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Boronia & The Basin

OCTOBER 2025

Issue 348

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Editorial:

Danny Nolan

Are we really paying attention?

Media reporting seems to have spun out of control lately. With so many outlets and platforms, it isn't surprising. Take Artificial Intelligence (AI) for example.

It is either going to help humanity evolve to a whole new level or be our downfall as we succumb to it being our most powerful overlord, controlling our every thought.

I've read articles explaining how we have already fallen prey to AI's evil. From writing our books, spying on our transactions, doing our kids' homework for them, and controlling our computers, even though they aren't connected to the internet. I have also read articles from academics and scientists explaining that most of the more potentially diabolical aspects aren't even possible, and that people have been swayed by years of science fiction. Then, as a rebuttal, other articles say this is the scientists' and academics' way of fooling you, so they can be in control. **Such a vicious circle.**

Does this paper use AI? No. Do we need to? No. Because we aren't here to influence. Just inform and entertain. I'll be more impressed with AI when, rather than write a text for me, it could mow my lawns, trim my hedge, and put out the bins on the right night, just like in The Jetsons.

Boronia and The Basin Community News

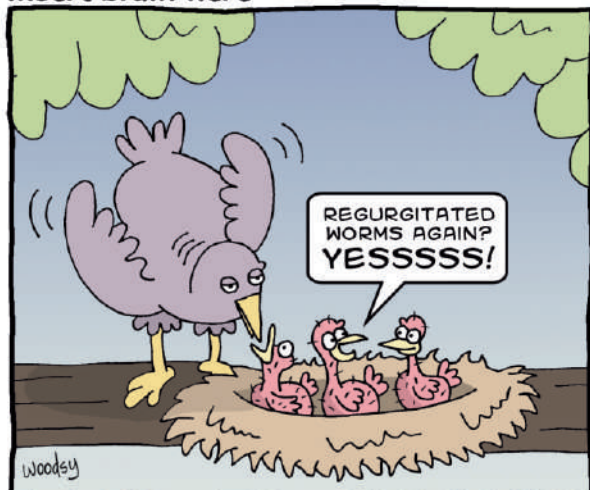
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 14 October – 7:00 pm
The Basin Community House

Everyone welcome! Come and share your ideas on how BBCN can continue to enjoy success, by representing and informing our community.

Our guest speaker, Matthew Thompson from Thompson's Coins will share some of his story. Supper will follow the formalities, a time to socialise and catch up with friends and perhaps meet new ones.

insert brain here



by woody

Boronia & The Basin Community News

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Submit content copy through: contact@bbcn.org.au

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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 and not be subject to copyright restrictions.**

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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The political policy of the BBCN is strictly non-partisan.



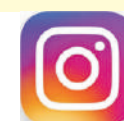
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Digital copies of previous editions available at
BBCN.org.au

Complete history of bound editions at
Boronia Library

Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

Page 3 Bird

Des Palmer

Rainbow Bee-eater

(Merops ornatus)

For a splash of colour to brighten things up you simply can't go past the Rainbow Bee-eater. My Pizzey and Knight field guide distribution map shows them occurring in the Melbourne area but I can't recall ever seeing one close to Melbourne. Common in Northern Victoria, they are a breeding summer migrant to Victoria, coming from as far afield as Northern Australia, eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea or the Solomon Islands.



Rainbow Bee-eaters are, as their name suggests, birds who feed on flying insects such as Bees (duh!) wasps, dragonflies and other similar prey. Hunting from a still perch such as a dead tree-branch they pursue their quarry in aerial dashes, a rapid burst of speed before returning to the perch to consume said meal.

Like a lot of birds, seen from a distance on a dead tree they look rather nondescript, but of course get them crystal clear in a good set of binoculars and you think, yep, wow! My wife and I had some cracking views of them some time ago in NSW and she just fell in love with them, big time.

Often first noticed by their rolling, loud, clear and cheerily vibrating (Michael Morcombe) 'Pirr, Pirr pirrip pirr pirrip call (if you bump into me down in Boronia ask me to give you a demo),

they are a treat to watch their aerial cameos chasing insects, then return to the same perch and belt the living daylights out the poor insect they've caught!

With a real sense of community spirit, breeding pairs of Rainbow Bee-eaters are ably assisted by other family members with both incubating eggs and feeding the parents and chicks once they've hatched. This might spur us on to help any single mum that we come into contact with. Big job for birds or humans!!

These birds are extremely common north of the Great Dividing Range, so if you've never seen one or even heard of them, isn't it time you got out more? I have some great tours on offer coming up, to all sorts of places, we may even be able to rustle up a Rainbow Bee-eater or two.

I recently led a bird walk at Wicks Reserve in the Basin for the Knox City Council as part of biodiversity month, we nailed 30 different species in 2 hours and at the conclusion of the walk whilst sitting in the rotunda, we were treated to a real show, about 8 different types of birds seemingly putting on a performance for us before our very eyes! Gold! Wicks is a real birding hotspot in our area, try your luck and see how many species you can nail there. Anyhow, that's enough from me for this month. I will have some great tours on offer over the next few months and beyond, enquire by email at birdtoursbydes@gmail.com.

Photos credit Alf Forbes

Slithering into snake season

As temperatures rise, snakes become more active, emerging from a period of reduced activity to seek food and mates. While they may be more visible, snakes generally pose little danger to people when left alone. "The most effective way to stay safe is to simply leave them alone. This includes keeping pets on leads in areas where snakes are known to occur," he said.

- Keep your yard tidy, clear away clutter like timber piles and rocks.
- Supervise pets, keep dogs on a lead and watch pets closely in high-risk areas. If you suspect a bite, seek immediate veterinary care.
- Don't try to catch or harm a snake. Call a licensed snake catcher instead.



CAN YOU HELP?

We are always looking for volunteers to help create and deliver the paper. Are you interested? At the moment we are looking for someone to coordinate the distribution with Leigh. Distribution takes a few hours a month, liaising with walkers and drivers to arrange cover for absentees. If you are interested please contact us at the BBCN via contact@bbcن.og.au

We would love to hear from you. Most of our drivers are long time volunteers and we need to build backups to replace people as they retire.

So if you aee after something to do with friends who care about comunity, contact us.

The theme for BBCN November edition will be "Heroes". Please share your hero stories... Thanks!

Look up Victoria. Swooping season is here again, stay alert and stay safe

As the weather gets warmer and the days longer, we also start to see the occasional swooping bird. Native birds enter their breeding season in spring, and some may get protective of their young.

Lachlan Clarke, Manager Statewide Wildlife Advisory Services at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) said: "Swooping is a normal, temporary behaviour for native birds like magpies, butcherbirds and masked lapwings to defend their eggs and chicks for a short time while their young are most vulnerable."

"Think of it as a warning sign. They're telling you to keep your distance. While it can be a bit unsettling, it's rare for them to make contact.

If you are worried about being caught out by a protective bird this spring, here are some steps you can take to feel safe, while also protecting our native birds:

- Avoid known swooping hotspots.
- Move quickly, don't run if near a swooping bird.
- Wear protective head and eye coverings.
- Don't harass birds, as this can escalate swooping.
- Don't feed birds or destroy their nests.

Report a swooping incident on Victoria's interactive swooping bird map by visiting: <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds>.

All native wildlife is protected by law. Harassing, harming or disturbing native birds and other wildlife is illegal in Victoria and penalties apply.


I'M HERE TO HELP!

My Aston Electorate Office can assist you with information about Federal Government services, including:

- Services Australia
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Medicare
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- Immigration, citizenship and customs
- Passports
- Pensions, and My Aged Care
- Child support
- Veterans' Affairs

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Get in touch

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Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston

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

New BBCN archives at Boronia Library

Danny Nolan

Thirty years of the Boronia & The Basin Community News is now available at the Boronia Library. Every copy ever published is now on the shelves in bound, archived editions. This includes the never-before-printed online versions that were a necessity during COVID.

The idea was originally instigated by former Knox Mayor, councillor, and longtime editor of this paper, John Mortimore, whose dedication to the paper was always unwavering. The archive project fell away during the COVID period, with John having family and his own health issues. The Committee made the decision this year to continue his legacy and has completed the series by printing and presenting to the library the missing years 2020 through 2024, with a commitment to donate every year's editions for the foreseeable future.

YourLibrary Regional Manager Emma Jahn and Boronia Team Leader Sherelle Furneaux were on hand to be presented with the bound editions by BBCN President Pat Kelly and committee member Danny Nolan. Also present were Councillors Paige Kennett and Peter Lockwood, who both represent the paper's distribution area.

BBCN would like to thank the YourLibrary staff for the wonderful response and enthusiasm when approached to continue the donations, and Paige and Peter for their continuing support of the paper.



VALE - Kees Klep OAM

30th July 1940 – 25th August 2025

Kees was born in Bemmelen, Netherlands and was the eldest of nine children. The family migrated by ship to Australia in 1953. They lived in Homes Glen migrant hostel for five years before settling in Burwood. He married his wife Nelly in 1966 and they moved to Boronia. Together they built the family home, where Nelly still lives today. They had four children. Kees started life as a carpenter and later became a trade teacher.



He had many passions in life. He volunteered with the Scout Movement for 64 years and received a number of awards throughout his Scouting career, including an OAM. He loved running campfires and taught many campfire leader courses. He enjoyed collecting antique wood working tools and was a member of the Hand Tool Preservation Society. He was also a member of the Saint Gregorius Dutch Male Choir and loved the annual concerts they held. Kees was a member of the driving and walking team for the BBCN, until he was no longer able to.

The family would often go traveling around Australia during the school holidays and Nelly and Kees travelled abroad on numerous occasions.

He has left many people with fond memories, great skill sets and good examples of community involvement.

COVER STORY: 2025 Tilly Aston Awards

There was barely an empty seat in the house as members of the Aston community packed out the Chinese Association of Victoria venue, on Saturday 30th August 2025 to recognise many of our communities' local champions.

The second annual Tilly Aston Community Awards provided the opportunity for various groups and individuals within the electorate of Aston to be celebrated and commended on their outstanding work.

These awards are named after Tilly Aston, who was one of Australia's most important and influential disability advocates. Tilly worked tirelessly to support and improve the lives of many people living with vision impairment, including through the establishment of a braille library.

The awards, therefore, recognise people in our community who embody and foster Tilly Aston's spirit, her empathy, courage & persistence, and who inspire and lead every day.

Nights like this give me a great opportunity to meet with people who are involved in a variety of community and service-based organisations. All nominees were chosen by those in the community who greatly appreciate their work.

Meeting these finalists who all come from such different walks of life and have such inspiring stories to share was amazing and really reinforced to me the strength and quality of people we have living among us in Aston.

To acknowledge their continued service, I presented finalists and winners with certificates as well as cheques from Bendigo Community Bank - Wantirna, who proudly sponsored the event. The cheques are to be put towards future service in the community.

I was proud to announce the winners :

Local Hospitality Champion – Café on the Park

Mental Health & Wellbeing Champion – Wantirna Jetbacks Basketball Club

Connecting Communities Champion – Glengollan Village

Sporting Champion – Wantirna South Junior Football Club

Leadership Award – Mark Tyrrell

Rising Star Award – Jack Taylor

Outstanding Young Achiever Award – Aran Nota and Annabelle Tay

Local Hero Award – Donna Jordan and Bryan Dye

Volunteer of the Year Award – John Woodward

Carer of the Year Award – Amanda and Dean Collins

Teacher of the Year Award – Emily Maynard

Lifetime Achievement Award – Stephen Barrington

My sincere thanks go out to Bendigo



Community Bank - Wantirna for their support, as well as to the team at the Chinese Association of Victoria for generously sharing their venue. Without your contributions, nights like these would not be possible. Also, a big thank you to Pat Kelly, for his wonderful work steering the ship as Master of Ceremonies.

I look forward to hosting this event and many others like it in the future.

Mary Doyle MP – Your Federal Member

As your local Federal MP, I would like to share some important updates and initiatives happening around the electorate of Aston. I am here to help with Federal Government matters, so if you require any assistance, please get in contact with my office by calling us on (03) 9887 3890 or by emailing me on mary.doyle.mp@aph.gov.au

Care4Carers

A safe and supportive program for women who 'care'

Life's ups-and-downs affect us all, and it is important to know there are people who can walk alongside us when we need a little support.

Since 2019, Elm St Mission in Bayswater has been a safe gathering place for people experiencing mental health challenges or who are socially isolated. In October-November this year, Elm St Mission – along with Women's Health East – will offer a free program for women who provide unpaid care for partners, children, parents and others.

"This new program is for women who need some time out, want to connect with others, enjoy activities, have a chat and feel free to be themselves," said Program Coordinator, Ethne Pfeiffer. "We will continue our open-door program where people can drop in and say hi, but this new opportunity is for women to connect with other carers and share their experiences."

She added, "Caring for others brings rewards and challenges, and it's important that carers can be part of a group where they feel safe to share their thoughts, express themselves and



have some fun."

Whether you support someone with a mental health challenge, chronic condition or age-related needs, this group could be for you. Information on local services will be available.

Starting on Thursday, 16 October at 11 am – 12:30 pm, the Care4Carers group will provide weekly sessions (October-November) that include a mix of informal chat and connection; relaxation, fun and wellbeing-focused activities; conversations about food and mood; experiences with like-minded women; and more.

"Women's Health East are really pleased to be working with Elm St Mission to deliver this program directly to women in the Knox community. Care4Carers is completely free, welcoming, and easy to register for – come along and connect with others who understand the challenges of caring," said Vanessa, Women's Health East.

Together, the two organisations are working to

support women who give their time, care and compassion for other people's wellbeing.

"You don't need to know anyone to come along," said Ethne. "This is a safe, friendly place to be."

Morning tea provided. No referrals needed. Registration essential.

Program details:

Date: From Thursday, 16 October 2025

Time: 11 am – 12.30 pm

Venue: Elm St Mission, 654 Mountain Highway, Bayswater

The venue is accessible and welcoming for all. There is free parking off Elm Street, only a 10-15 minute walk from Bayswater Station.

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/care4carers-a-safe-and-supportive-environment-for-women-who-care>

If you have any questions, please contact Ethne on 0428 330 873

or email info@elmstmission.org.au



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

Serving as the Member for Bayswater since 2018 has been the greatest privilege of my life. After much consideration with my young family, I've decided that I will not be recontesting the seat at the 2026 state election.

Being in politics and public office has given me incredible opportunities to work with our community and achieve things together that I'm immensely proud of. But it has also meant a lot of time away from my family. This hasn't been an easy decision, but after nearly 10 years in public life, including my time on Council – it feels like the right time to step back.

Finding the right words for this has been incredibly difficult. There will be plenty of time to say more and I expect I'll take that opportunity. But trying to capture my gratitude for being given the terrific opportunity - not once but twice - to represent the community I

love in State Parliament is no easy task, but I will give it a crack.

While the spotlight often falls on the elected rep, everything that's been achieved has only been possible because of the dedication, passion and support of the amazing team I've had the privilege to work with. Thank you to every single person who has helped locals day in and day out, who I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing this with.

Of course I would not be here if it were not for the faith shown in me by the wonderful people of Bayswater, Boronia, Ferntree Gully, The Basin, Wantirna and Wantirna South. I cannot begin to thank you enough for allowing me to work in the best job in the world. I've always said I know not everyone voted for me, but I have always done my absolute best to act in our community's interest and to represent you with

honesty and with commitment. I said in my very first speech that I would work hard every single day because you deserve nothing less. I certainly hope I have lived up to that.

I've also had the greatest of opportunities to get to know so many fantastic community organisations, schools and local businesses right across the area. We are so lucky to have such a strong community, one that cares and one that knows just how good Knox is. Thank you for being so kind, for your support and for simply being you.

Through this amazing chance to serve our community I have made so many lifelong friends and people I will be forever grateful for. You see a lot of negativity in the news, well I can tell you, out in the real world doing what I do – I've seen the best of us every day, and it gives me great hope for tomorrow.

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When: Sunday 23rd November 2025

Where: The Basin Primary School

Want to get involved?

If you're keen to learn more, we'd love to chat, please reach out via the contact details below

marvellousmachines2025@gmail.com

Darren: 0474 692 266



Electric vs. Manual Toothbrush

Boronia Dentist Team

When it comes to brushing your teeth, the big question always pops up: should you stick with a classic manual toothbrush or upgrade to an electric one? The truth is, both can get the job done, but they each have perks and drawbacks.

Electric toothbrushes are all about convenience and efficiency. The moving bristles do a lot of the work for you, which means you don't have to scrub as hard. They're especially great for people who struggle with dexterity issues, like kids or anyone with arthritis, since less effort is needed. Plus, the built-in timers and pressure sensors on many models help you brush correctly without overdoing it. The downside? They can be pricey, and you'll need to replace the heads regularly. They also rely on batteries or charging, which isn't always ideal if you travel a lot, or forget to charge them.

Manual toothbrushes, are simple, affordable, and available just about everywhere. You can toss one in a bag, keep extras in your bathroom, and never worry about charging. They come in different shapes and handle lengths, so it's easy to find one that feels comfortable. The catch is that they require good technique and consistency. Without the help of timers or vibrating heads, it's easy to brush too quickly, press too hard, or miss areas of your mouth.

So, which one wins? Honestly, it depends on you. If you like gadgets, want a little extra help, or tend to rush through brushing, an electric toothbrush might be worth the investment. But if you're disciplined, on a budget, or need something simple for travel, a manual brush is still a solid choice.

Final Tip: No matter which toothbrush you use, the most important thing is you use a soft bristle toothbrush, and you're brushing twice a day using proper technique, also remember to replace your brush (or brush head) every 3-4 months. Good habits matter more than the tool itself!

Prescribing Lifestyle by Dr. Avi Charlton

A Doctor's Prescription for Lasting Weight Loss and Vibrant Health

Does your doctor have their own website? Have they written a book about their medical goals?

Mine has!

I found Avi Charlton in February 2018 after my son recommended that I watch the movie 'Cereal Killers'. It is a documentary about toxic food by Donal O'Neill and featured Sports Scientist, Professor Tim Noakes from South Africa. I visited Professor Noakes's website and it had a link to the Nutrition Network. The Network webpage had a 'Find a Practitioner' button. I clicked on it and discovered that there were several Practitioners in Victoria, Australia. The closest was Dr. Avi Charlton in nearby Wantirna. I visited Dr. Charlton and my change to a healthier lifestyle began.

Dr. Charlton started as a General Practitioner in 2005 and gradually changed from 'cure mode' to 'prevention mode'. Many of her patients were seeking help with their weight. Instead of just prescribing a pill she began researching the causes based on Professor Noakes's 'Real Meal Revolution'. Obesity can be prevented by

changing to low carbohydrate, high protein, high healthy fat food. In 2019 she attended a Low Carb Down Under conference and met other doctors with a similar outlook on health and lifestyle. In 2022 she founded the Melbourne Low Carb Clinic at her Wantirna Clinic.

This book is about her journey. It contains details of the 6 'Pillars of Lifestyle Medicine': Nutrition, Sleep, Movement, Addictions, Stress Management and Community. There are 7 Parts in the book, covering each 'Pillar', with Part 7 'Going Forward' giving a Lifestyle Prescription.

Part 1 'Just Eat Real Food' contains the most chapters and has details of the toxic foods that you need to avoid, such as sugar and wheat and vegetable/seed oils. Part 2 'The Movement Prescription' explains about The Exercise Myth. Are you over-exercising or doing the wrong type of exercise? Dr. Charlton is a marathon runner and she explains why regular exercise is so important.

The book contains many case studies of her patients that you can relate to. In Part 7 there is a list of 11 blood tests that you should have every year. I found the Top 10 Tips for Lifestyle Success particularly useful. There are 13 pages of references at the end of the book if you wish to follow-up a particular topic.

If you want to live a longer, healthier life, I recommend you read this book. (It is available at her clinic in Wantirna or from her website: mlcclinic.com.au.)



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CPP Community Theatre presents: URINETOWN. The Musical

"It's a privilege to PEE" and a privilege to SEE...

We are very excited to announce that in October, CPP are staging a musical we have never done before. And something, we think would be fair to say, we have never done anything similar to in the past. URINETOWN. The Musical, is coming live to audiences this October. We cannot wait to share this exciting and whacky production with our local community,

In this side-splitting satire, the young idealistic hero Bobby Strong leads his community in a fight against oppression. Set in a dystopian not-so-distant future where Bobby meets Hope, where water is scarce and "Hope" is even scarcer, all citizens must now pay a fee for "The Privilege to Pee" at one of the public toilets controlled and monitored by a monopolistic, capitalist tycoon. But the citizens can only hold it in for so long, and soon the poorest and filthiest of these facilities, run by the formidable Penelope Pennywise, becomes the "number one" site for major change. In this Tony-winning musical, nothing is safe from criticism — capitalism, politics, the establishment, the anti-establishment, the anti-anti-establishment, and even musical theatre itself! So be sure to come along and join us on this "hard, cold, tumble of journey" to find out how it all washes up!

Don't hold it in — get your tickets today! "

SEASON DATES:

Friday 17 October 8:00pm
Opening Night

Saturday 18 October 5pm
Early Evening

Sunday 19 October 2pm
Matinee

Wednesday 22 October 8pm
Evening Show

Thursday 23 October 8pm
Evening Show

Friday 24 October 8pm
Closing Night

TICKET PRICES:

Adult: \$45 Concession: \$40 Child (6 & under): \$26. Family (2 adults 2 children): \$116 Group (10+ tickets): \$40

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

Performing Arts Centre, Rowville Secondary College (Eastern Campus) Humphreys Way, Rowville Victoria. TICKETING LINK: <https://cppcommunitytheatre.com.au/>

ENQUIRIES: For all ticket enquiries, please email: tickets@cppcommunitytheatre.com.au



KNOX ART SHOW

knoxartshow.org.au

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November
10am to 4:30am



Churchill Waverley Golf Club
82 Bergins Road Rowville 3178

Proudly supported by



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Bayswater and Rowville - Lysterfield

The Knox Art Show has been supported by a grant from the Knox City Council Community Development Fund

"Dead Man's Cell Phone" Rings onto the Stage This October

The Basin Theatre is proud to present *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, a darkly comic and deeply poetic play by Pulitzer Prize finalist Sarah Ruhl, directed by the acclaimed John Putman. This thought-provoking production runs from 2nd to 12th October 2025, featuring a talented cast of six.

In a world obsessed with connection, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* explores the absurdity and intimacy of modern communication. When a woman answers a stranger's ringing phone in a café, she's pulled into a surreal journey of love, death, and digital legacy. Ruhl's signature blend of wit and poignancy offers audiences a fresh lens on how we mourn, remember, and reach for meaning in a tech-saturated age.

Directed by: John Putman and Di Hoskins

Season: 2 - 12 October 2025

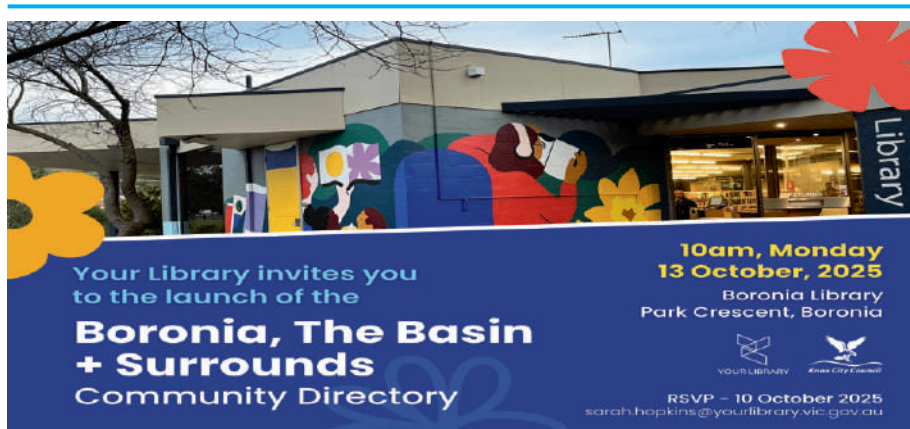
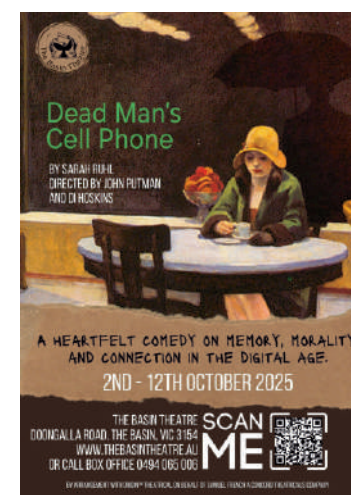
Venue: The Basin Theatre, Melbourne

Tickets available:

<https://authebasin.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/144073>

Don't miss this captivating and unconventional theatrical experience. *Dead Man's Cell Phone* promises to be a highlight of the spring season, equal parts hilarious, haunting, and heartfelt.

Theatrical Warnings: This production contains adult themes, mild coarse language and references to death and grief.



October Mayor's Message

Lisa Cooper

Reflecting on my Mayoral term

This will be my last newspaper column as Mayor of Knox for 2024-25.

Over the past year, I have sought to ground my leadership in respect, civility and genuine listening. I know that how we conduct ourselves in debate matters just as much as the decisions we make. I am deeply grateful to those councillors and community members who share this commitment — those who choose patience over anger, dialogue over division and dignity over disrespect — and our dedicated officers whose professionalism and patience help steady us through challenges. Your example strengthens me, and together we show what leadership can be at its best. Above all, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our Council and community as Mayor. I will continue to practice these values and foster spaces where every voice can be heard, and every exchange honours our community.

In our first year, this new Council listened to over 1,100 people to develop a four-year plan to address the changing needs and priorities of the community, foster growth and development, and ensure the health and wellbeing of residents are at the forefront of everything we do.

Here for young and old

There's a lot happening across Knox this October, which marks Children's Week and the month-long Knox Seniors Festival.

This is an opportunity for over 55s to stay curious and connected by exploring new or favourite activities like line dancing, Mystery Bus tours, an outdoor drawing workshop and meeting new people.

Run in conjunction with the Victorian Seniors Festival, this year's theme is: Create. Connect. Celebrate.

Find out more at knox.vic.gov.au/SeniorsFestival



Council delivers services for the community at all stages of life. We support older residents to stay connected, active and engaged and we're there for new parents and infants.

Council is hosting a Knox Children's Week event for babies to preschoolers at Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre on 23 October.

Coinciding with the week, Council is hosting tours of our Children and Family Centres at Bayswater and Wantirna South on 25 October.

Our centres deliver early years services to the local community, including childcare, kindergarten, maternal and child health and supported and community playgroups.

You can find out more about these events and our services on our website: knox.vic.gov.au/ events.

Have your say

I invite and encourage all residents to stay up to date with what's happening and get involved.

October is a busy month for Council and there are many opportunities to have your say on Council projects.

You can stay up-to-date with local projects through Council's engagement platform: knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay

You can check out our website and subscribe to our weekly eNews at knox.vic.gov.au/enews



A local area update from Councillor Paige!

According to crime statistics for Knox, there has been a 16% increase in crime from the previous year. In our local area, we are witnessing this, it is totally unacceptable, and it needs addressing. I have been in regular contact with Boronia Police, working to improve communications, and how council and police work together. Of note, graffiti in the area is a recent problem, and in response, Boronia Police have increased surveillance in the area and are investigating these issues, and council is working with private property owners to clean up offensive and unsightly graffiti. The work between Police and Council continues with many ideas for crime management and support being initiated that we know will positively impact our neighbourhood. Thank you to Boronia Police for the work they are doing to help increase safety in our area.

You can help! If you see crime in the area, report it to the Police! Your information could be critical in assisting Police. To report any crime information, call the Police Assistance Line 131 444, or report online through <https://report.crimestoppersvic.com.au>

In some welcome news, Council recognised recent proactive efforts of Victoria Police's Eastern Region Division 2 in establishing a new Local Safety Committee that will bring together Councillors, council officers, community agencies and Police to share information, respond to emerging issues and plan and coordinate crime prevention and community safety initiatives across Knox. I am looking forward to what can be achieved with this renewed commitment and focus.

There are further crime reduction initiatives being considered that align with Council's Strategic Action 5 – Being a strong voice for safety. More news to come on this!

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

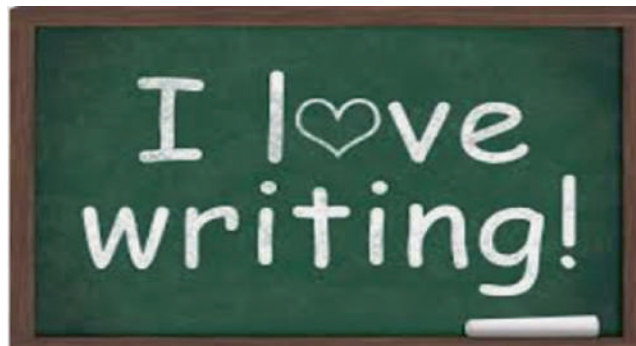
Email: Cr.Paige.Kennett@knox.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0498-880-807

Recent activities in Baird Ward Councillor Peter Lockwood

- Presentation of bound copies of BBCN to Boronia Library, now up to 30 years.
- Visit to Boronia station to visit with Transit Police and discuss issues regarding local behaviour.
- YLL Board Meeting

- Citizenship ceremonies with Deputy Mayor and Minister for Citizenship.
- Environment Advisory Committee meeting
- Eastern Transport Coalition Meeting (Yarra Rangers)
- ETC- Metro station tour of ANZAC station.
- Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance Meeting (Monash)
- Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Young Writers Initiative to continue in 2026!

BBCN are grateful for the support from Bendigo Bank to cover prizes for the Young Writers Initiative. Bendigo Bank have announced they will continue to support the YWI for a third year in 2026. This enables BBCN to continue to inspire young writers to share their ideas and build their confidence in their writing. Since starting in 2023, BBCN have awarded prizes to 35 individual students, collectively worth \$1750, plus \$1200 in school awards. A big thank you to Bendigo bank for helping to sustain this great initiative. We believe it is the longest sustained monthly writing award for a not-for-profit newspaper. A big thank you to all our young writers who have sent in their submissions, we wish we could publish them all.

Keep submitting!

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

This month we have one Young Writers Initiative Award from Boronia K-12 College

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

Entrenching Inequality

Matthew Payne, Year 9, Boronia BK-12 College

An often overlooked issue is the significant gap in government funding between public and private schools. You would think that public, government, schools would get more government funding than private schools, but unfortunately that isn't the case.

The Australian Education Union estimates that between 2024 and 2028, Australian public schools would be underfunded \$31.7 billion, whilst private schools would be overfunded by \$2.1 billion. This is because 56% of private schools get more government funding than comparable public schools.

Before 1964, private schools didn't get any funding from the government. However, successful lobbying and public pressure, particularly from the Catholic community, about the funding disparity, led to the government slowly providing more and more funding. This has continued and extenuated to the current situation.

Private schools get more government funds, and so are able to portray themselves better. Thus, attracting enrolments away from local public schools. The more enrolments, the more money a school gets, meaning the private school is now in an even better financial situation. In 1964, 76% of

students went to public schools, that figure has dropped to just 64%.

This cycle has real world impacts entrenching inequality and limiting social fluidity. Local private schools are able to flaunt features such as built-in aquariums, whilst local public schools are left without basic necessities such as air conditioners. How can we allow this in our egalitarian society?

The most disadvantaged students are 2.4 times more likely to go to a Public, I.E, underfunded, school. This results in class divisions. Regardless of whether or not the school is actually better, the current system creates a society of two parallels. Public school kids who aren't exposed to the upper classes, and Private school kids who aren't exposed to the lower classes. This results in social disunity, adding tension to our rapidly rupturing social fabric.

I'm not calling for a complete retraction of private school funds, nor for public schools to get aquariums, just for equality. Public schools should be fully funded. 0% of Private Schools should receive more government funding than Public Schools. Thus, evening the playing field slightly, and allowing for us to be a truly egalitarian society.

The Gonski reforms are helping to achieve full school funding, however they aren't going to be released in full until the 2030s.

For my generation, they come as too little, too late.



Above:

Audrey receiving her September Young Writers Award at The Basin Primary School assembly for her story on the Enchanted Wood.

YWI awards include a certificate and \$50.

All entries are not edited to accurately represent the standard of each student submission.

YWI is open to all students attending a school in Boronia and The basin, and to residents of these suburbs.



Left:

Zoe accepting an August Young Writers Award at Boronia K-12 College assembly for her creative story "The Night of the Blood Moon".

Right

Sophie pleased to receive a September Young Writers Award at The Basin Primary School assembly for her story about what is at the top of the magic Faraway Tree.

KIDS
ZONE

Is Halloween Okay for Kids?

Like it or not, Halloween has well and truly become a fixture in Australian calendars with its popularity having grown massively in the last five years. One in five Australians will be taking part in celebrations this year and they are expected to spend \$450 million on costumes, decorations and confectionery.

In Australia celebrations are often more about socialisation than being "scary". This is partly because it occurs during daylight savings time which means we can celebrate with small children before it gets dark or with older children and adults after dark. It is an opportunity to dress up, be a bit silly and have fun.

Halloween can be okay for children if celebrated thoughtfully, with activities tailored to their age and comfort levels, and by prioritizing safety during trick-or-treating and costume choices. It also offers potential benefits for a child's development, including creativity, imagination, and social skills, but cultural and



religious beliefs must also be respected. Planning well ahead will help ensure that your little ones enjoy the experience.

Here are some tips to get the best out of Halloween.

Costumes:

Children love dressing up and costumes can be as scary as a child is comfortable with. If you have a preschool age child, make sure they try out their costume well in advance. They may like the costume in the shop but on the day may not like the mask that covers their face. Practice “scaring” your own family and see what they are comfortable with. Talk about it in the weeks leading up to Halloween so that they know what to expect. Older children love using make up, best to make sure it is suitable for the whole family.

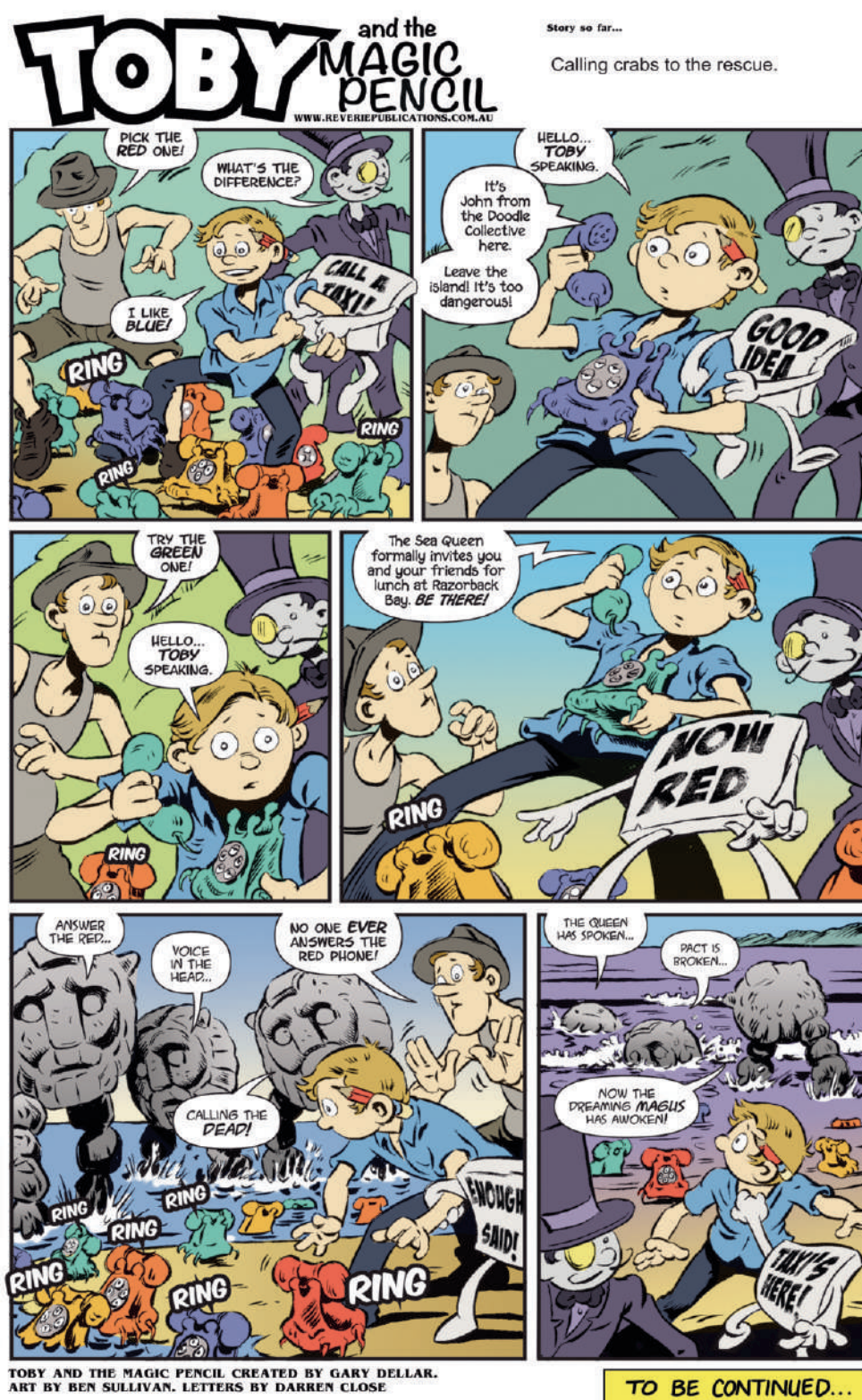
Trick or treating safety:

For preschoolers and young children it is best to just go to a few homes of people that you know. You can agree with them the times you will all be home. Our street has a facebook group where people say which houses will be accepting visitors and when you can visit. Some mothers' groups and community groups have their own sites which have maps showing houses which will be participating. During the week before, have a look at the decorations of the houses in your area and make sure that they are not too scary for your child. When trick or treating you can let your children knock on the door themselves, it's a good way to build confidence, but stay close by so that you will be there if they get scared and need you.

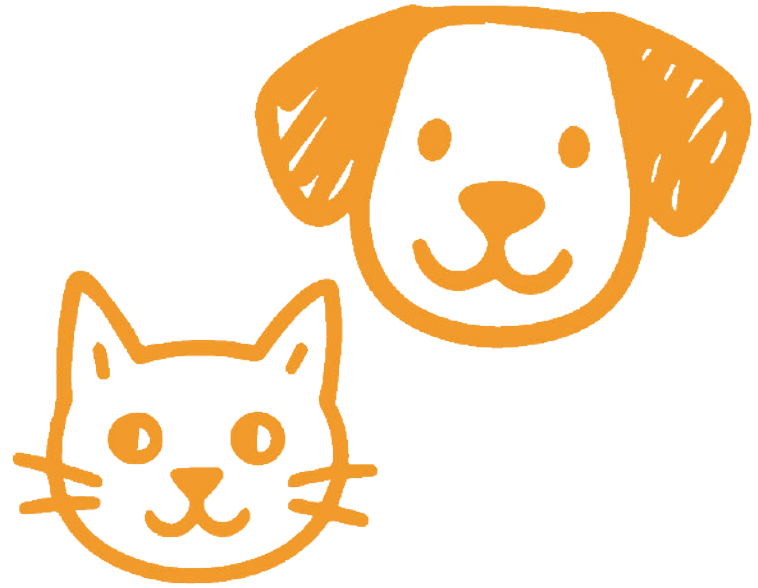
Giving and receiving treats:

Set the expectations early. Make sure that they ask politely and only take one or two at each house so that everyone can share. Let your little ones know that whilst they will get lots of goodies to eat, they will only be allowed to eat a few on the night and the rest will need to be saved for a later time.

Halloween is really what you make of it. It can introduce some new experiences for young children which can grow into a tradition that can last a lifetime. Our grown up children now come to our area with their own children to visit the neighbours they first visited 30 years ago. Our neighbours' children also bring their children to visit us.



Have your say on our draft plan for dogs and cats



We've got a plan to make Knox even better for pets and people.

Following your feedback, we've developed ideas to

- Increase desexing rates
- Address dog waste
- Review on and off-leash areas
- Create more enjoyable shared spaces for everyone.



Scan to share your feedback or visit
knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay



Connect for wellbeing

Connect with your community and create a safer place for everyone. Events for all ages across October for Safety Month.

Find out more:
knox.vic.gov.au/events



New Bayswater library open

Visit Shop 43, Mountain High Shopping Centre, to explore the 55% bigger floorspace and state-of-the-art facilities.

Find out more:
knox.vic.gov.au/BayswaterLibrary



Upgrade to all-electric and save

Solar Savers can help you upgrade your home or business with solar panels, batteries, EV chargers, heat pump hot water, efficient heating and cooling, induction cooktops, insulation and more.

Learn more: SolarSavers.org.au

knox



Pet's Piece

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic

Enzo the Lagotto.

Enzo, a 4 year old gorgeous Lagotto, came to us in a collapsed state. He was extremely lethargic, had severe diarrhoea, and couldn't stand so had to be carried into the consult room. On examination, his heart rate was racing, and he was in hypovolaemic shock, a medical emergency that happens when the body loses too much fluid, usually through vomiting, diarrhoea, or blood loss. In simple terms, the blood vessels don't have enough fluid to circulate, so the body tries to compensate by making the heart beat faster. Without treatment, this condition can be fatal.

We immediately placed him on intravenous fluids to replace what he had lost, along with medication to control nausea. His abdominal ultrasound didn't reveal any major concerns, so after ruling out other possibilities, we diagnosed him with Acute Haemorrhagic Diarrhoea Syndrome (AHDS).

AHDS is a condition we see often in dogs. It typically presents as sudden, severe, bloody diarrhoea, often with vomiting, and can make pets critically unwell very quickly. The exact cause isn't fully understood, but we know it's linked to an overgrowth of certain gut bacteria (Clostridium). Sometimes scavenging, like eating something unusual (yes, even possum poo!) or dietary intolerances can trigger gastroenteritis, but in many cases, the precise cause remains unknown.

Enzo needed four days in hospital, where he was carefully monitored with regular blood tests and weight checks to keep track of his hydration levels. Gradually, with intensive supportive care, he began to improve. He started eating

consistently again, regained his strength, and was eventually well enough to go home.

This case is a wonderful reminder of how resilient our pets can be with the right care and how important it is to seek veterinary attention quickly if your pet is unwell. If your dog is lethargic, not eating, and has diarrhoea (especially if it's bloody), please treat it as an emergency and contact your vet straight away.

Thanks to early intervention and dedicated care, Enzo made a remarkable recovery, and we were thrilled to see him walk out the door, ready to go home and continue his recovery at home. His plan at home included rest and a bland diet such as chicken and rice, while monitoring his stools to ensure they started to become more formed.

We are so proud of our team, both the incredible



veterinary care and our hero nurses for giving him round the clock care and managing this case promptly and aggressively, ensuring the very best outcome for Enzo. In fact, we've seen a number of similar cases recently, which serves as an important reminder to pet owners to stay vigilant and seek help early. We thank Enzo's family for trusting us with his care!

Humphrey B Bear -Legend

Danny Nolan

Humphrey B. Bear is arguably Australia's first children's TV superstar. Paving the way for The Wiggles, Hi-5, and Bananas in Pyjamas. Creating the model for merchandising and public performances that the aforementioned benefited greatly from. Humphrey first appeared in an Australian children's television series called Here's Humphrey, which first went on air in Adelaide in 1965 and quickly became a firm favourite, particularly among Gen Xers who grew up with him.

The Here's Humphrey show has won five Logies for Best Children's Series, and the Humphrey character has received national awards and commendations, including the 'Citizen of the Year' Award at the 1994 Australia Day celebrations. It was also syndicated around the world and translated into 55 different languages, including a special stand-alone Spanish version. Humphrey ran for 38 years straight and was retired in 2003 when it was decided that shows like The Wiggles and Hi-5 were what preschool kids gravitated to these days. That same year, almost as a 'says who?', Humphrey became Heritage Listed and a National Trust Icon.

But Humphrey never went away, making a return in 2013 and still making rare appearances, usually for historical television events or as ambassador of the Women & Children's Hospital Foundation.

There is no denying Humphrey's immense popularity; I witnessed it firsthand. Back in the late 1990's I was attending the Moorandah Festival, and Humphrey was the main attraction. There was a stage that had been erected on the Croydon footy oval, and seated



on the grass were more than a thousand people, two-thirds would have to have been small children. When Humphrey whispered into his friend's ear (this was how Humphrey communicates), she told all the kids to stand up and do the Hokey Pokey. And with that, all the kids sprang up and danced, hopped, and wiggled to Humphrey. I honestly believe if that assistant had been a bit evil, she could've said, 'Humphrey said take all the money out of Mummy's purse.' I don't think there would be any way to stop the kids from doing it. Humphrey had spoken (sort of).

Did you know that for a short time in the early days, Humphrey was known as Bear Bear and was named Humphrey B. Bear as the result of an on-air competition. And did you know that it was Humphrey who pulled the biggest crowd at the Boronia Mall? Humphrey beat all, including footy and TV stars and even the crowd pulled by Kylie & Jason. Recently, thanks to Boronia Mall management, we were able to obtain this photo of Humphrey's appearance sometime in 1996.

Maybe if the Mall wants to get a bit of a boost in its attendance, perhaps it should give Humphrey a call?

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 Meisels' Grand House.

Danny Nolan

The New Mystic Lake Estate, just southeast of The Basin Triangle in what is now part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park, was a failed real estate venture in the early 1950s. One of the problems with the campaign to sell the land was the fact that the brochure didn't quite match the terrain. Hundreds of plots of land were mapped out in nice rectangular blocks but, in reality, they were on the side of a mountain with an almost 30-degree fall over some parts. It's been recorded that some people bought land sight unseen, only to come to view and break down in tears. Not many plots were sold, but some purchasers saw the benefits of the area and decided to build. Mind you, a few people never even made it that far, occasionally coming up and pitching a tent, then eventually not returning. However, there were some who embraced the area.

Lack of services such as electricity, telephone, and sewer made permanent living a bit of a deterrent, but those who did build made comfy weekender-style homes with tank water and kerosene fridges & wood stoves. There was one house that stood out from them all, services and location be damned. That was the Meisels House. Owned by Ondre (a.k.a Andre or Andrew) and his wife Jolly, it was used as their weekender, where they loved to entertain.

This was on Mountain Highway, situated between the bend where the bus terminates and Inverness Avenue. The house may have looked like a modern and compact version of the grand old houses that were built all over the Dandenongs around the turn of the century.

With a retaining wall adjacent to the road and a six-foot-wide stairway leading some 25 metres up to the two-story brick abode, the property frontage was set back from the road by such a distance that cars could park at 90-degree angles to the road in front of the retaining wall. As you entered the property to the right and parallel to the road was an inground swimming pool, complete with paving and another retaining wall.

The bottom part of the structure was a large games room, and above was an open entertaining area with a lounge and a kitchen. Facing the street was a huge verandah which could comfortably accommodate 40 people, looking up at the recently installed TV towers on Mount Dandenong. The house wasn't so much a holiday house but more like a day retreat, as there was limited space for overnight guests.

The house was also special in other regards, as it boasted two water tanks - one that had a heating system for hot water. This supplied the house and, something almost unheard of in the whole estate, a flushing toilet.

Mr. Meisels owned a very successful retail store in Bourke Street in the city called American



Tailors, named so because back in the 1950s, almost everyone associated style and fashion with the United States. And it worked; it allowed him to build this amazing house. Mr. Meisels died in 1978. The business he started still exists today in Bourke St., albeit in a new location and with new owners.

Stella Patrone was the housekeeper for Mr Meisels. Each Monday after he had large gatherings, she would cut through the back of the property from her home diagonally behind on Alamein Avenue (now track). This proves she was a tough old lady, as the path was extremely steep and uneven.

Ms Patrone also lived above and diagonally across from the other constructed house on Mountain Highway. This was owned by the Robinsons, whose home was of weatherboard and fibro construction, built so that it also sat high on the block due to the steep gradient. Next door to where their house once stood is a set of stairs on a flat piece of cleared land that still exists today. This was done by Les and Shirley Yardley, who lived in the Robinsons' house when they retired to Upwey. They also rented the Meisels' home for a time while they were intending to build. The cleared land and steps were all they managed. Now the steps are the unofficial memorial of the failed venture, both theirs and the New Mystic Lake Estate.

Behind the scenes, the estate was never going to endure. After the 1968 bushfires and by 1984, the Government was actively buying back houses in the area.. The Meisels house was on the extreme boundary of the new Dandenong National Park, and by then all traces of housing and non-native flora were removed. The bulldozers came in and flattened everything.

Or did they?

One wonders if the pool was removed or just filled in? As I have discovered in past explorations of the old housing estate, they weren't as thorough as I first thought.

I was going back up to Mr Meisels' house to see what I could find.

To be continued.

To read previous articles on the New Mystic Lake Estate and its residents, read BBCN issues 311, 312, 321 and 322. A huge thank you to Gary Pope for his invaluable knowledge & photo collection.



Bridge generations with tech help

Say goodbye to tech frustrations and get help from young professionals.

In partnership with Knox City Council, Youngster.co have local students offering dedicated one-on-one tech support sessions with an intergenerational focus.

Whether you need help setting up a new phone, learning social media basics, transferring photos or installing apps, our tech-savvy students are here to help you.

This program offers:

Free, personalised assistance, with technology

Stay connected with friends and family

Be confident using your device

Share life skills with local tertiary students

Event details

When: Every Tuesday from 16 September – 25 November 2025

Time: 11.30am-1.30pm (30-minute sessions)

Where: Westfield Knox, Community Space (next to Knox Library) Level 3, 425 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South

Don't miss out. Book now via below link or call 1300 774 711.

<https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/whats-happening/news/bridge-generations-tech-help>



Twilight Bowls

Boronia Bowls Club - Marie St, Boronia

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

Fridays 6pm-9pm OCT-APR
During Daylight Savings

\$12 PER HEAD
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
ALL WELCOME

Boronia Bowls Club

5 Marie St.,
Boronia

TWILIGHT BOWLS IS BACK AGAIN FOR 2025/26

Bring the family and friends down to one of our Twilight Bowls sessions

Held every Friday night from 6-9pm from October 2025 to April 2026

All equipment and coaching supplied - full bar, sausage sizzle and dim sims available

Just turn up or phone the Club on 9761 1996

<p>MAJOR SPONSORS</p> <p>Community Bank Ferntree Gully Loci Real Estate Chemist Discount Centre Boronia Palandri Insurances Boronia Wallgates Elecrctical Services Rowville</p>		<p>CLUB SUPPORTERS</p> <p>Jackson Taylor MP Bayswater Mary Doyle Federal MP Aston</p>
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No fees for new bowlers for the first year - Call Wayne for Membership on 0430 451 250

Boronia Bowls Club Celebrates 2025 Season Opening

The Boronia Bowls Club marked the official opening of its greens for the 2025 season with a vibrant and well-attended event on Saturday, August 30th. Members gathered in great spirits to celebrate the beginning of another exciting season of bowls, camaraderie, and community.

Executive Director Garry Wall and Bowls President Graham Wynn had the honour of opening the greens, officially welcoming members back onto the green after the winter break. They were joined by several valued club sponsors who continue to support the growth and success of the Boronia Bowls Club. Special thanks go to Dylan from Loci Real Estate, representatives from Bendigo Community Bank Ferntree Gully, and Powerhouse Consulting Accounting for their presence and ongoing partnership.

The event was further highlighted by the attendance of Jackson Taylor MP, local Member of Parliament, who gave a warm address to the crowd and



participated in the ceremonial opening of the greens with current Club Champions, Ian McLean and Rosanna Riddington. His support for local sport and community initiatives was warmly received by all in attendance.

Prior to the formalities, members enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of social bowls under clear skies, reconnecting with fellow bowlers and welcoming newcomers to the club. The atmosphere was cheerful and inclusive, a true reflection of the club's community spirit.

No celebration at Boronia Bowls Club would be complete without some classic refreshments, and guests were treated to delicious plates of scones, jam, and cream—adding a sweet touch to a successful day.

With the greens now officially open and the season fast approaching, the club looks forward to a year of competitive play, social connection, and community engagement. Boronia Bowls Club welcomes all ages and skill levels and encourages anyone interested to come down and get involved. Twilight Bowls kicks off again in October and is a great way to get involved, running every Friday night from 6pm-9pm.

We hope to see you on the greens over the coming months.



Goodstart Early Learning Iris Crescent

Choosing the right early learning centre is one of the most important decisions a family makes. At Goodstart Early Learning Boronia Iris Cres, we believe every child deserves a place where they feel safe, inspired and supported to thrive.

Our new location from Albert Street to Iris Crescent is designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. With a focus on school readiness, social development and strong community connections, we

provide children with the skills and confidence they need for a seamless transition into school.

Families who join us in 2026 will also benefit from Victorian Government's Free Kinder program, making high-quality education more accessible than

ever. Combined with the federal Child Care Subsidy, including the new 3-Day Guarantee, our centre makes early learning both affordable and flexible for modern families.

We invite you to come and see the difference for yourself. Book a personalised tour today, meet our dedicated educators and experience firsthand why so many families choose Goodstart Early Learning Boronia, Iris Crescent for 2026 are now open.

Secure your place early for now or 2026! Ph 1800 222 543





Habitat Gardening for Frogs

Did you know that there are 16 different frog species living in the Melbourne area? Not all of these occur in Knox, but you can support the local frog populations in your own garden by choosing a frog-friendly design.

First, the pond. The size of the pond doesn't matter, but different water levels do. Tadpoles prefer deeper water for shelter, swimming, foraging and developing. Adult frogs need shallow water so give them shallow areas in the pond, with a gently sloping bank or a log placed into the pool to help them reach solid ground.

At the edges of the pond, place rocks and logs to provide sites for frogs to forage and shelter in, for egg-laying or for calling platforms.

The pond should be in a position to receive some sunlight for part of everyday throughout the year. Place taller or dense vegetation on the south side of the pond for shade later in the day. Tadpoles usually develop faster in warmer water and any underwater plants will grow better with more sunlight.

KES Nursery has a range of wetland plants to choose from. For planting the frog pond, choose from plants that

- will grow under water or on the water (but not ones that cover the whole pond)
- will grow in inundated or moist soils
- small edge plants

• tall edge plants

• and plants that provide habitat away from water

Examples of plants suitable for under water to moist soils include Swamp Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*, a small (10-30cm), attractive, spreading plant with small white flowers.

Taller plants, including the Water Milfoils and Spike-rushes, grow in full sun in water or damp soils.

Streaked Arrowgrass *Triglochin striata* is an example of a small edge plant. Growing up to 40 cm, it has loose racemes with tiny yellow flowers. It prefers poorly drained soils and is happy in full sun or semi-shade.

Away from the pond, plants that provide habitat for frogs include *Carex* species, *Dianella* species, *Lomandra* species, *Gahnia* species and *Poa* species. Many of these plants are also attractive to native bees, butterflies and birds.



Pale Flax Lily *Dianella longifolia* is a tufted plant, growing over 1 metre tall, with delightful purple flowers followed by purple berries. Happy in full sun or semi-shade, it will grow in well-drained soils.

And it's a good idea to plant a large shrub, such as Silver

Wattle, Paperbark or Tea Tree species. These large shrubs will provide shelter, leaf litter and shade when the rest of the pond area is in full sun.

Spring Garden Festival, Saturday 11th October, 10am-4pm

We are planning a day of garden advice, talks and activities. As well, community exhibitors will be on show offering their own skills and advice to add to the celebration.

There will be presentations:

- Wetland Plants: An amateur's journey of discovery

- Rescue, rehabilitation and release: Boobook Wildlife Shelter

- Birds in the Burbs: Improving habitat for birds

There will be exhibitors –

- Knox Community Gardens Society

- Knox Repair Café

- Gardens for Wildlife

- Australian Plant Society (Foothills Group)

The Friends Groups of Knox will also be present to showcase their activities to protect remnant vegetation in reserves and along creeks.

Sarah will sell beautifully designed tote bags, cushion covers and tea towels. Tisha will have activities for children, including colouring, puppets and mask-making. And the Flying Foxes musical group will be there to entertain us.

So there will be something for everyone with the Rotary Club of Knox providing a sausage sizzle – catering to the inner person too. All funds raised by the Rotary Club go to the Cancer Council Daffodil Day.

Come and join us at Knox Environment Society Nursery, just across the carpark from the Library at 1010 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully.

For more information please visit our website www.kes.org.au/home/events or www.kes.org.au/home/presentations



Cub Scouts Update

Nicole Klep, District Leader.

On Sunday, 31st August, 97 Cubs representing all of our Knox Cub Units and numerous volunteer Leaders arrived at Gilwell Park Scout Camp in Gembrook early in the morning for a day of vertical adventure. The weather was not as perfect as last year, with a bit of rain on and off this year and just a tad cold, but that didn't stop any of

the Cubs!

Cubs got to have a go at the rock climbing wall, the abseiling wall, the flying fox, the bouldering park, slack lines and the 'Ascent Academy' – where they covered some of their vertical badge work and learnt 2 to 4 new knots.

With Scouting we always 'Plan, Do and Review', so when we reviewed the day at our final parade, lots of Cubs said that their favourite

activity was the flying fox, but all the activities did get a mention. I did get asked by many Cubs when we are holding the next vertical fund day! I answered that I needed to recover from today's fun first.

If you are interested in trying Scouting go to:

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/locations/all-groups/>

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



BAKE FOR A BREAK-THROUGH BORONIA K-12 COLLEGE FUNDRAISER

On Thursday 11th of September the Boronia K-12 College community came together for a very special Bake Sale fundraiser in support of the Cancer Council. The event was proudly organised by Year 10 students Jorja V and Sophie W as part of their commitment to the fight against cancer.

In the lead-up, students and families generously baked and donated homemade treats, which were collected at the College office and then displayed on tables outside the Junior School gym. Throughout the day, students, families,



and community members had the opportunity to purchase these baked goods, with every dollar raised going directly to the Cancer Council to help fund vital research.

The fundraiser was a huge success, raising an impressive \$776. This achievement was only possible thanks to the dedication of Jorja and Sophie, the support of their mums, the Student Voice Team, the many families who donated baked goods, and the wonderful school community who showed up to buy, share and support.

Thank you to everyone who contributed — whether by baking, buying, or simply showing up. Together, we've made a meaningful difference in supporting cancer research.



The 1812 Theatre *Speaking in Tongues*

Nine lives weave together in ways known and unknown in Andrew Bovell's piercing drama.

Overview

Leon is married to Sonja. Jane is married to Pete. By chance, each spouse meets the others one night and end up in motel rooms. Pete and Sonja resist the one night stand: Leon and Jane do not. A lonely man, Neil, pines for the love of his life, Sarah, who moved on decades ago. A woman, Valerie goes missing and her stiletto was last seen in Nick's car.

Love, marriage, infidelity and betrayal are all tackled in this tense, electrifying play about relationships between lovers, strangers, and the infinite ways people wound each other.

Season: October 2 – 25.

1812 Theatre – 3 Rose Street, Upper Ferntree Gully

More info:

www.1812theatre.com.au

or phone 9758 3964



Inquiry In Action at Boronia K-12 College

*Cassandra Wright, Assistant Principal
Junior School – Boronia K-12 College*

Looking for a school where curiosity thrives? Here's a brief look at how Boronia K-12 as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP) school is transforming how children learn.

What Is the IB PYP?

The IB PYP is a world-class learning approach designed for children aged 3 to 12. We are proud to work on the skills, knowledge and attributes shaped by the PYP Framework from our 3-year-old kindergarten program. It's deeply rooted in local community values while encouraging and empowering global thinking.

We're proud to offer the IB PYP, and we'd love for you to see it for yourself

At its heart, the PYP for us is about developing curious, confident, and compassionate learners. In our classrooms, students don't just learn about things—they learn through inquiry. That means they ask questions, investigate ideas, and make connections across subjects. Whether they're exploring sustainability, identity or innovation, students are encouraged to think deeply and creatively. As a staff, we have carefully curated a Program of Inquiry that recognises developing maturity and understanding across the 6 Transdisciplinary Themes. The Program of Inquiry addresses all areas of the 6 themes with increasing complexity, breadth and depth as students continue on their learning journey with us. These Units of Inquiry are also completely aligned to the Victorian Curriculum in all subject areas and strongly supported by our Specialist Program, which connects both directly and indirectly to the units.

Student Agency and Building Community

One of the most powerful aspects of the PYP is student agency. That means students have a strong voice in their learning. They help choose topics, set goals, and reflect on their progress. When children feel heard and valued, they become

more engaged and motivated. They take pride in their work and develop a strong sense of responsibility. Even our youngest learners confidently present their ideas and lead discussions.

The PYP doesn't just focus on academics; it nurtures community and connection. Students learn to care for others, respect different perspectives, and take action to make a difference.

Tours run on Thursdays. Book via our website www.boroniak-12.vic.edu.au or call 9760 4900 for an alternative time to see inquiry learning in action.

Together, we're growing great learners, one inquiry at a time.



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Local Community and Club News



We had our AGM at the end of August and had a ceremony at that meeting to name our Library after our late Lifetime Member, Mr. Ron Smith who contributed greatly to the running of our Club for many years. We also had a memorable dinner at Stamford Homestead plus several other well attended events.

Our Club has a very active last quarter of this year. September 19th, Golf at East Malvern, both 9 and 18 holes. Coming up on September 20th is our Footy and Fun Day, \$10.00 per person - pies, hot dogs and ice creams commencing at mid-day.

Come visit us at 2.00pm on Wednesday 8th October at Wattle Hall, 160 Underwood Road Ferntree Gully (right next to the Ferntree Gully Railway station) for Seniors Month.

We will be having afternoon tea and you will be able to familiarise yourselves with the many activities and events of Life Activities Knox. Entry will be a gold coin which will cover afternoon tea. The Walkers will lead a social

We had our AGM at the end of August and had a ceremony at that meeting to name our Library after our late Lifetime Member, Mr. Ron Smith who contributed greatly to the

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 28th of October, 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. Our first photo shows members on a recent backstage

amble to the Quarry and back. Convenors from activities will have displays and can talk with you on the ins and outs of our Club and its benefits.

21st November information day at Ferntree Gully Library where we will have displays as well as a talk and demonstration of chair-based exercise class.

Our priceless Club contact is happy to take your call and answer any questions about LACK:

0438 068 334



visit to the Atheneum Theatre in Lilydale. The second photo features the group who went along to see "Cruising with the Grandparents' Club" at The Round, Nunawading.

Earlier this month, some lucky members enjoyed a Community Bus trip to the Alowyn Gardens in Yarra Glen, followed by lunch at the Grand Hotel, Yarra Glen. Also this month, another event enjoyed by quite a few members was "Music of Broadway with Claire Lyon", also at The Round.

We are now looking forward to our usual Cup Day Lunch at the Boronia Hotel and, of course, our Christmas Lunch in early December. Our last meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 25th of November, when we will enjoy the music of "The Pleasant Pluckers" – regular favourites of all.

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.

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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Knox Uniting Church
BORONIA ROAD

REV RUSSELL CROXFORD preaches on the first Sunday of each month at our church, 209 Boronia Road. In addition to services, we have many other functions including:

MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS is held each Friday from 9.30am during school terms. The 45-minute session is followed by a BYO morning tea when the carers get the opportunity to get to know each other. Leaders of this program are always on hand to offer support and encouragement. Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

WE PROVIDE **EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF** each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon when non-perishable foods are given to those who need help at this time. No questions asked.

EVERYONE can be assured of non-judgmental and friendly support. We are a member of the Knox Emergency Relief Network.

OUR **CRAFT GROUP** MEETS EACH FRIDAY from 11.30am at the church. Bring your lunch and your own craft project - although working

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on ANY craft is optional! You are welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat. The kettle is always on.

OUR NEXT **MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET** is on Saturday, 8th November from 10am - 2pm. All stalls will be indoors or under cover. Enquiries or to book a stall - contact 0421 769 067 or irenesmith2@bigpond.com

All our appointed leaders, employees and volunteers have completed the required Safe Church Training and have current Working With Children Checks.

For more information about us check out our Facebook page and Website or phone the church office on 9762 6732,
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The Orchard Church of Christ is a thriving church community with a clear vision for worship, discipleship, and growth into the future. This vision includes a strong gospel-centered, outreach-orientated mission, which has been the catalyst for growth, salvation, discipleship and baptisms. We believe that multi-generational congregations can better serve many people's worship and faith development needs.

Services: (Bayswater campus - 643 Mountain Hwy., Bayswater)

Sunday 9.45am, Traditional service

Sunday 10:30am, Relaxed and informal service

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