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Boronia & The Basin

AUGUST 2025

Issue 346

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE

RECOGNISING
SERVICE TO OUR
COMMUNITY



Boronia and the Basin Award Winners

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Please send in your
contributions for our next
edition

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Editorial: Ella Szlegier

THE SCIENCE OF FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

I was recently forwarded a link to a video called "The Science of First World Problems" and it was promptly filed into the "later" pile. It just sat in my inbox, waiting patiently for me to take interest.

Some weeks later, a post appeared online where an individual complained about not having NBN for 3 days to which I responded by typing "Seriously?! First world problem" It was then that I became curious about the real meaning of the words that I had just typed and went searching through my email for the video that would hopefully explain everything.

The interviewee described that just about everything about flying bothered him, from the size of the aircraft, its seats, the coffee served, and how incredibly uncomfortable a trip to the bathroom can be.

Flying was just a terrible experience, and then he spent 30 days in the Arctic, where conditions were worse and more uncomfortable, and a simple trip to the bathroom required the protection of a weapon to ward off any grizzly bears. Flying home suddenly felt luxurious in comparison, and he didn't need to fear for his life while going to the bathroom.

His sudden renewed appreciation for flying was a result of mentally resetting his goal posts by experiencing something that was so challenging it made him realise that his day-to-day life was pretty amazing.

This concept of moving or resetting the goal posts is called "Prevalence concept change." Even though we may be experiencing fewer problems, we don't become more satisfied with life. Rather, we broaden the definition of a problem, and our tolerance for what we consider to be an annoyance just becomes lower.

What's the solution to overcoming this neuroticism?

The key is to go out, find, and help those who are actually doing it tough. If you can't walk a mile in their shoes, all we have to do is look at our televisions to see other humans experiencing war and hunger.

When looking closer to home, the realisation that there are those who may not have shelter or a warm place to lay their heads creates an 'aha' moment of enlightenment. These things should reset our goal posts and make us realise that the things we complain about or the problems we perceive, in our minds, really aren't problems.

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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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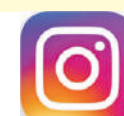
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Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

Page 3 Bird

Des Palmer

Funeral for a Friend

I recently lost someone whom I was quite close to; sadness and grief, terrible human emotions to deal with. To somehow tie the loss of a person to unusual encounters with birds is drawing a long bow, sheer coincidence, nothing more. And yet, for me at any rate, it happens, let me assure you.

My dearest mother, Aileen, passed away over ten years ago, and while I won't go into detail here, my entire family had a close encounter with a Spotted Pardalote at the time of her death, which was inexplicable to say the very least. A small bird of the canopy it is a species normally difficult to observe, and yet here it appeared, at our windowsill, staring at its reflection in the window, over a three-day period around the time of my mum's passing.

Since the time of losing my sister-in-law, several similar incidents have occurred, which I will now relate to you. Coincidence? Don't ask me.

I recently walked down to the Boronia library. From my house, I had to walk down Maryborough Road and as I approached the bus stop. Up ahead of me on the powerlines opposite, were 13 Little Ravens performing a cacophony of endless cawing along with wing flapping and animation. As I drew level with them, I stopped and looked up, thinking to myself, What the hell is all this about? After 30 seconds or so of pondering, I was knocked off my feet by what I saw in front of me. Lying dead on the road was a Little Raven who had been struck by a car! The ravens were grieving their lost mate, of that there is no doubt.

At Wicks reserve, at the moment, a bird called the Olive Whistler is present. Good luck finding him though, they can be an extremely cryptic species. A glimpse here or there and you give yourself a pat on the back. And yet, two weeks ago, there it was, in full view, casually consuming the fruits of the Cherry Ballart, as if it was a pet bird escaped from an aviary and was quite confiding with humans. Bizarre to say the least. And on the same day, another bird called the Lewin's Honeyeater did exactly the same thing. I'm not going to pretend Lewin's are a rare bird, on the contrary, but in my encounters are always a bird calling 'over there.'

The 'machine gun' call of the Lewin's honeyeater is a very common sound, but I rarely get a glimpse of one, and here it was, just like the Whistler, happy to be observed, consuming again the fruits of the Cherry Ballart. Go figure!

And it doesn't stop there. At her memorial service, while one of her sister's was in full voice singing a tribute, a pair of Kookaburra's began in unison, there loud raucous laughter



accompanying her, but, as if that wasn't enough, they both then flew down on the window frame and watched, seemingly listening to her song for minute or two before flying off.

And a further comment on sad passings, I would like to acknowledge John Pernu, a man of infinite patience who painstakingly helped this IT nincompoop on several occasions and a man who helped and encouraged so many. Thanks for all your BBCN work John, your legacy continues.

Des

PS. I am now operating a Birdwatching & Nature Tour company.

My ad appears in the local Services Directory in the back of this paper.

RIP Gabrielle Anne Mahony

2.11.63 - 2.7.2025

AN AMAZING SCENE

Dayangani Silva

Unveiled the darkness, stars vanished.

The day light falls, on the background.

Green thick brooks sway to and fro.

It's a nice morning, I strolled on the shore.

Far far from the sea, big waves, rolled towards the beach.

Cool breezy winds, freshen my mind.

White shiny bubbles, spreaded over the waves.

Over the horizon , the Sun peeps and shines.

Sea gulls and eagles flying over the waves

They flutter wings, jumping over the waves.

Silvery fishes creeping through the waves.

Silver, milky droplets wetted my cheeks.

WALKING
THE
NEWS

CAN YOU HELP?

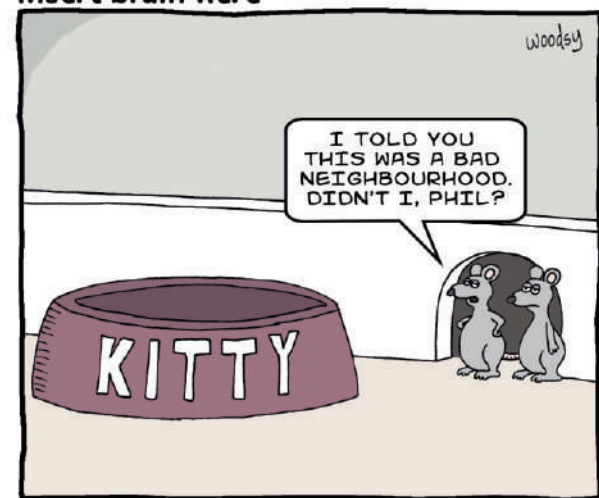
Thank you to Ewan for offering to fill the 'walking vacancy' advertised last month. Welcome to our happy band of volunteers Ewan.

Leigh Halse has volunteered to take over the 'Distribution Manager' role, which Irene Smith has been temporarily filling over the last two or three years under JP's guidance. Thank you, Leigh – it is good that both you and Arthur Shelley will have a working understanding of 'what happens' before the 13,100 papers being taken from the truck on the last Thursday of each month. Irene will continue to be a back-up helper.

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

Finally, a BIG thank you to Irene, who has been doing the distribution role for the last 4 years. Without you, the papers would not have been delivered to all the households and businesses in Boronia and The Basin and our walkers and drivers list maintained.

insert brain here



by woodsy

Rolling rough waves, stay on the beach.

Bending down they kiss the beach.

Silvery bubbles spread over the waves.

Sandy white beaches welcome the waves.

Sunrays spread like a bride's veil.

The Sea and waves seen like a silver veil.

Song of the sea sings a musical tone.

Walking by the SEA maketh an amazing scene.

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF LAWN BOWLING A LOW IMPACT SPORT WITH BIG REWARDS!

Lawn bowling may not have the high-energy pace of some modern sports, but this centuries-old game offers a surprising range of physical, mental, and social health benefits. Often played on manicured greens in a calm, sociable environment, lawn bowling combines gentle exercise with strategy and community engagement — making it a particularly attractive option for people of all ages.

1. Improved Physical Fitness

While it may appear low-key, lawn bowling provides a steady source of physical activity. A typical game involves walking several thousand steps, bending, stretching, and rolling heavy bowls. These movements enhance:

- Cardiovascular health: Walking the green over the course of a match helps maintain a healthy heart and lungs.
- Muscle strength and flexibility: Regular bending, lifting, and rolling engage muscles in the legs, arms, and core.
- Balance and coordination: The act of delivering a bowl requires controlled movement and good posture, which can improve overall stability and reduce fall risk, especially in older adults.

2. Mental Health Boost

Lawn bowling isn't just physical — it also sharpens the mind. The game demands concentration, strategic thinking, and adaptability, especially as players navigate the unique curves of the green and adjust to changing conditions. These cognitive challenges can:

- Enhance problem-solving skills
- Improve memory and focus
- Promote mental alertness

Additionally, being outdoors in a relaxed setting contributes to stress reduction and a general sense of well-being.

3. Social Engagement

One of the most cherished aspects of lawn bowling is its social nature. Whether you're playing casually with friends or competing in a local league, the sport fosters community and belonging. Social interaction is crucial for mental health and has been shown to:

- Lower the risk of depression and anxiety
- Strengthen the immune system
- Increase life satisfaction and longevity

For older adults, in particular, lawn bowling can be a meaningful way to stay connected and active in their communities.

4. Accessibility and Inclusivity

Lawn bowling is one of the most inclusive sports



available. It can be played by people of all ages, including those with limited mobility or chronic conditions. Many clubs offer modified equipment or adaptive techniques to ensure everyone can participate safely and comfortably.

This accessibility makes it an excellent choice for:

- Seniors looking for gentle exercise
- Individuals recovering from injury
- People with disabilities seeking recreational opportunities

5. Longevity and Quality of Life

Regular participation in lawn bowling contributes to a healthier lifestyle overall. It encourages outdoor activity, routine movement, and social engagement — all of which are associated with increased longevity and a higher quality of life.

Final Thoughts

Lawn bowling may not involve intense bursts of energy, but it offers a wealth of health benefits that make it more than just a leisurely pastime. From improved fitness and mental sharpness to stronger social connections and lifelong accessibility, it's a game that supports both body and mind. Whether you're 10 or 85, picking up a bowl and heading to the green could be one of the healthiest decisions you make.

If you would like to come and try lawn bowling, please attend our upcoming Come and Try Days at Boronia Bowls Club. The club is located at 5 Marie Street Boronia and has been an important part of the Boronia community for almost 75 years. The advert for the Come and Try Days is below with contact information for the Club.



BORONIA BOWLS CLUB

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9761 1996

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- BENEFITS OF LAWN BOWLS INCLUDE:**
- social interaction
 - mental stimulation
 - physical exercise
 - competitive outlet

New members always welcome - Call Wayne for Membership on 0430 451 250

COVER STORY: Knox Community Victoria Day Awards



Victoria Day Awards

Danny Nolan

On the evening of July 1st 2025, the 18th annual Victoria Day awards were held at the Polish Club in Rowville. They were presented to selfless volunteers in recognition of service to their local community.

BBCN's former President, John Pernu, was nominated before his untimely passing, and his

award was accepted by his partner, Katrina, and the BBCN Vice President, John Edgley. It was another fitting tribute to a man who did so much for this paper. Also receiving awards were locals Fiona Quinn, well-known and much-loved Manager of the Aussie Veterans Op Shop in the Boronia Mall. Elise Dartnell of The Basin Food Is Free Project & Community Garden and Ray Siegersma of Boronia Rotary Club.

The VicDay Awards were hosted by local

members Kim Wells and Nick McGowan.

Forty recipients were awarded with medals and certificates in front of family, colleagues, and friends, and a light supper was held afterwards for all present to mingle and congratulate the award winners.

The Victoria Day Awards were established to celebrate the founding of Victoria as a state and began in 1995. It has evolved from a single Victorian of the Year to a wide range of categories, including Young Victorian of the Year, as well as awards for organizations, corporations, arts, and local achievers.



John Edgley and Katrina Pernu

The Basin Wildcats Basketball Club turns 50!

From humble beginnings to a local powerhouse, The Basin Wildcats Basketball Club is celebrating a golden milestone 50 years of slam dunks, lifelong friendships, and unwavering community spirit.

Back in 1975, The Basin Toddlers Group became the unlikely starting point for a basketball legacy. Founders Dick and Norma (pictured) recall how a few of the dads including Dick himself decided to form a basketball team to keep their kids active and connected. "It all started with one Under 14 boys team," said Dick. "Then Nunawading told us we'd need an Under 12s team too. So we found a few more kids and suddenly, we had a club."

The club's now iconic green and red colours were chosen to reflect the colours of the local rosella and to match The Basin Football Club. In the early days, uniforms were homemade, numbers were stitched on by hand, and training took place wherever a flat surface could be found often outdoors in all weather.

Despite the challenges, the Wildcats grew rapidly. At their peak, the club fielded over 90 teams, and today proudly supports over 550 players across 73 teams, from beginners to advanced. The Basin Wildcats have become more than just a basketball club they are a pillar of the local community.

Generations of families have played, coached,

and volunteered with the club. Many of today's players are the children and even grandchildren of original members. The club has taught countless kids the value of teamwork, discipline, and resilience, while creating a safe, inclusive space where everyone is welcome.

For those just starting their basketball journey, Dick has some timeless advice:

"Give kids a basketball and let them bounce it everywhere they go. That's how it starts."

Fifty years on, some of the original group of Wildcats founders still meet for dinner every six weeks, a testament to the lasting impact of the club.

Join the Celebration!

On Sunday, August 31st, The Basin Wildcats will host a 50th Anniversary Celebration packed with food, fun, and festivities, including a classic sausage sizzle to keep the energy up, shoot-out competitions with prizes for all ages, an ice cream and coffee van and a special visit from The Basin Fire Truck.

There will also be Wildcats memorabilia display showcasing jerseys, trophies, and photos from across the decades and the club is calling on past players and families to contribute to the celebration.



How You Can Get Involved:

Got old Wildcats gear or photos? We'd love to borrow them for our display. Know a former player, coach, or volunteer? Please pass on the details! Want to help on the day or donate a raffle prize? We'd be thrilled to have your support. Contact the Wildcats committee by emailing secretary.thebasinwildcats@gmail.com

The 50th Birthday Celebration will be held at The Basin Primary School on Sunday, 31 August from 12 noon to 3:00pm.

Bring your Wildcats spirit, your family, and your stories and help us honour 50 incredible years of hoops, heart, and community pride.

Congratulations Wildcats!

Here's to the next 50!



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Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston

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When the Neighbours came to town.

Danny Nolan

We tend to forget how, back at the end of last century, TV personalities were a massive draw card, causing crowd hysteria not unlike The Beatles. Shopping centres were a perfect venue for these quick appearances, which benefited both the stars and the centres. I remember back in the early 1980s being amazed at how big the crowds that Simon and Vikki (Grant Dodwell and Penny Cook) from the TV show *A Country Practice* used to pull, setting records for attendance in some centres. This all paled in significance when *Neighbours* came along.

Producing not only fan favourites but also international pop stars, the biggest being Kylie Minogue & Jason Donovan (Scott & Charlene), a few notable extras like Craig McLachlan, Delta Goodrem and Natalie Bassingthwaite, and huge movie stars like Russell Crowe & Guy Pierce. But, in the mid to late 1980s, it was Kylie and Jason who ruled the roost. An appearance by one or both of these two could close main roads outside whatever venue they appeared at.

So imagine the crowds that turned up when, one Saturday morning back in the Spring of 1987, the two teenagers (yes, they were still teenagers back then) came to Boronia Mall.

It was reported that a crowd estimated to be near 1,500 packed the mall's western end around 10.30 on Saturday morning. Even though eleven police and sixteen St. John's Ambulance personnel were in attendance, there were no reports of injuries or even incidents. The couple's attendance came

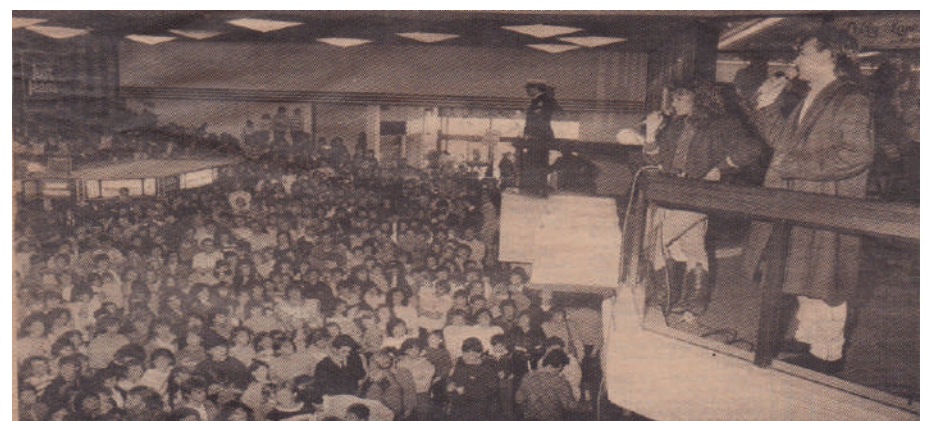


weeks after the famous Scott and Charlene wedding that registered an audience of over two million. Something unheard of for a locally made TV show in these days of streaming and social media.

While they were there, Kylie announced she was recording the follow-up to her first single, and then she was off to the UK to record an album, while both gave out prizes to lucky crowd members.

This was a golden age of the Boronia Mall, when popular footy players and pop stars would make appearances. There were car raffles, fashion shows and entertainment every school holidays; it was Boronia's social hub.

But who drew the biggest crowd? That honour belongs to the one and only Humphrey B. Bear.





**Knox
Community
Gardens Society Inc.**

Knox Community Gardens Society – Where Our Community Can Grow

Rod Felton

This is part two (of three parts) of our 35 years of KCGS membership.

KCGS took over management of the orchard area in 1996 and at the same time another 30 plots were established, although we don't remember much about this. We do remember the kids building cubby houses behind the sheds near our plot. Unfortunately, those sheds were condemned by KCC several years ago and have since been removed. Over the next couple of years, we soldiered on, committing as much time as we could, given we had a growing family. However, in October 2003 we received the dreaded 'clean up your plot or else' letter. We had to decide if we wanted to continue and after a bit of discussion, we decided to clean it up and made the commitment to make it productive.

The Millennium drought had a profound impact on the community gardens, particularly from 2007 to 2009. Severe water restrictions were in place and at its worst, watering of plots was restricted to 6am-8am twice a week. I would go to the plots at 6am and there would be 50 other plot holders trying to water, all holding barely dribbling hoses! I gave up on that very quickly. I started filling containers with water from our tank at home, loading them into the car, driving down to the plots and trying to water what was still alive. That didn't last too long either. I seriously thought about giving it away at this point, but Brenda said I would regret it if I did.



Smart wife I have because I certainly would have regretted it!

The other memory we have from that time was during the February 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. From our plot, we could clearly see the water-bombing activity on the western side of the Dandenong Ranges, attempting to put out fires in the Upper Ferntree Gully and Tremont areas. When the drought finally broke in early 2010, I can remember the Scoresby Road access road flooding, with parts of it under a foot of water!

The most recent highlight was the KCGS 40th Birthday Open Day held in October 2024. What a magnificent event that was! We had stalls for plants, cakes and books, Devonshire tea, barbeque and wok meals, plus more than 20 individual product makers selling their goods. We also had live music and lots of people enjoying the atmosphere! Unfortunately, the weather turned a bit nasty in the afternoon but that's what gardening is all about. It was a real community event, put on by our community for the local community.

To be continued...

If you would like to drop in for a visit, have a look around or stop for a cuppa and a chat, the gardens are open on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12noon. We are located at 51 Kleinert Road Boronia.

Further information about KCGS is available on our website:

knoxcommunitygardens.org.au,
Facebook @knoxcommunitygardens

or email

knoxcommunitygardens@gmail.com

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Other projects you can share your feedback on

- A review of the Climate Response Plan
- Proposed speed limit changes on Napoleon Road

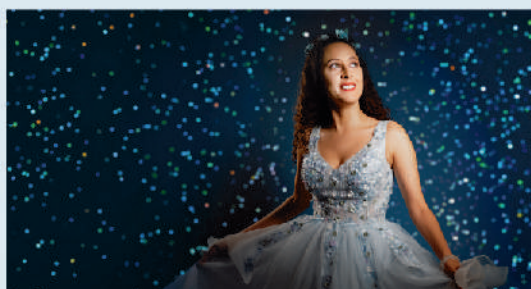


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Five Minutes with Councillor Kennett

Cr. Paige Kennett is Chandler Ward Councillor and is one of two of our local Councillors that represent Boronia and The Basin, on Knox City Council. She is eager to contribute to BBCN with pieces that meaningfully engage with locals in her area.

It's been a little over 8 months since her election last year, and we got the opportunity to put a number of questions to her to see how she's been tracking and to give you the chance to get to know her, as well.

Question 1: You've said your main reason for standing as a candidate was wanting to make a positive difference for our community - how have you been working towards this goal over the course of the journey, so far?

I want to make a difference by being responsive and transparent. That's meant answering every resident email, following up on even the smallest of issues and advocating for local projects and issues that reflect what our community want. Being a community's representative doesn't always mean delivering the big, shiny new, and while that's nice, it's as critical to make sure that each resident is heard, and I believe I have been working hard on that front. For me, good decisions are made through listening, taking in the facts, and bringing all that information together to make a decision that can stand on its own, and that is something I will continue to work towards.

Question 2: On that, it's been about 8 months since your election - what's been your biggest achievement since then, and what has been the biggest challenge?

Some achievements I'm proud of include advocating for Outer East Food Share and the Koolunga Native Reserve, both providing decisions based on a long-term view, listening and facts. I have also achieved support for three additions in the next budget which were additional seating at 3 Olinda-Basin Rd, tree canopy testing in Koolunga Native Reserve and four additional community tree planting days.

On challenges, balancing the needs/wants of Chandler Ward residents with the legislative obligation to make decisions for what is best for the Knox municipality. This is a real challenge because a larger investment that benefits the whole municipality may not directly benefit Chandler Ward residents but is vital for our city's future, and this may at times feel that our ward is missing out.

Question 3: You sit on 5 Committees within Council - alongside the monthly meetings etc. - how do you balance this not insignificant workload alongside your day job, and your personal life?

It's definitely a juggle, but I'm very organised and motivated. I treat this role with the seriousness it deserves, so I plan ahead, prioritise well and make time for residents even if it means late nights or early mornings. I also have a great support network, and my family are very supportive of what I do. I like to apply myself to things that I see value in, and I absolutely see value in being a voice for my community.

Question 4: You've just found yourself stranded on a desert island. What are the 3 items you'd want with you? (satellite phones aren't allowed)

Yikes, I tackled this question thinking of the outcome, do I want to leave an island where I am on my own?! Only three items....

1. A fishing line so I can learn a new skill and hopefully catch something that's edible;
2. A flare gun so I can attract attention when I am tired of my own company; and
3. Enough coffee to see me through! It's my most favourite drink and I can't live a day without it!

I'm interested in yours, so if you see me about, tell me yours!

Cr. Kennett is eager to hear from you directly, too. She can be reached on 0498 880 807 or via Cr.Paige.Kennett@knox.vic.gov.au. You can also follow her on Facebook via searching 'Paige Kennett - Chandler Ward Councillor - Knox'.

Update from Councillor Peter Lockwood

Got to love winter. Freezing winds one day, beautiful sunshine the next. That is, freezing winds for the local footy but sunshine the next day.

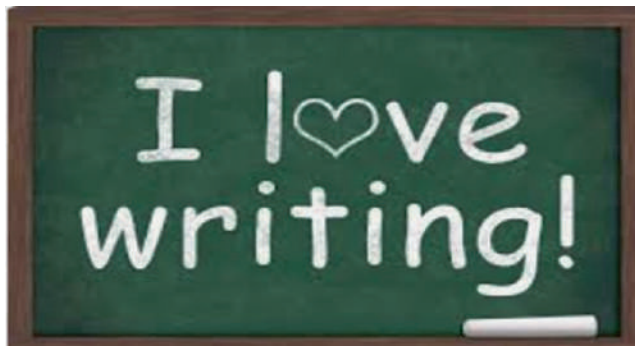
It's a great way to catch up with mates, sponsors and former team mates at a President's lunch. Great camaraderie, fabulous speakers (like Kouta!- Yes, I am short!)

I like the pavilion at Fair Park. I am looking forward to the new pavilion at Tormore too. Can't wait Boronia!



We are looking at ways to celebrate Christmas by encouraging street displays. Or not. It is being decided by Council now. I support red ribbons on poles and signs on bins to acknowledge Christmas. It is not just a Christian event. The early Christians latched on to existing mid-winter festivals in the northern hemisphere that included gift giving and family reunion. Should we celebrate Christmas in our shopping centres? Let me know. Please. Cr.peter.lockwood@knox.vic.gov.au.

They did the same with Easter. Rebirth through eggs in the springtime. (These dates are not the true birth and death dates of Jesus Christ). We should include other festivals too. Lunar New Year is also a time of family reunion where people return to their hometown or village. We are a nation of festivals with so many cultures here. I love the colours.

KIDS
ZONESubmit YWI
entries here:Free Entry
\$50 Prize

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

The Night of the Bloodmoon

Zoe Lemon, Y7, Boronia K-12

It was a lonely night in Abuela's room as the only sight of light was the curtain slowly swaying with the draft throughout the house. Abuela was lying on the floor, motionless, looking out her foster parents until a dark red peering through the window caught her eye, she jolted up curiously walking towards the shady vermilion shining from the sky. She looked through the window as something beautiful caught her eye, something she had never seen before, a blood moon, she was fascinated and stood there for a moment. Abuela felt tingly as something was dragging her in, the connection she felt was unreal nothing she has felt before, she wonders what the blood moon is trying to tell her.

She continues to ponder for some time, then eventually notices something has been slid under the door, it's a dark leather book with a strap and writing in the middle, it looks old with scratches and dust, but she gently places it in her palms flicking through the dusty pages. She continues to scroll and discovers old black and white photos with a man and women with a child, she is confused but keeps flicking through the pages until she comes across a family tree with a bunch of people but at her surprise the very bottom had her name, "Abuela Sanchez" and above her name were two people with the same surname.

She froze looking back at the photos of the man and woman with the child, she squints her eyes glazing all the children's features realising the kid in all those photos were her. Her eyes grew bigger as her heart started pounding, she finally saw what her real parents looked like and how she grew up, a small grin swept across her face until flicking through the next page. It was an article of a car crash, she reads through until seeing the names of her real parents, a tear leaves her eyes she couldn't believe her parents were dead she looked back at the picture one last time as a blood moon was in the corner of the photo. She closes the book as she walks back over to her windowsill and glares back at the Bloodmoon and realises that her parents were watching, she smiles at the moon knowing they loved her, and she drifted back to sleep.

KIDS
ZONE

The Mysterious Land!
Screch! Screch! goes the swing "Code that be any Louder" shouted Astrid! "Sorry" yelled Ellie. "Stop fighting" exclaimed Lami. "Hey guys do you want to go play on the slide?" Harper said excitedly! "Yes cozy body said! Um Matilda what the time said Ellie in wonder. "11:30" said Matilda "Oh ok thanks. Weeee, weee as they all go down the slide. "Hey girls do you want to make a train slide. Yeah said the girls with excitement! "Of! Of! as they go down the slide! "OR lets go do something els" said Matilda with a confident vious.

"Girls!! Girls!! LOOK THERS A Giant black hole!" shouted Matilda! "WoW!" said Lami! "OSH they got sucked down th mysterious black hole!" "Ouch!" That here, exclaimed the girls. It looks like we are in some weird Land!" I think I got a concussion". Ellie said with Wosenos. "Don't be so dramatic" yelled Astrid. "Guys its no time to be fighting" screamed Harper. "This is so much weirder then Land" said Matilda. "There is ducks with horns, flamingos are rainbow, birds talk and it's just a big forest". Matilda with excitement "Lets walk around and see if we can find our way out". "Scrunch! Scrunch! goes the leaves. "Thos are as loud as an elephant". Harper exclaimed. "We will find a way out aren't we?" cried Astrid. "AHHH! Help me!" shouted Lami. "Im stuck in quick sand or something. Come on we are almost there! "Wash! Of! Okay Lets keep going.

As they walked around they found a dark and gloomy forest. Hang on guys! I think I see a door outline in the back of that forest. Does it have to be that one" said Ellie. "Yes" yond Matilda. Okay girls let do this! shouted Harper with excitement. "CRUNCH! CRUNCH! goes the leaves. Girls Stop! Ther is a pond and we have to go around. cried Ellie. "Fuf! we are almost there!" said Astrid. "Creek! as the door swung open. "YAY!" as they all walked home together.

This month we have two Young Writers Initiative Award contributions, one from Boronia K-12 College and one from The Basin Primary School. **Enjoy!** |

NOTE: YWI contributions are printed as entered (without editing) to reflect their original content.



Above:

Mattias M excited to receive a July Young Writers Award at The Basin Primary School assembly for his research article on Tiwi Islands.

YWI awards include a certificate and \$50.

Below:

Grace A accepting a July Young Writers Award at Boronia Heights Primary School assembly for her creative Earthquake story.



Pelvic Girdle Pain in Pregnancy: Why It Happens and What Helps

Meg Doyle, Physiotherapist

Pregnancy is a time of incredible change as your body prepares to grow and birth a baby. The shifts that occur are in our favour in many ways, but sometimes physical changes can result in pelvic girdle pain (PGP). Approximately one in four pregnant women experience this, and while it can be painful and frustrating, the good news is there's a lot you can do to stay comfortable and mobile.

What Is Pelvic Girdle Pain?

PGP in pregnancy refers to pain in the pelvic region, often around the pubic bone or sacroiliac joints on either side of your tailbone. It can also radiate into the lower back, hips, groin, or thighs. While not dangerous, it can quickly impact many everyday activities.

Pain in PGP often doesn't mean there's damage occurring. A more accurate way to view it is that the area is more sensitive, which makes perfect sense given its important job of housing your growing baby.

Why Does It Happen?

Many things contribute to PGP including changes in posture, how your body handles load



during movement, stress, muscle tension, and simply the incredible physical adaptations your body is making during this time.

It is misinformation to simply say it is caused by the joints being more loose as more movement in this area doesn't necessarily mean you'll experience pain.

Why Blanket Restrictions Aren't Always Helpful

Many women are told to avoid movements like standing on one leg, crossing their legs, or wide-legged stances. While these modifications can help when pain is high, blanket restrictions can backfire.

That's because hip and pelvic mobility are important for labour, birth and general hip and pelvic health. Over-restricting movement can create fear or hypervigilance, disconnecting you from your body and reducing overall activity

levels, instead of helping you to feel safe and strong.

What Actually Helps?

The best approach is one that's personalised to you. Treatment might include:

- Manual therapy to release tension and calm the nervous system
- Tailored exercise programs
- Reviewing your activity load across the day
- Pelvic support belts, which can offer temporary relief during walking or standing

The goal is always to maintain as much natural movement as possible, not to avoid it.

In Summary

If you're moving through this right now, know that the pelvis is shifting and responding to new demands for a reason — your body is doing something extraordinary.

PGP doesn't necessarily mean something is wrong. It's often a sign that this area is sensitive as it adapts to rapid change. With the right information and support, there are ways to feel more comfortable and confident throughout pregnancy.

Almost all women return to being completely pain-free in the postpartum period, and some even while still pregnant.

KIDS
ZONE



Children's Book Week

16–23 August 2025

BOOK AN
Adventure



Joy Shelley

This year the CBCA (Children's book Council of Australia) is celebrating 80 years of Children's Book Week! The 2025 theme is Book an Adventure!

Jess McGeachin's art work featuring a whimsical map filled with imaginary characters, captures the spirit of the theme, encouraging children to set off on adventures through time, lands, and imagination.

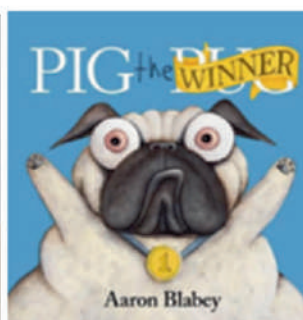
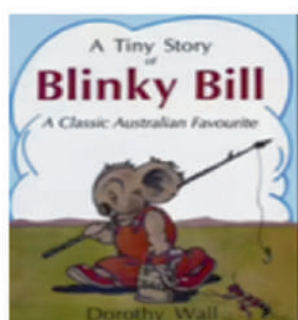
There have been many great Australian authors of children's adventure books. The May Gibbs classic "Tales of Snugglepoot and Cuddlepoot", featuring the gumnut babies and the big bad Banksia men, has never been out of print since it was first published in 1918. Blinky Bill stories by Dorothy Wall first

published in 1933, have also stood the test of time. Our 3 year old grandson often asks us to read them to him.

One of our children's favourites, Possum Magic by Mem Fox, featuring the adventures of Hush and Grandma Poss, is now a favourite of our grandson too. Possum Magic, a CBCA award winner in 1984, is still the best-selling children's book in Australia. Where is the Green Sheep? a 2005 award winner is also still very popular.

A more recent family favourite (shortlisted by CBCA in 2015) is "Pig the Pug" a series written by Aaron Blabey about a badly behaved Pug dog who gets his just deserts.

Let's hope the CBCA continues to support and encourage these Australian authors to stimulate the minds of our young readers.



KIDS
ZONE



Jackson Taylor MP

Member for Bayswater

Delivers for Boronia & The Basin

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

I hope you are all managing to stay warm as we are now well and truly in the midst of winter. Some much warmer news though in that it's official - the new build at the Angliss Hospital is topped out! It was great to get down today to check on the progress with the Minister for Health Infrastructure, Melissa Horne MP and local Member for Monbulk, Daniela De Martino MP. More beds. Allied health and outpatient capabilities. More car parking. And a bunch more - right here in our neighbourhood. Cheers to the hard working team at Eastern Health for helping get this one done!

Bayswater Library Makeover

We're chipping in over \$57,000 to help make the new Bayswater Library even better. Everyone loves their local library - they're so much more than books. So I'm stoked that the

State Government is contributing \$57,244 to help with the new Bayswater Library redevelopment, through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program. Cheers to Knox Council for delivering this project.

Bayswater South Underway

Its. All. Happening! Works to upgrade Bayswater South Primary School are well underway - with the slab for the new toilets and storage facility coming along. And works are also happening inside, with a new refit happening. I promised to deliver this one at the last election - and I'm stoked that it's underway. Cheers to the educators, community and (especially!) the students for their patience as we get this done!



In Other News

- Major works at Boronia Station set to start late 2025 and open in 2026.
- Metro tunnel opening by end of 2025.

Local Shout-Outs

I was proud to take part in the ice barrel challenge to support Fight MND. Thanks to legend Jason Bounds (pictured), a young family man from The Basin who is fighting MND who made it possible. Jason, you're an inspiration mate. Your courage in the face of 'the beast' is nothing short of incredible. Thanks also to Jason's wonderful family and to The Basin Football & Netball Club for your support of this family and a great cause. Please consider donating if you can to help find a cure for this insidious disease.

Major Intersection Upgrade at Alchester Village Complete

The State Government is keeping drivers on the move at the busy Alchester Village intersection in Boronia, with major upgrades now complete.

Improvements to the intersection of Mountain Highway, Colchester Road and Albert Avenue intersection in Boronia have wrapped up with the addition of new signals, additional lanes and safer crossings.

Crews worked to remove the previous single-lane roundabout, replacing it with new dedicated turning lanes and new traffic lights to improve traffic flow and safety.

Signalised pedestrian crossings have also been installed on all approaches to the intersection, and raised pedestrian platforms have been introduced in the slip lanes on the northwest and southeast corners.

Upgraded street lighting is improving visibility in the area, along with new line markings will guide traffic safely through the intersection - while new concrete kerbs and centre medians have also been installed at the intersection, and a new asphalt surface has been laid.



Safety has been improved for cyclists travelling through the intersection, with upgraded bike lanes on Mountain Highway, increasing their visibility by providing a separate space to stop in front of other vehicles at a red light and allowing them to set off before other traffic.

Public transport users, including school students accessing Boronia Heights Primary School, are also benefitting from this upgrade, with a bus stop moved closer to the intersection for easier access to signalised pedestrian crossings.

A separate 'bus only' lane has been created on

Albert Avenue, enabling route 690 buses to enter and exit the bus stop without impeding traffic and to turn right at Mountain Highway thanks to a dedicated right-turn signal.

This project was funded as part of the Labor Government's \$117 million Local Road and Intersection Upgrade program.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Melissa Horne stated, "Everyone travelling through this intersection will benefit from these upgrades - whether you're catching the bus to work or school, walking over to the local shops or driving through on your way to visit the Dandenong Ranges. We know how important major intersections are for connecting communities with their loved ones, their livelihoods and the essential services they rely on each day, which is why we're delivering upgrades where they are needed."

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor added "These upgrades are already providing huge benefits to everyone using this intersection, by improving road safety and traffic flow for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers."

"Huge thanks to everyone for your patience while we got this done and for supporting local traders".

Pet's Piece

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic

Bucky's Chance: A Brave Little Fighter

Bucky, an adorable 5-month-old Ragdoll kitten, was brought to us one Sunday in late January as an emergency. His owners were deeply concerned—he had become extremely lethargic, was experiencing diarrhoea, and appeared nauseous.

A thorough history was taken, and the owners reported no known ingestion of foreign material. On examination, Bucky was found to be in significant abdominal pain. During palpation, the attending veterinarian detected an unusual thickened area in his abdomen, prompting the need for an emergency abdominal ultrasound.

Just like in humans, acute abdominal pain in animals is always a serious concern. If left untreated, it can quickly become life-threatening.

Blood tests were performed and returned without any major abnormalities. However, the abdominal ultrasound revealed a critical finding: a loop within a loop—an unmistakable sign of "Intussusception", a condition where a segment of the intestine telescopes into itself. This causes a painful obstruction and, without prompt treatment, can cut off blood supply to the affected bowel, leading to tissue death. Bucky was rushed into emergency surgery.

During the operation, the intussusception was located between his small and large intestines. With great care, the affected section was gently "milked" apart—a delicate and challenging process. The surgical team then performed a procedure to stitch the bowel in a way that would help prevent the issue from recurring.

Common causes of intussusception include chronic diarrhoea, parasites, dietary changes, or foreign body ingestion. Fortunately, no foreign material was found in Bucky's case, so our focus shifted to treating his diarrhoea and supporting his recovery.

He was started on antiparasitic medication and placed on a bland diet. Bucky remained in hospital for five days, receiving around-the-clock care, including pain relief, intravenous fluids, and anti-nausea medication. Given the extent of the intestinal damage, there was a high risk that he could deteriorate and need further surgery. But against all odds, Bucky pulled through.

We are thrilled to share that we recently saw Bucky again—and he was back to his playful, cheeky self. This highlights the



importance that chronic diarrhoea can be an emergency in an unwell patient and an urgent veterinary visit is required. It tells us of the importance of an appropriate diet, parasitic control and vaccinations to keep your pet healthy.

We are incredibly proud of our veterinary team for their quick thinking and life-saving intervention. Bucky has certainly won our hearts—and we're honoured to have gained a friend for life.

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavets.com.au

Serving the community for over 45 years

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

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

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



The National Anti-Scam Centre (NASC) is warning Australians that scammers have been impersonating phone numbers belonging to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in an attempt to steal personal information.

The ACCC phone numbers have been spoofed, which means that the scammers have disguised their phone number to make it look like they are calling from a trusted organisation, in this case, the ACCC. They then ask for personal information.

How to spot the scam

The scammers call you claiming to be from the ACCC and ask you for personal information like passwords or bank details. The ACCC and NASC will never:

- make calls from its reception numbers

- charge money for its services

- cold call or email to ask for your personal information like passwords, bank details or answers to security questions

- threaten or pressure you to stay on the line.

Stay protected

Stop - Don't give money or personal information to anyone if you're unsure. Scammers will create a sense of urgency. Don't rush to act. Say 'no', hang up, delete. Do not click on any links or download attachments from messages unless you are sure it is from someone you can trust.

Check - Ask yourself could the call or text be fake? Scammers pretend to be from organisations you know and trust. Contact the organisation using information you source independently, so that you can verify if the call is real or not.

Protect - Act quickly if something feels wrong. If you have had money or personal information stolen contact your bank immediately.

If you've been affected

Don't be embarrassed about being scammed.

If you've had money or personal information stolen contact your bank or card provider immediately. Help others by reporting: <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam>

Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

FESTIVAL FUN Part 4 Getting Our Act Together

The last time Mark, Kev and I had worked together was in 2022. We had been a formidable team, firstly in Paradiddle then as writers of many successful musical plays and programs for schools. We wrote our first show, "Superkids" in 1986, and this enjoyable and productive collaboration continued over the years, culminating in the publication of "Ukulele Room" almost four decades later. But now, as we were about to meet in Boronia in November 2024 to plan Paradiddle's return to the stage at CresFest '25, I confess I had some concerns.

Though Mark and I had settled our recent differences it remained to be seen as to whether the three of us could still work together. Bushfire Press, the publishing company Mark had started with Kev in the 1980s was struggling, causing him much anxiety. Furthermore, recent relations between the two had been frosty and strained, resulting in Kev's resignation from the company in order to protect his own mental health. And I, a friend to

both, was to quote Stealers Wheel, "Stuck in the Middle".

I once saw a well-known stage actor on a TV talk show relating how, despite being seriously ill, he was able to perform magnificently once the curtain rose. He attributed this remarkable recovery to the influence of what he called, "Doctor Theatre". And as Mark, Kev and I sat around the table in Boronia and harmonised the first chorus of "Poor Ned", it was Doctor Music who was working his magical healing powers. All past gripes and grizzles were forgotten as we combined in service to the song. What a relief! We happily discussed set lists for the concert, dance selections for the bush dance and agreed to meet again in February to begin serious rehearsals. This would give us a good eight weeks to get our act together.

When we returned the following year, we picked up where we had left off in the last rehearsal. Our three voices were blending together beautifully, the combination of my guitar, Kev's ukulele and Mark's banjo, mandolin or balalaika sounded even better so any doubts we may have had about our still being able to 'cut it' were fast disappearing. Mindful of our need to be relevant



for a contemporary folk audience we put together a dynamic concert set which included Mark's and my original compositions, two of our favourite cover versions and a heartfelt, hilarious co-write, in honour of Helmut our dear departed accordion player. We would show them that we still 'had it' and with nary a reference to sheep, gold miners, convicts or coves.

By mid-March we had rehearsed all the songs and were satisfied with our parts and the arrangements. With the concert bracket settled Kev took charge of the dance component. Athalie, our original bass player and dance caller, gave him the charts she had meticulously compiled for each dance set and we had our bush dance album for further reference, making that part relatively easy. Now it was time to bring in Dave on bass and Judy to play fiddle. We made sure that both had demo recordings and chord charts in advance for all the songs in the concert set then scheduled a full band rehearsal in Upwey

It didn't begin well. Judy had forgotten her fiddle and had to travel from St Kilda to Hampton to borrow one before arriving at Mark's, an hour late. Then, after the hugs and hellos, before the first note had even been struck, she proclaimed, "You know you're dinosaurs, don't you?" "What? Dinosaurs? Us?" We exchanged bemused glances and awaited her explanation. *To be continued...*



The Floral Emblems of Australia and Victoria

Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* is a shrub or small tree about 4 to 8 metres tall with phyllodes instead of leaves. In spring and late winter large fluffy golden-yellow heads of sweetly scented flowers provide a vivid contrast with the foliage.

Golden Wattle is a popular garden plant as it is moderately tolerant of frost and dry periods and grows well in a wide range of well-drained soils in sun or light shade. Bees, seed eating birds and other insects are attracted to the golden flower balls.

Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* gained popular recognition as Australia's national flower soon after Federation, when Archibald Campbell, who was a prominent ornithologist, naturalist and photographer, started the campaign to have it nominated as Australia's floral emblem. In 1910 he was instrumental in having September 1 celebrated as Wattle Day in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.

But Golden Wattle was not proclaimed as the national floral emblem until 1988, the year of Australia's bicentenary with 1 September



Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* formally declared 'National Wattle Day' in 1992. Over the years, wattles have had important connections for all Australians, especially Golden Wattle which holds deep cultural significance for Indigenous Australians.

During World War I, wattle sprigs and badges were sold to raise money for the war effort and organisations such as the Red Cross. Later, wattle became a symbol of remembrance for Australians who died while serving overseas.

The wattle also became the inspiration for Australian sporting colours of green and gold, with the green for the wattle foliage and the gold of the Golden Wattle's blooms.

Common Heath *Epacris impressa*

Common Heath is one of the few plants that flower at this time of year with masses of narrow tubular flowers from late autumn to late spring, with a peak in winter. There are three different colour forms of white, pink and crimson.

The pink-flowered form, often referred to as "pink heath", is the floral emblem of the state of Victoria, the first Australian state to adopt a floral emblem. In 1951 a meeting of government

representatives and other bodies agreed that the pink form or 'pink heath' (image below) be adopted as the official floral emblem.



Birds, such as Eastern Spinebill, will visit these plants for nectar and they are also attractive to butterflies and bees.

Both of these floral emblems are available at the Knox Environment Society Nursery at 1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully (just across the car park from the Library).

Upcoming Events at the Nursery

September is Biodiversity Month and there will be a Frog Pond workshop on Saturday 6 September from 11am – 1pm.

KES Spring Garden Festival will be held on Saturday 11 October from 10am – 4pm. Once again there will be exhibitors, presentations, children's activities and music. So book that date in now and join in the fun of the day.

The School for Student Leadership (SSL)

*Matthew Payne, Shantarah Johnson,
and Anna Losionek.*

Year 9 students at Boronia K-12 College

The School for Student Leadership (SSL) is a 9-week leadership program with four campuses across the state. We, Shantarah, Anna and Matthew, from Boronia K-12 College, were given the wonderful opportunity of going to the Snowy River Campus in Marlo, far East Gippsland.

Shantarah sums it up well 'I wanted to go to the SSL because I was seeking change. I always enjoy something new, especially if it challenges my thinking.' She 'was worried that [she] would have a rough time making new friends because [she] normally doesn't socialise to that extent.' In the end, we all made so many new friends. About 42 of them! We were able to make so many connections and memories with new people at SSL. We were like a massive family.

Before we went, we thought it was going to be scary, and didn't know quite what to expect. Nine weeks without phones, seeing your family, or even your pets. But it was honestly better than anything we could've imagined. We got to do many fun activities such as abseiling, caving, canoeing and even surfing. We're going to miss

everything immensely, even the three-day hikes. It wasn't all activities, though. There was also quite a bit of free time which had an air of independence around it.

An experience that we found the most rewarding was our second expedition. It was very challenging walking and canoeing in the rain for 40 kms across three days. Nights were cold and sleeping in tents was uncomfortable, but it taught us to be resilient and have empathy for others, because we were all struggling.

Matthew's highlight 'was probably surfing. [He has] never been to the open ocean before, so it was a very new experience.' We are all really glad that we were able to get the opportunity to go. In the end, Matthew even managed to stand up once! Everyone was very supportive, and across the board we learnt many new skills whilst away.

Anna's favourite activity 'was definitely abseiling. Although [she] was a bit nervous at the start, [she] trusted that the ropes would hold and it was such a fun experience in the end!' This was a common experience for us all. We are very glad that we survived abseiling! We really want to do it again!

Shantarah's highlight 'would probably be every sentimental time [we] spent with everyone at Grandma; our little area where we would sit around a fire and share our personal problems.

It was an amazing opportunity to be able to connect with our community on a deeper level.'

Now that we are back, we have a new perspective on things. We have been seeing the smallest things that we would usually take for granted, and they have been putting a smile on our faces. On Departure Day, everyone was crying and hugging, but, we know that this isn't the end of the story. We have so many new positive habits that we have developed whilst away. SSL doesn't stop when we get back home; it will stay with us forever.

Whilst there, we had to create a Community Learning Project. This is the culmination of our stay, and what we implement once we get home. For us, we'll be building a library at the local Boronia Aged Care, where our school's latest InterGen project has been. We'll have a fundraiser next term, and a call for book donations. If you have any good-quality books that you wish to donate, please take them to Boronia K-12 College's main office.

The experience has taught us all so much, like to be resilient when times get tough and to be grateful for the things that we have. It has equipped us with the skills we need to lead our community to a better place. We were so lucky to be able to experience something so beneficial.

FOOT OF THE HILLS CAFÉ

Boronia K-12 College

At Boronia K-12 College it has been incredibly exciting to see both staff and students get involved in the Foot of the Hills Café project — a fantastic example of authentic student participation that not only enhances our school environment, but also fosters enterprise learning and builds strong social connections.

The project has brought together multiple areas of the College:

Our Art & Technology Leader, Ms. McMillan, has been instrumental in guiding the Year 11 Product Design students as they build the café cabinetry and manage the project timeline.

Ms. Lumsden, our Art Teacher, has led the design process for the café's logo, giving the space a unique and student-created identity.

Mr. Kelly has supported the project through his oversight of planning and attention to detail.

Mr. Camille and Mr. Walker have been running the weekly VCE/VM café pop-ups every Tuesday.

To support the development of the café, we are actively fundraising through weekly coffee sales and themed dress-up days — including the recent Comfy Dress Day, which was a hit among students and staff. Looking ahead, our Trivia Night in Term 4 will also focus on raising funds to further grow the café.

We're aiming to have the café operating at least once a week throughout



next semester. Looking ahead to 2026, the café will also evolve into a Year 10 Business elective titled "Bean There, Done Business" — further embedding real-world, hands-on learning opportunities into our curriculum. Students will undertake micro credential training including Barista Training, OH&S, Safe Food Handling and much more.

This project is a true testament to the creativity, collaboration, and enterprise spirit of our College community. Stay tuned as the aroma of coffee — and innovation — continues to grow!





The Cubs pumping the night away!

Nicole Klep, District Leader of Cub Scouts.

On Friday the 4th of July, about 70 Cubs from 8 Cub Units in the City of Knox had a pumping sports themed disco at the 2nd/3rd Bayswater Scout Hall.

The Cubs had such a great time at our disco last year that they voted to have another one this year. We had a song list chosen by the Cubs, a variety of games and our DJ's Myles and Justin created a brilliant atmosphere with

UV and strobe lighting, a smoke machine, a confetti cannon and an air tube dancer. The look of delight on the Cubs' faces when the confetti canon went off with a load bang was a sight to see. The Cubs star angled in the confetti and gathered it in their pockets to take home. Overall the night was a huge success and everyone went home with a song ear worm.

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

1st The Basin, Boronia 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!



Snail Mail Fun

Heather Zubek

New letter writing society has young writers learning that a handwritten letter makes everyone better!

Letters of thanks are winging their way to Grandma, Mum, Dad, favourite teachers and best friends after members of Miller's Homestead's new group, Miller's Letter Writing Society, got together to show their thanks. Each month, young writers will return to the time of handwritten correspondence as they write letters of thanks, friendship and to see change in the world.

Run by teacher and avid letter writer Heather Zubek, the Miller's Letter Writing Society aims to teach children aged 6 and over the etiquette and wonders of a handwritten letter.

'On the night, I learnt how to set out a proper letter and really enjoyed going,' says Alyssa, aged 11.

'Handwritten letters are really important because you know someone's taken their time to write a letter for you.'

'People write too many letters on their phones,' adds Lucas, aged 7.

'It makes people more happy to get one in the mail because it doesn't happen as much.'



The next session, held on Wednesday 27 August from 4pm to 5pm, is called "I loved your book", and will focus on writing a letter to a favourite author. The Miller's Letter Writing Society is free to join but bookings are essential.

Call 0438 284 989

or visit: events.yourlibrary.com.au.

My special local spot.



I simply used my phone to snap Alchester Crescent Playground as a favourite spot for lots of local people for coffee and shopping.

You can buy almost anything at Alchester in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. It is great the roadworks have finished so that the village can get back to normal relaxed mode.

Brian White

Please share a photo of your special local spot with us here, so others can enjoy it with you.



Mayor's Message August 2025

Cr Lisa Cooper

Your voice is shaping our future

I'm really proud of our new Council and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, which guides Council's priorities for the next four years and has a significant influence on where we will invest your rates. Council's budget for 2025-26 delivers on the first-year

priorities in this plan and invests \$122.4 million in important services and facilities.

These documents were developed with the involvement of over 1,100

community members to ensure the community voice was heard. They represent our promise to the Knox community and deliver on your aspirations and needs.

The budget allocates nearly \$58 million in capital works, including \$10.7M for roads and bridges, \$9.2M for sporting pavilions, \$4.8M for footpaths and bike paths, \$4.7M to maintain Council buildings, \$4.5M for sports fields and training facilities, \$3.6M for critical drainage, \$1.5M for parks and reserves, \$1.4M for car park upgrades and \$1.3M for playgrounds.

Average residential rates in Knox continue to be among the lowest in metropolitan Melbourne.

Council is directing spending towards community priorities amid rising inflation in a rate-capped environment. Overall rates revenue will increase by 3% in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap.

We have worked hard to achieve operational savings over several years,

with a further \$2 million in savings identified for 2025-26. Council has retained the rate rebate of up to \$100 for eligible pensioners, on top of the Victorian Government's pensioner rebate.

I invite you to view our new plan and budget and catch up with other news on our website: knox.vic.gov.au

Waste charges have reduced by \$13.05 for the standard 80L rubbish bin and by \$17.65 for the larger 120L rubbish bin. This includes a 240L recycle bin, 240L food and garden bin, two hard waste collections and the fortnightly green bundled waste service. Two years after introducing the weekly food and garden bin, and fortnightly rubbish bin service, Knox residents are diverting 73% of all waste from landfill. This is the third highest diversion rate in Victoria, and our residents should be proud.

Rates notices in August will include the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy, which is collected by Council on behalf of the state government. Council is not responsible for setting the levy but is mandated to collect it on behalf of the state government. Council supports the position of the Municipal Association of Victoria in opposing local government being a collector on behalf of the state government.

It will be charged on all properties in Knox and has two parts – a fixed charge and a variable charge based on your property's value. E.g. If your home is worth \$700,000, this state government levy will be \$257.10 – an increase of \$64.20 or 33.3% from last year's Fire Services Property Levy.

Have your say

We've brought forward community consultation for the 2026-27 annual plan and budget to hear from the community at the beginning of the process. To help capture your priorities, share with us what services you think deliver most value and help us understand how we can best meet the needs of our community. We also welcome formal submissions for Council to consider. If you wish, you can present your submission directly to Council. You can find out more and stay up to date with this and other local projects at knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Your voice matters, and I encourage every resident to help shape local decisions – Council is here to support the community.

TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

Story so far...

Toby makes it safely to land. Well, sort of.



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

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Local Community and Club News



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 July we visited the Yakult factory in Dandenong, followed by lunch at the Hallam Hotel. This month will see some of our members off on a "Mystery Bus Tour". Really looking forward to finding out more about that one!

Further events for this month include visits to the Round Theatre in Ringwood to see the Australian Ballet perform and, later in the month, a musical comedy "Cruising with the Grandparents' Club". We are also looking forward to seeing Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber at the same venue during October.

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

Our next General Meeting will be held at 10.30 am on Tuesday the 26th of August, 2025, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay



connections with the congregation over the years joined in the celebrations. And the message from our minister, Rev Russell Croxford, that morning was NEW CHAPTER – SAME STORY! Russ reminded us that we can never really 'start from scratch' and that the previous 'chapters' of our lives have influenced who we are NOW as we start a new chapter.

If you are starting out on a new chapter of your life – come and join us..... we'd love to be part of your story.

CONNECT WITH US! YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME. We worship every Sunday morning at 10am.

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.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon. EVERYONE can be assured of non-judgmental and friendly support.

CRAFT GROUP - We meet from 11.30am each Friday at the church. Bring your lunch and your own craft project.

MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS, each Friday from 9.30am during school terms. A 45-minute session is followed by a BYO morning tea. Call Sue on 0402 079 432

Church office: 9762 6732 Facebook: www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch Website: https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au

At the end of June we celebrated 60 years of being a church on the corner of Zeising Court and Boronia Road. Many people, lay and clergy, who had

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LACK had a very busy social calendar for June. We had a luncheon and Royal Parade for the King's Birthday. The Royal performance was carried out most admirably by Mr. Jeff Pattison with the majority kicking up their heels on the dancefloor, including 'Elvis 'The King'

Visit to NGV (via train) to view the Dogs & Cats Exhibition. We followed this with an informal lunch and then paid a visit to the Victorian Art Centre to view the 5 metre bronze Octopus.

Our initial Partner dancing was very successful and a return session will be held next term break when there is no regular exercise class. Come along - you don't need a partner as Mal organises pairings.

We had our first, of what we hope to be, more successful Movie Days. The premier film was a lovely romantic movie set in the early 1860s - The



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King and I. We were treated with popcorn and the old wafer biscuit ice-creams. Plus tea, coffee and afternoon tea. The next Movie day will be the second Monday of the month, 11th August. The next movie will be "Pearl Harbour".

As the PR Officer for LACK and organiser of the Ladies Morning Tea, I have to give it a plug. The next morning tea will be at Brontos Café, Boronia Road, Boronia on Tuesday August 5th. Coming up we have many diverse events (including, golf, theatre and social outings). If you would like more information, please phone Lorraine on 0438 068 334.





9762 0008

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I've had such a positive experience with Craig Kelly Real Estate managing my rental property. Craig and Alyssa have been professional, reliable, and incredibly easy to work with from the start. They take care of everything with care and attention — from tenant selection to ongoing communication and maintenance — and I always feel confident that my property is in good hands. They've made the process smooth and stress-free, and I genuinely appreciate their prompt responses, transparency, and commitment to keeping both me and my tenants happy. If you're a landlord looking for a trustworthy and proactive property management team, I can't recommend Craig Kelly Real Estate highly enough. Thank you for making things so easy!

Megan

Craig and his team have been nothing short of exceptional. It is a real pleasure to have Craig look after my rental property as if it were his. The genuine care and stress free communications really puts my mind at ease, knowing I chose the best agents for the job. I'm really grateful to have found Kelly Real Estate and can't thank Craig and Alyssa enough for the care and attention they put into all that they do.

Misty



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