strong digital presence. John's efforts led to an enhanced website, with automated uploading of content and advertising, an expanded presence on Facebook, which enables social interactions around the paper, and secured grant funding to provide better support and connection with local clubs and community activities.

Much of this work John figured out himself through self-learning and committing a lot of time. These improvements collectively have



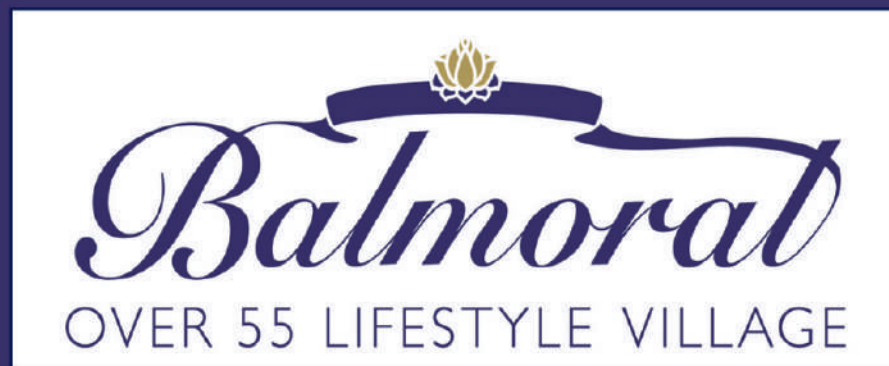
enabled the paper to be self-sustaining and more engaging for the readers.

John is a wonderfully compassionate person. He has an inherent ability to connect with people and enable people to connect with each other. He always treats people with respect and people respect him. He developed relationships with The Basin Community House and organised for The Basin Progress Hall to be used as delivery hub for the printed papers. He felt it was

important not just to thank the committee but to have an end of year function to thank all the volunteers, major sponsors, advertisers, and included our local councillors and politicians. This function, now held yearly, is an event where all those connected with our paper are able to meet with each other.

Even when John had to step away from the BBCN presidency because of ill health, he remained active on the WhatsApp editorial group and in committee conversations. He has been a great leader and mentor for new committee members as we continue to build a new team. His knowledge and passion for the paper has enabled continued smooth operations during our transformation. Because of John's effort in taking the paper forward and improving/digitising the business processes around its publication, we now have a strong foundation for future growth in both physical and digital formats.

***Our collective heartfelt thanks are offered to John, and also to Katrina who tolerated the many hours of John's time invested in ensuring the paper got out at the beginning of the month over recent years. Overall, JP (as he is known to us) is just JP and we would like to thank him for doing things his way, which was always the right way, and for being such a great bloke.***



# A life without compromise

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**Thanks John P***Danny Nolan*

I had been contributing to the Boronia & the Basin newspaper for over ten years before John Pernu became President. In that time, I never once considered becoming involved in any activities that the paper hosted. It wasn't that I didn't like anything the paper did or those involved in putting it together. I just didn't feel the need other than to contribute my silly stories and observations. I had a heap of teenagers at home, and time was a bit wanting. Sometime during COVID, I noticed a shift in the replies to my emails and the articles I submitted. Replies were never that common in the past. I would wait for the paper to come out, and if an article wasn't in that edition, it usually appeared in the next. Or even the one after that. Once I had backed up four, and they all appeared in the same edition together. Suddenly, I was getting feedback. I was being told that my stories were interesting and whether they would be in this or another edition. From these emails, a dialogue had started to form between John and myself. Always friendly, always encouraging. It was this attitude that finally made me realize that maybe I do want to work on the paper and see where it leads me.

I joined the BBCN committee in August 2023. I was instantly impressed with John's leadership and work ethic. There seemed to be no stopping him from making the paper a successful ongoing concern. His attitude and positivity were contagious. John, unfortunately, had to retire from the Presidency and his commitment to the paper, but his legacy remains, through his leadership with a paper that is compiled from start to finish efficiently and competently, with a strong community focus and a vision of growth and prosperity for the future.

Sincerely, thank you JP.

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**Vinnie's CEO Sleepout :  
Boronia Library**

Your Library's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Karina Lamb, is joining the Vinnies CEO Sleepout on Thursday, 19 June 2025,



taking a personal stand against homelessness and raising crucial funds for St Vincent de Paul Society. For Dr Lamb, this isn't just another fundraising event. "It's personal," said Dr Lamb. "I understand the challenges of unstable housing and the fear and uncertainty it brings. I

see the growing number of individuals we serve at our library branches who are facing housing stress. I also know that with the right support, lives can change.

That's why I'm sleeping out. For the thousands of people doing it every night, not by choice.

For the young people, the families, the older people slipping through the cracks. One night won't fix homelessness. But it can raise money that keeps someone warm, safe, and supported," Dr Lamb added.

Your Library encourages the community to support Dr Lamb's efforts in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout which will contribute to providing essential services for those experiencing homelessness.

**Donations can be made online** at [www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/karinalamb17423/victoria](http://www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/karinalamb17423/victoria).

**insert brain here**
**POOR ELENA***DAYANGANI SILVA*

Under the Gum tree, Elena sits on the wooden bench.

Every morn, she feeds the birds with sunflower seeds.

Sitting on the bench, she murmurs a sorrowful poem.

But nobody knows whether it's a poem or a song.

Waiting there, she eagerly wishes to see someone.

He is the postman, who visits there sometimes.

She raises her head and looks over to see him,

But she never gives up hope to see him.

Many seasons passed, the Gum tree shed all her leaves.

Tears full in her eyes, "My son will visit me soon with nice gifts."

She sees some visitors entering the home.

She says to her friends, "My son will come soon."

One cold morning, Maggie, her friend, calls in a hurry.

"Your son is on TV ,offering gifts to the feeble ones".

"Oh! Yes, he is my loving son, visits me soon."

With a long breath, she lays on the bench, seeing her son.

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## Local Community and Club News



Members of Life Activities Club Knox (LAC Knox) have been participating in many activities.

With 22 regular activities scheduled each month and some events that

may only occur once or twice a year, our 220 members keep very busy.

Our regular activities include 3 different types of card games, eating at various restaurants for lunch or dinner, pub trivia, armchair travel,

coffee and chat groups, walking groups, fitness for fun, golf, badminton and social games and activities

Our recent "once off" events have included a club picnic, attending 1812 Theatre in FTG, a guided tour of the Block Arcade in Melbourne, a line-dancing demonstration, ferry trip from Docklands to Portarlinton and a visit to Blue Lotus Water Gardens.

Upcoming events include a "King's Birthday" lunch at our hall on 13/6/25, Partner dancing on 26/6/25, and a trip to Traralgon to see Mamma Mia on 30/08/25.

Our "Extended Holiday" program includes a 10

day trip to New Zealand, a 5 day holiday to Mt Gambier and an 8 day holiday in the Blue Mountains (in October 2025) We are a club that provides many opportunities to get out of your house and interact with others in a fun and friendly environment. Our club members will warmly welcome any newcomers to come and try any of our activities.

Please feel free to contact our Membership Secretary (Lorraine, 0438 068 334) or go to our website at lifeknox.org.au to find out more about any of our regular or "once-off" activities.

We look forward to meeting you at any of our activities or at the club hall at 160 Underwood Rd FTG.



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 24th of June, 2025, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay on.

We provide guest speakers, many day trips and an annual trip, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies. During May, we toured the old Pentridge Prison - H Division no less!! Quite an eye-opener. The Pentridge precinct includes a cinema,

shopping centre, apartments and some very nice eating places. Our members had a very pleasant and illuminating visit. We are also looking forward to quite a few theatre visits during the next few months, including a musical comedy at The Round, Nunawading during August.

Our planned 6-day trip to the West Coast of Tasmania during November 2025 has some very lucky members filled with much anticipation.

We have a monthly newsletter (Knox Natters Matter) which will keep you up to date with the many fun social activities available.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact 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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Meet our minister, Rev Russell Croxford who will be preaching on the 1st Sunday of each month - as well as at other times. We have a user-friendly worship service... with children's activities and lots of singing! All followed by morning tea and fellowship.

ON 29TH JUNE WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH.

If you have had an association with what was initially St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, then Boronia Presbyterian Church and now Boronia Road Uniting Church - perhaps you would like to join us as we celebrate?

Contact Max Thomson for more details or to express intention to join us that day.

[max.jan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:max.jan@optusnet.com.au) / 0416 070 064

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

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