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Boronia & The Basin

DECEMBER 2025

Issue 350

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE



Christmas Day Community Lunch



Summer Season Greetings

Be safe and support others, or seek others' support, during the holiday season (p5)

Images

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Editorial: Danny Nolan

With the holiday season fast approaching and 2025 coming to a close, it's that time of the year when we celebrate with friends and family and take stock of what the year has presented us with.

We here at BBCN have a lot to be thankful for; we share this paper with a great community. Grateful thanks go to our volunteers who help create the paper, who contribute their words, who deliver the paper to thousands of homes, and, of course, our readers. We do this for you!

We would also like to sincerely thank all our advertisers for their continued support for the newspaper, and we hope your ads have produced good results for your business.

As in most organisations we have experienced highs and lows over the last 12 months. The highs include being successful in obtaining grants from Bendigo Bank as well as being recognised by the CNAV for best writing of an article of a person 18 years and younger. Something that makes us proud with all the effort that has gone into the Young Writers Initiative and presenting awards to our 'Young Writers' winners each month.

We also had some lows. John Pernu, the President of the BBCN and Ros Atkinson, our chief proof-reader, both died during the year. John's dedication to the paper and his attention to detail will continue to influence those who have had to 'pick up ropes'. Ros proof-read so many articles with a deft hand and a skill that made putting the paper together an easier task. They will be forever missed and remembered for their dedication to the paper – and for their friendship.

We wish all of our readers and our community a safe and joyous Christmas, New Year and holiday season.

Take care of yourselves and each other – and see you in 2026 for what promises to be an even bigger year for your local paper!

The BBCN Committee of Management

insert brain here



by woody

Boronia & The Basin Community News

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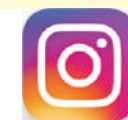
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Assoc. Sec: Arthur Shelley

Editing Coordinator: Kimberley Hanson

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BBCN.org.au

Complete history of bound editions at
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Page 3 Bird

Des Palmer

Little Grassbird (*Poodytes gramineus*)

Did you just read the scientific name for the little Grassbird? That's outrageous, I wouldn't tolerate that if I was a Little Grassbird, poodytes indeed! It is apparently derived from the Ancient Greek poa, meaning grass and dutes, meaning diver. Go figure!

An occupant of vegetated wetlands it is a bird not often seen, even by birdwatchers like, umm, ho hum, yours truly! Extremely cryptic but often heard, it is an unusual sound to say the least. Pizzey and Knight describe it as 'a mournful, trisyllabic 'p-pee-pee' (wait up, a scientific name of poos and makes a call like pee, I don't like where this is going) which in my books gives a good description of the call but not a good description, if that makes sense. It is a sound you really have to hear to get across it. Mournful, yes very much so, penetrating yes, ventriloquial at times too! I have several times over the years fallen victim to this magician's trick; it's calling from over there, no, over there, nooooo, over there, it does your head in, believe me!

It is an extremely secretive bird, but if you're patient and sit and listen to the call and wait, an occasional cameo is given, but don't hold your



Image credits: Alf Forbes

breath! Not exactly striking in appearance, little Grassbirds are simply a good get just to say you saw one!

About ten years ago a bird called the Tawny Grassbird was discovered at the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin, which at that stage was only the second record of this bird in Victoria. Common in Northern Australia, it set twitching records for photographers at the venue, they say everyone has 5 minutes of fame in their lives, for me this was it. I thought it was going to be about my clandestine affair with Elle Macpherson, glad that never got out into the public domain, le wife would definitely have left me over that.

This is the last bird article for this year, you won't hear from me until February, there's a lot of birds to be seen between then and now, so get busy! Or come on a bird tour with me, French Island, Western treatment Plant, Warburton, Dandenong Ranges or a venue of your choice.

Australianbirdtours.com.au

birdtoursbydes@gmail.com

PS. I have a neighbour called Kathy, and an ex-neighbour called Kathy, these two Kathy's are very close friends, and what remarkable women they have been, and continue to be. My father often spoke of the strength of a woman, these two are the salt of the earth.



OUR KNOX UNITING CHURCH minister is REV RUSSELL CROXFORD and he preaches on the first Sunday of each month at our church, 209 Boronia Road – as well as at other times (please check our website).

THANK YOU TO BBCN for advertising OUR MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET. Despite a miserably wet day we had a successful and enjoyable market. And many thanks to your readers for supporting this event – proceeds from which will go to stocking our Emergency Food Pantry.

We issue AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES – some of which are held at other Knox Uniting Church venues.

Sun December 7th (second Sunday in Advent) –

Communion service at Boronia Road

Sun December 14th (third Sunday in Advent)

Wed December 17th at 7.30pm BLUE Christmas service @ Scoresby UC - for those who find celebrating Christmas a difficult time – led by Rev Rod Brown

Sat December 20th at 3pm – 4.30pm, a Carol Service led by our choir @ Boronia Road.

Sun December 21st at 10am – MESSY CHURCH – an informal service involving all children present, coffee and biscuits!

Wed December 24th at 7.30pm Christmas Eve service @ Rowville UC to be led by Rev Russ Croxford.

Thurs December 25th at 9am Christmas Day service @ Boronia Road to be led by Rev Russ Croxford.

A MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS is held each Friday from 9.30am



WALKING
THE
NEWS

CAN YOU HELP?

We are currently looking for volunteer walkers to deliver BBCN papers in the areas:

**Dixon Ct/Rathmullen Rd and
Donald Ct/Maryborough Rd.**

Are you interested? It takes up about an hour or so once a month. If you are interested please contact us here at the BBCN via contact@bbc.org.au

We would love to hear from you.

If you would like more purpose in your daily walk, contact us on the email address above.

Thank You!

BBCN express our appreciation for the professional services to Rocky Thakkar of S R Perks, Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, for their the Review of our 2024-25 Financial Reports, provided to us on a pro-bono basis. We appreciate your generosity and knowledge in helping us ensure that our accounts are properly managed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cr Paige Kennett for being elected Knox Mayor.

BBCN committee and volunteers look forward to collaborating with you to support the communities of Boronia and The Basin.



during school terms.

The 45minute 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.

Last session this year will be Fri Dec 12th and the first session in 2026 will be on Friday February 6th.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am till 12 noon. PLEASE NOTE: We will close at 12noon on Friday 19th December and re-open at 10am on Tuesday, 6th January 2026. E

OUR CRAFT GROUP MEETS EACH FRIDAY from 11.30am at the church.

Information phone church office on 9762 6732, www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch <https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au>

What Parents and Kids Need to Know About Australia's Social Media Ban for Under-16s

Joy Shelley

From December 10th Australia's has introduced an amendment to its Online Safety Act which requires "age-restricted" social media platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent users under 16 from having accounts. Major social media platforms including TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Reddit must take 'reasonable steps' to stop under-16s creating accounts. But what does this mean for Australian families, and how can both parents and kids adapt to these new rules?

What is the purpose of the Australian under-16 social media ban?

The new legislation aims to protect kids from harmful content including cyberbullying, exploitation, self-esteem issues and addictive use. Delaying account access gives under-16s more time to build digital, social and emotional skills before diving into the full social media world. Whilst Australia is the first country to introduce this legislation, similar laws are also being proposed in New Zealand and Denmark.

What is the cost of non-compliance?

Australia's under-16 social media "ban" is really a legal requirement on platforms to block or deactivate under-16 accounts, not a criminal penalty on kids. Social media companies will need to verify age, but they must balance

accuracy and privacy — and they can't force everyone to hand over their passport.

The cost of non-compliance for platforms is steep — they risk fines up to A\$49.5 million if they don't do enough to block or deactivate under-16 accounts

How will social media companies determine if a user is under 16?

The law doesn't prescribe a single method — platforms must choose reasonable steps, and eSafety has published guidelines around different kinds of "age assurance" tech. Whilst these guidelines include the option of uploading document based verification such as driver's licence or passport, platforms must also offer reasonable alternatives for proving age, so that people who don't want to (or can't) use ID have another path. Other options include: Biometric or behavioural inference such as facial-age estimation (using a live selfie), voice / audio estimation, or analyzing usage patterns and Inferred data for example, checking the user's connections, whether they are in youth-oriented groups, or their activity consistent with being under 16.

What other options are there for kids to stay connected?

The fear of losing touch with friends is real, so

parents will need to invite questions and show understanding and empathy about what their kids will see as a loss. Brainstorm alternative ways to stay connected. If they liked TikTok dances, an app like Just Dance could suit; if they want to chat, use closed group chats or messaging apps; and if they enjoy gaming, find multiplayer games where they can connect safely. Stand alone messaging and video calling apps such as facebook messenger and Whatsapp are not part of the ban. Other exemptions are Online gaming such as LEGO play, Educational services such as Google Classroom as well as YouTube kids. Health-support services are also exempt.

The Australian government's new social media ban is an important step toward creating a safer online space for children. By working together, parents and kids can ensure that social media use remains a positive experience.



Lincoln's Bookshop

Danny Nolan

Boronia Mall has had several bookshops. I wrote in this paper, during COVID, about the sad demise of book stores in the area. Thankfully, for some time, we have had the Aussie Veterans selling donated books at excellent prices, but it just didn't seem enough. This is not their fault, concern, or problem. I was always looking for something more. So it was exciting to learn that Lincoln's Bookshop was opening on the upper-level shop that once housed Gloria Jeans, which had been empty for nearly a decade.

New proprietor Lincoln Moncrieff has run a successful online shop for the last 6 years. Like other new ventures in the area, such as Thompson Coins, Obsession Gaming, and Greg's Stamps Kiosk, Lincoln's Bookshop has evolved from an online store to a brick-and-mortar premise to cope with demand and the growth of its passion.

The shop allows Lincoln to keep a large range of stock that can be inventoried. If it's not on the shelves, there is a good chance it may be 'out the back' thanks to the ample storage area. And he needs it. Before opening the physical shop, Lincoln's online shop relied on his inventory that filled all the rooms in his house and many storage containers.

Lincoln's Bookshop, which opened in early November, not only stocks popular and hard-to-



find pre-loved fiction and non-fiction books, but also includes text and coffee table books of all kinds of special interests. As well as a wide range of retro DVDs, CDs, vinyl, artworks, games, maps, magazines, and comics. Who knows what you'll stumble across in this shop of wanting-to-be-found wonders.

The shop is warm and inviting with wide bookshelves, cabinets, rugs, and large comfortable seating. It's a place to come in and peruse - a treasure trove of retro nostalgia and hard-to-find collectables. I was surprised at the diverse age group of people strolling around, enjoying the atmosphere that Lincoln has created.

Lincoln has many plans for the shop as it evolves and hopes it can become a community space for book enthusiasts and conversation groups. He is a firm believer in community participation and leads by example. I've noticed

this myself, seeing Lincoln on my first two visits to the shop, playing a game of chess with customers.

Lincoln's Bookshop, with the new collectables store opening at the northern end of the Mall in late November, has created a bookend of sorts and a new lease of life for the Boronia Mall, with Aussie Veterans Op Shop, the

Second Hand Store with its huge range of console games, Thompson's Coins, Greg's Stamps & Stuff, and Sight 'n' Sound as the new must-go for collectors.

Exciting times indeed, and just in time for the Mall's Christmas Market to be held on Saturday, 13th December.

And, as a footnote: While I was in the bookshop, I was impressed when a lady asked if they had a particular book. One I remember reading 40 years ago, and don't think I'd seen it since. The salesperson replied: "Yes, we do, I saw it just before, out the back." It made me think: Imagine what it will be like when he has his inventory up and running?

Lincoln's Bookshop is on the upper level of Boronia Mall.

COVER STORY: Festive Season activities in Knox



Surge in demand for relief services in Knox

Anyone with any doubt about the impact of the rising cost of living needs only to look at the dramatic increase in demand for relief services at Knox Infolink in Boronia.

During 2024-2025, Knox Infolink experienced a 25% increase in demand for food relief. This translates to an additional 60 people each week. The agency conducted interviews with an extra 500 individuals requesting support, with 2,000 people being interviewed throughout the year.

Material aid distribution increased by 50%. This included essential items such as tents, swags and cooking equipment for those sleeping rough, prescription medicine assistance, help with utility bills, clothing, mobile top-ups, MYKI card top-ups, petrol vouchers and toiletry packs.

Service Delivery Statistics

In total, Knox Infolink provided nearly 35,000 points of service over 12 months. On average, the agency served 300 community members each week. Of these, about 165 accessed emergency relief services, while 145 received a nutritious, free meal through the community breakfast program.



In 2024-2025, 54% were first-time clients. The majority, 67%, resided in Boronia, Ferntree Gully, or Bayswater.

Changing Community Needs

A closer examination of the agency's statistics reveals a 58% increase in employed community members seeking support and an 81% rise in requests for assistance from individuals with no income.

Housing affordability became a more acute issue, with a 72% increase in community members experiencing mortgage stress and a 25% increase in those in private rentals seeking support.

Organisational Challenges and Achievements

Knox Infolink board chair Denise Budge described the year as one of challenges, with ongoing uncertainty around funding security. But also one of achievements. She said the board committed considerable effort to fundraising to address funding shortfalls.

Following a community-wide lobbying campaign, the agency secured \$150,000 from the state government, with assistance from Bayswater MP, Jackson Taylor.

This funding will support the continuation of the much-needed community breakfast program for another 12 months, but support from other government sources for other Knox Infolink services has been reduced.

Throughout 2024-2025, the community breakfast program served over 10,000 meals to 545 individuals. The program, which operates out of the Boronia Progress Hall, provides a hot meal and a welcoming, supportive environment. Survey results indicated that 90% of breakfast guests experienced an increased sense of



community connection after participating.

Volunteers and Partnerships

The agency's extensive range of support is made possible by more than 130 volunteers, over 80 local businesses and community organisations and several partner organisations. These include Knox City Council, state and federal governments, the Knox Opportunity Shop, Boronia Rotary Club, other community groups, local churches and Cummins Inc.

New Initiatives

Despite funding challenges, Knox Infolink launched several new initiatives in 2024-2025. These included a food pantry outside the Boronia Road office, offering free food and information outside regular office hours.

How to Support Knox Infolink

Knox Infolink welcomes new volunteers as well as donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and other material aid items. Financial donations can be made via Knox Infolink's website at www.knoxinfolink.org.au. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

Enquiries about Knox Infolink services:

Penny Robinson, Knox Infolink Manager, 9761 1325;
penny@knoxinfolink.org.au

Boronia and The Basin Locals Invited to 'Share the Joy' through the Knox Christmas Support Project

As the festive season approaches, many families across Knox are feeling the strain of rising costs and financial pressures. The Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS) project is making sure every household across Knox can celebrate Christmas with dignity, warmth, and joy.

Now in its 16th year, this much-loved local initiative brings together volunteers, community groups, and businesses to provide festive food hampers and gifts for children whose families are doing it tough. The KCCS project supports those experiencing unemployment, low income, housing stress, health issues, or other challenges that make the festive season difficult. It also extends a welcoming hand to refugees and asylum seekers who have recently joined the Knox community. The KCCS project operates two collection sites (Boronia and Wantirna), where families can collect festive food hampers and choose from a range of quality toys and gifts for their children. The collection site at the Boronia Progress Hall supports families from Boronia, The Basin, Bayswater, Ferntree Gully,

and Upper Ferntree Gully.

Last year, the project supported 812 people, including 299 children, thanks to the generosity of local donors. Knox Infolink has recorded a 33% increase in emergency relief requests and a 44% rise in homelessness, so community support is more important than ever.

You can help by donating non-perishable festive foods or new, unwrapped toys at one of the local donation sites:

- Appleby Real Estate – 20 Station Street, Bayswater
- Boronia Library - 7 Park Crescent, Boronia
- Chemist Discount Centre Boronia - Shop/20 Dorset Square, Boronia
- Knox Leisureworks – 34 Tormore Road, Boronia
- MACG Boronia Residential Aged Care - 7 Coogee Street, Boronia

Make a tax-deductible donation via www.givenow.com.au/knoxsharethejoy

Kids Dental Care Making brushing fun and effective

Boronia Dental Team

Helping kids develop good brushing habits can feel like a challenge, but with the right approach, it can become easier.

The key is keeping brushing fun, simple, and consistent so kids stay engaged and motivated.

Make Brushing Fun

Getting kids excited about brushing often helps, let them pick a toothbrush with their favourite colour or character, musical toothbrushes or brushing apps that play a two-minute tune or song can make brushing feel like a game instead of a chore.

You can also make it a shared activity. Brushing together encourages kids to follow your lead, and seeing you brush helps them understand the importance of taking care of their teeth. For little ones, turning brushing into a countdown, pretend play, or a silly-face contest can keep things positive and playful.

Teach Good Technique

Technique matters, even for young children. Parents should supervise brushing until at least age eight or nine to make sure every tooth gets cleaned properly. For toothpaste, use a rice-grain amount for toddlers and a pea-sized amount for kids over three.

Show them how to brush gently in small circles, covering the fronts, backs, and chewing surfaces of the teeth. Don't forget the gums and tongue—these areas can hold bacteria and cause bad breath. Slow and gentle is better than fast and hard.

Build a Consistent Routine

Kids thrive on routine. Encourage brushing twice a day—after breakfast and before bed. A sticker chart or small reward system can make consistency feel rewarding, especially for younger kids.

Keep Up with Dental Visits

Regular dental checkups help catch small issues early and show kids that the dentist isn't scary. With encouragement, fun tools, and a little creativity, brushing can become a natural, enjoyable part of your child's day—helping them build healthy habits for life.

Book your child's check-up in anytime between now and December 20th 2025, and parents/carers will receive 30% off any dental treatment.

Mention this article when booking.



CHEATED FRIEND

Dayangani Silva

A shoal of silver fish, lived in a pond.

Green thick grasses grown around the pond.

Red, White Lotuses bloom in the pond.

Silver fishes swim and played in the pond.

Hot days came and Happy days gone.

Blue water pond got dried soon.

Flowers faded, sunshades gone.

Seeing the dried pond, a crane swooped down.

The greedy crane, happily, planned to eat fish

"Take you to a Blue water pond" agreed the foolish fish.

The Crane took each and flew away soon.

Poor fishes lost their life soon.

The cunning crane again swooped the dried pond.

It saw a crab crawling towards the sand.

The crane told it happiness of the friends.

Happily the crab agreed to be with his friends.

While flying down the crab saw the scattered remains.

The crab knew that the tragedy of the friends.

Angry Crab tighten its neck with claws.

It was the end of the Cheated CRANE.



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Pet's Piece: Dental Hygiene Part 2

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic

Last month, we discussed the importance of dental health in pets and shared the story of Stevie the pug, who developed a tooth root abscess and stopped eating due to pain. This month, we're focusing on practical ways you can help keep your pet's teeth clean and their mouth healthy.

Brushing: The Best Outcome

The best thing you can do for your pet's teeth is simply to brush them, just like we do! Daily brushing is ideal, though we understand that it can be hard to fit into a busy routine. Even brushing twice a week can make a meaningful difference.

Start slowly by getting your pet used to having their mouth handled. You can begin by gently rubbing their gums with your finger and rewarding them with treats, pats, and praise. After a week or two, introduce a soft cloth and, once they're comfortable, progress to introducing dog toothpaste, and eventually a toothbrush and pet-safe toothpaste. We recommend either a finger brush from a pet store or a small, soft children's toothbrush and, of course, only dog-specific toothpaste.

Chews and Dental Toys

If brushing isn't always possible, dental chews can help support oral health. Safe options include brands such as: Tasty Bone pet toy, Oravet Chews or Greenies. While these are not as effective as brushing, they can assist in reducing plaque and maintaining dental condition.

The Big Debate: Bones

We are frequently asked whether bones are safe for dogs, and the answer truly depends on the individual pet. If you choose to offer bones, they must always be raw, as cooked bones splinter and are highly dangerous.

Potential benefits:

Raw bones may help mechanically break down plaque and tartar.

If using raw bones, choose non-weight-bearing bones (e.g., turkey necks, duck frames, rabbit carcasses, lamb ribs). Weight-bearing bones like beef leg bones are extremely dense and can cause tooth fractures, which will lead to tooth root exposure and infections.

Risks to consider:

- Fractured teeth
- Bones getting stuck in the mouth or on the roof of the mouth
- Swallowing large fragments that can lodge in the oesophagus or intestines
- Constipation from chewing large marrow bones

If you do offer bones, always supervise your pet and remove the bone once it becomes small enough to swallow or if they are eating a large amount of the marrow.



When Teeth Aren't in Good Condition

If your pet already has visible dental disease or bad breath, we recommend an appointment with your veterinarian and a full oral health assessment and clean under general anaesthesia. This is the safest and most effective way to thoroughly examine the mouth and clean above and below the gumline. In some cases, dental X-rays may be required to understand what is happening.

General anaesthesia allows us to protect your pet's airway and prevent fluid from entering the lungs, remove plaque and tartar both on the tooth surface and under the gums, probe teeth like a human dentist to identify diseased roots and safely extract any painful or infected teeth, or teeth with a lot of decay and bone loss.

When to See Your Vet

If you're worried about bad breath, notice changes in eating, or feel your pet's dental care has slipped, we recommend booking a dental check-up to discuss the best plan for your pet.

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavets.com.au

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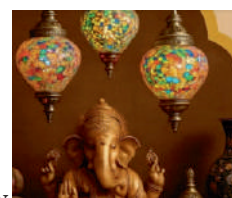
With over 20 veterinarians, we are one of the largest, privately owned, single site, general practice veterinary hospitals in Melbourne.

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.

Discover the Soul of Artistry and Passion in Boronia

Images Handicrafts



Boronia has a beautiful new addition to its local shopping scene; a warm and welcoming family-owned store filled with colour, culture and craftsmanship. After serving communities across Melbourne for more than fifteen years, Images Handicrafts has now opened at 208 Dorset Road, Boronia, sharing the spirit of India's artistic heritage with the eastern suburbs. Visit us in Boronia for an immersive journey – touch the fabrics, inhale the incense, and feel the warmth of good vibes.

Calling art lovers, homemakers & dreamer to step through a kaleidoscope of colours and into the beating heart of Incredible India – right here in Boronia! Images Handicrafts isn't just a store - it's an emporium of art and craft, it's a living gallery of India's timeless artistry, where every corner whispers stories of centuries-old traditions, masterful hands and vibrant cultures. It's a treasure-trove of authentic wonders.

Exquisite home décor – from intricate brass idols to hand-blocked textiles that transform any space into a palace.

Women's & men's clothing – natural fibres kurtas, skirts and dresses with boho prints that blend tradition with modern flair.

Pure essential oils & incense – therapeutic aromas of white sage, palo santo, myrrh, sandalwood, frankincense and many more to soothe your body and soul. A sensory feast of colours, textures, and fragrances you won't find anywhere else.

Why Images Handicrafts stands apart: There's nothing quite like the magic of Indian craftsmanship – and we bring it to life for you. Every purchase supports real Indian craftsmen, preserving their legacy and providing fair livelihoods.

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Get Christmas sorted

**Red bin
for rubbish**



**Green bin
for leftovers**



**Blue bin for
packaging**



Don't bin batteries

Batteries in bins cause fires. Recycle your batteries for free by dropping them off at supermarkets, Bunnings and other locations.

bcycle.com.au/drop-off



Neighbour Day 2026

Host an event in March 2026 to connect with your neighbours and build a stronger sense of community.

Find out more:

knox.vic.gov.au/NeighbourDay



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knox



Message from Cr. Paige Kennett

This is a good time of year to take stock and reflect on what went well and what needs improvement. Knox delivers 34 distinct services from maintaining over 700km of municipal roads, to delivering over 6,000 immunisations and managing over 100 school crossings, 100% of all food premises inspected to the maintenance of over 60 sports fields and 5 libraries, delivery of approx. 35,000 meals on wheels and a multitude of festivals and events.

We have received lots of feedback from residents on these services, which is being fed into next year's budget plans. If you have any specific feedback for me, please let me know.

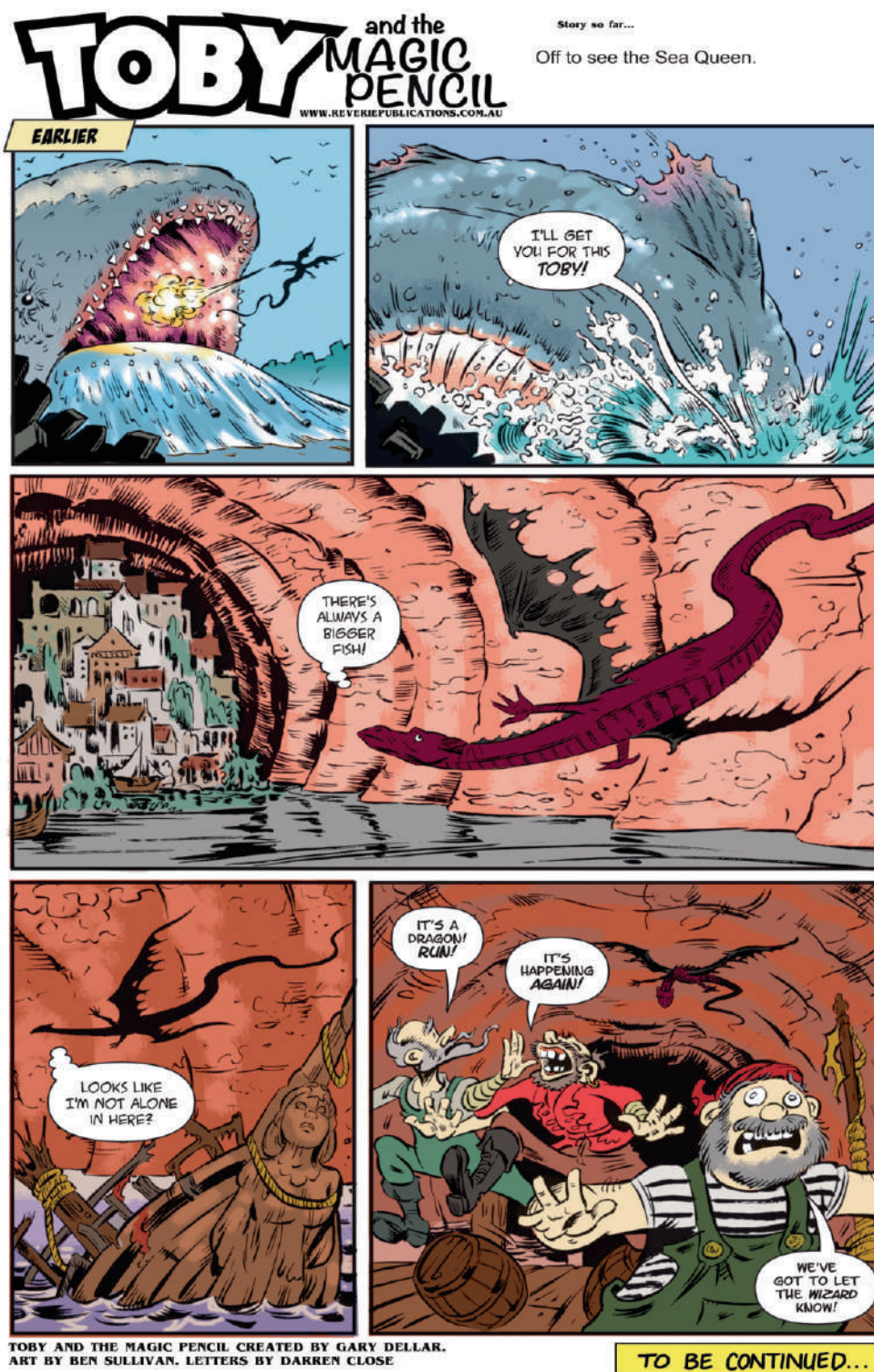
This year I have met with Boronia Police 4 times, attended 8 Citizenship Ceremonies welcoming hundreds of new Knox-ians, attended 5 Community Group AGMs, participated in 2 Community Tree Planting days, attended 23 Committee meetings and over 50 Council meetings. I have had countless contacts by residents asking questions, requesting support, sharing their suggestions and ideas for our city, and responding to each of you. I continue work on the kindergarten registration process, the proposed footpath on Mountain Highway and progress improvements for The Basin. I am focused on Council's policies, with a strategic outlook. Like many, we are still wanting to see improvements, but I'm also heartened by the amazing work that is currently happening around us.

To celebrate the end of the year, we have two local Christmas carol events!

With thanks to the CFA, on Saturday, 6th December, the CFA will again host The Basin Christmas Carols, a night of fun for our community!

And the Knox Carols is again at Wally Tew Reserve on Saturday, 13th December from 4 pm. Come and enjoy the delicious food trucks, kids' activities and local talent performances. A free shuttle bus will run from the event to both Ferntree Gully Station and Upper Ferntree Gully Station, as parking around the grounds will be limited.

Thank you to all residents who made contact with me this year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.



Cr Peter Lockwood Update

I love Christmas. It's a season for everybody. It was begun in the 4th century by Pope Julius who declared December 25 to be the birthday of Jesus Christ. He chose this date because there were already winter solstice festivals to celebrate the "rebirth" of the sun.

Whether you are a Christian or not, it is a time for gift-giving and Christmas trees. The trees date from Pagan times, Roman times and Germanic customs for the winter solstice. They have become more popular over time. Muslims discuss Jesus in the Quran as a prophet.

No matter whether it is faith-based or holiday-based, it is a time of generosity and consideration to all. We can all celebrate whether we are non-believers, Jews, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim or Christian.



We will have red bows on council posts this year in our shopping centres. A visible sign that we all celebrate Christmas as an inclusive festival.

Boronia Station is about to get its revamp, at long last. While the level crossing removal was very welcome 30 years ago, the result left behind a few problems. Some of those will soon be rectified with a safer, more customer-friendly station and a connection from Erika Ave to Dorset Rd and beyond... I can hardly wait. Thank you, Jackson, MP Bayswater.

It is part of a broader Boronia revitalisation that is proceeding slowly because it takes money. Lots of it.

A final message: Remember that Respect is important. Respect women and girls, respect other races, cultures, religions, abilities and put an end to discrimination and violence.

Cr.peter.lockwood@knox.vic.gov.au
0419111639.

KIDS
ZONE

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

Submit
YWI
entries
here:

Right: November Young Writers Initiative Award winner Sammy from Boronia Heights Primary School receiving her award - \$50 and a certificate.



The BBCN Young Writers Initiative ended our third year with a BANG. Just this month received 23 entries, which were all of a very high standard. It is such a shame we cannot publish them all. Congratulations to all writers for your wonderful work, and thank you for sharing these with us. We are pleased Bendigo Bank has agreed to continue to support the Young Writers Initiative into its fourth year in 2026. **See you all again next year!**

Congratulations to our YWI Annual Award winners for 2025:

Boronia K-12 College (Secondary School Award)

The Basin Primary School (Primary School Award)

Matthew Payne (Boronia K-12 College, Year 9) **Best Individual Submission Award, secondary category** (October issue).

Grace Andrew (Boronia Heights Primary School, Year 1) **Best Individual Submission Award, primary category** (July issue).

December YWI winner is Sebastian from Year 7 at Boronia K-12 College. Sebastian wrote this poem for Walter, his great, great-grandfather, who died in France in September 1917. Walter was one of the Soldiers of the Great War.

Soldiers of the Great War.

Sebastian, Year 7 Boronia K-12 College

Though we may not be here today,
We were in the thick of the fight,
And the dark of night.
You name it
We were there.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We were the brave,
The Naive.

We were the rats in the mud,
The knights in the sky,
The ghosts of the desert,

And yet;

We were the kids in the sand.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We threw ourselves at the enemy.
Measuring victory in yards.
And Failure in corpses.
One second you were a person,
Living.
The next.
A statistic.
A sanitation problem.
We were Forgotten.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We were too young.

Fighting without accounting for modern
inventions.

This wasn't our father's war.

No more bright uniforms,
No more lined formations,

Just;

Barbed wire,

The Armoured engine's whine,

Rapid fire,

And the steel birds of the sky.

We were killed nearly instantly.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We were shipped off,

Expecting glory.

Instead, we found hell and gore.

We were too unprepared.

We were the soldiers of the Great War.

Dirt,

Rain,

Mud.

It drowned us.

Covered our uniforms,

Decayed our weapons.

We were killed by it.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We were pawns.

Except,

No matter how hard we tried,

No matter how we played.

We would never become queens.

We were stuck in a cycle of killing and dying.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We came from around the world,

Four empires and twenty-six countries.

Millions of us.

We were so different.

Yet,

A uniform was all that separated us.

We were the same.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

Four empires fell by the end.

Millions died.

We gave our today for their tomorrow.

Yet,

So many of our names have been forgotten.

We were discarded,

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

We didn't know who wanted to start fighting.

We just wanted to fight the good fight.

To become men.

But,

We were still boys at the end.

We were the Soldiers of the Great War.

KIDS
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Traditions During the Holiday Season

Kimberley Hanson

Welcome to December. Yes, it is here already. The 'silly season'. Lots of things to do and lots of things to get done. But this time of year is also a season of tradition.

My experience is of Christmas and New Year's Eve/Day, so my traditions revolve around attending church, Christmas trees, family lunch and dinners, presents and summer holidays. Having a quick look at some of the other celebrations happening during December and January (Bohdi Day, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Gurburab of Guru Gobind Singh, Thai Pongal, Lunar New Year), it seems that there are similarities in the traditions we observe. Decorating a tree or a house is popular, as is singing songs, having a meal with friends and family, bonfires and fireworks (days of total fire ban excepted), and parades are all common celebrations.

As our Little One is now old enough to understand this exciting time, I'm thinking a lot

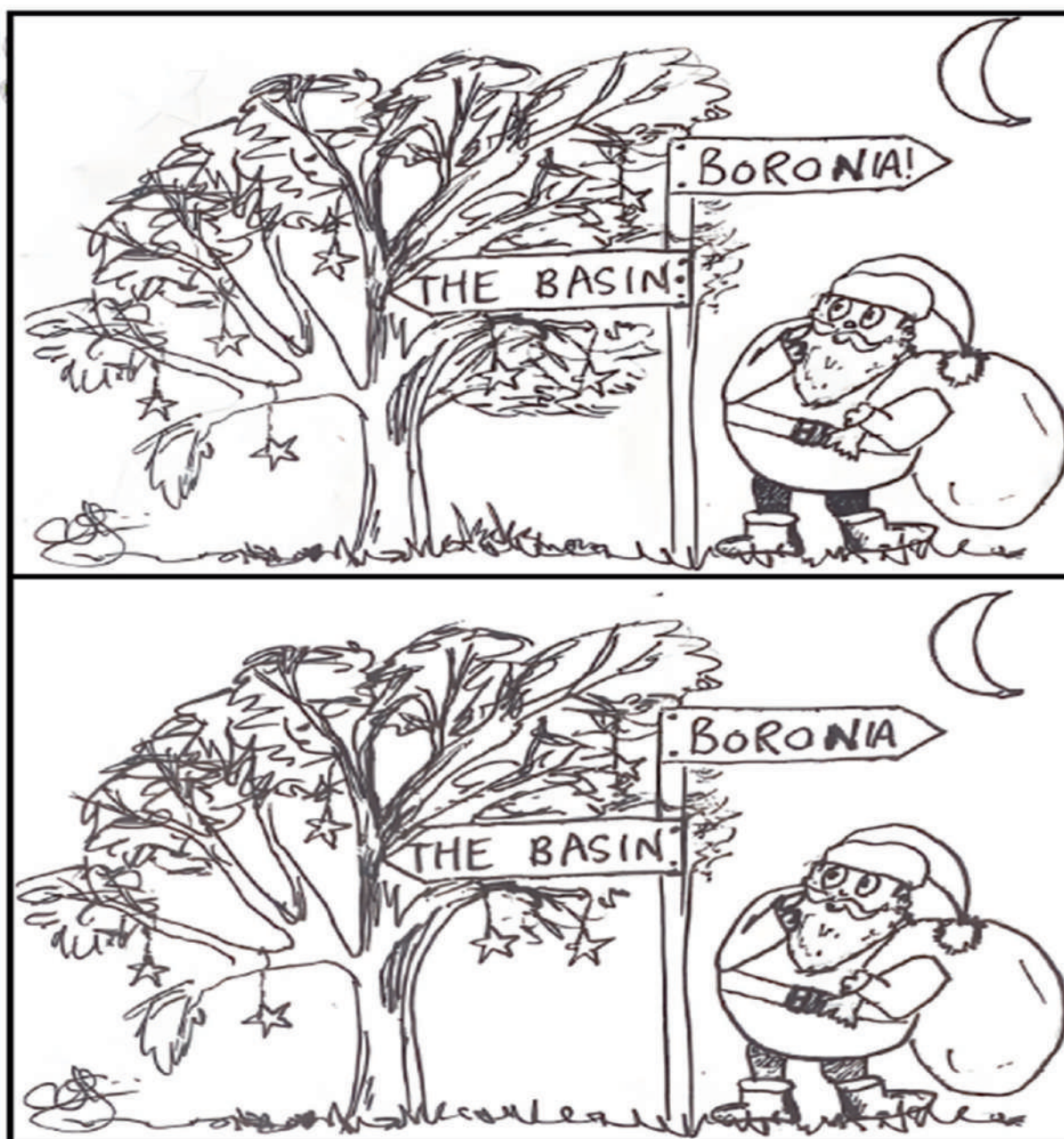


about what traditions I want to continue and what I want to start. Many families have an Elf on the Shelf who visits or take an annual family photo. We want to do both of those things, as long as that Elf doesn't get too crazy. But what else should we include?

We have spoken to Santa and collectively decided that when Santa brings presents to put under a Christmas Tree, his presents are always books. Books were my favourite kind of present when I was a kid, so I think this is a good suggestion from Santa. It takes off some of the pressure of creating a list and sending it to the North Pole.

Another tradition I would like to start is to decorate the tree and house together, as a family. We'll put on some Christmas carols, eat some treats, and go a little silly together. I'm not sure my husband is keen on this idea, but I'm sure Little One and I can get him in a celebratory mood and start the holiday season with some fun. What traditions do you have? Best wishes for the season, and I hope you enjoy your traditions, new and old.

KIDS
ZONE



Merry
Christmas!
Can you
spot the 7
differences
between
the two
pictures?

Alicia Geddes

KIDS
ZONE

Climate Action — NOW!

Isabel Collins 2025

Carolyn stood on her soapbox outside the town hall, facing a large gathering.

"Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm Carolyn Russell. I speak on behalf of the Lancerfield Climate Action Society. In 1989, I bought this 'Women's Weekly'. She flapped the pages of the pullout booklet. The title, 'OPERATION RESCUE', says, 'WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE THE WORLD? The next ten years will be vital.' "This was published almost 40 years ago. Scientists explained all they knew then about global warming and climate change. What needed to be done. But governments worldwide failed to tackle the situation head-on; instead, the greedy and powerful slowed progress.

Global temperatures have changed before, when the world's population was only a few thousand. Species lived in harmony with Mother Earth. People survived without squandering the planet's resources as we do today. The Industrial Revolution began about 250 years ago. Populations and global temperatures began soaring worldwide. Now over eight billion people are experiencing the effects as Earth gets hotter than ever before. Climate change is affecting millions.



We need to do something TODAY, not tomorrow. We need leaders in every country who care deeply about this planet, not politicians who are only interested in re-election. Most people only want a safe roof over their heads, clean water, wholesome food, education, meaningful work and health care. Instead, people starve despite there being enough food for everyone. Millions live with polluted air and water. Industry and mining companies do as they please. Plastics have ruined the face of the earth. Corrupt leaders kill innocent civilians and wreck habitats in wars to boost their amoral egos. Fence-sitters who do nothing don't help, nor do the nay-sayers who dispute proven climate change science and spread false information.

Experts tell us fossil fuels are a major issue. A friend wanted to reduce his gas consumption. The Government rebate scheme would help him exchange his gas water heater for a wind pump. He was told he was a fool to go ahead, "It's cheaper to pay for gas than pay a loan for the pump. My friend said, "Heat pumps are better for the climate." He was told, "Who cares about the climate and the future? You'll be dead by then."

I'm sick of hearing people talk like this. Our children need a safe future. We need to do all we can to look after this planet, to ensure it will be safe for others after we're gone. They'll have other hurdles to confront. We don't need to make it any harder for them by ignoring the issues today. We MUST stop thinking about the hip pocket first. We must do whatever we can to reduce global warming. AND work together. It's life and death for all of us. It's happening all around us: the crazy weather patterns, the intensity of the bush fires, the many floods, the mass extinction of animals, birds, creatures and plants, the melting of the polar ice caps and the rising sea levels. Whole communities will soon be underwater.

We must follow the scientists. Let them take the lead. Accurate research and information have been known for decades. If everyone pitches in with time and resources to our common goal, we can make great things happen. This earth - this humanity, our creatures and plants - will be lost by good people doing nothing. We NEED ACTION for a positive future. Don't ask WHEN. Global warming is happening NOW. we are almost out of time. we MUST BELIEVE that TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE OUR PLANET and DO IT NOW!"

Carolyn's throat felt hoarse as she stepped off her soapbox and waved thanks to the cheering crowd.

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

Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston

Scan to
keep up
to date



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Sight 'N' Sound says farewell

Danny Nolan

Sight 'N' Sound, while not being the longest tenant in the Boronia Mall (that honour belongs to Di Luzio Jewelers), has still been around for nearly 40 years, which is a very close second, and for the last 25 years, Manny Ciavarella has been front and centre.

Manny, along with his brother Ciro, has seen the rise and fall of the record shops over the years, and after so long in the one business, Manny has decided it's time to retire and enjoy the fruits of those labours and do what he loves most – relaxing and traveling.

Manny's experience in retail has been a wild trip of providence and fate.

Starting his career in insurance, he bought into a video hire shop in Narre Warren. From here, he and his brother entered into a deal where they sold a 50% share of their video shop for a 50% share in a record shop in Brandon Park.

Business partner issues at a higher level resulted in the Ciavarella brothers buying out the other 50% of both businesses, and Sight 'N' Sound was born. This led to an expansion over the years, including stores at different times in Rowville, Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Forest Hill, Waverley Gardens, Chirnside Park, Brunswick and Northcote. Boronia became their second-ever store when they bought out Clements Records in the Mall in the mid-1980's.

Boronia & Northcote have been the last remaining stores for more than the last decade.

Manny has seen huge changes in the music industry and retail sector over the years.

From having to sell locally made products at recommended retail prices by law to people three deep at the counter, to taking phone orders and ordering from overseas because local record companies can't or won't supply. The phone call sales often outnumber the walk-in sales. From being a 3XY chart shop where record sales were compiled weekly and one of the top 15 record shops in Melbourne, to being one of the few independent record shops where you could buy new CDs, vinyl, and DVDs in the whole eastern suburbs.

The change from physical formats to digital and generational preferences over the decades has hit the once popular record shops hard - something that has changed many retail stores. Just look how many newsagents, bookshops specializing in new titles and DVD stores you see these days.



**Sight "N" Sound owner
Manny Ciavarella**

Manny has weathered all this and leaves the business on his own terms. "The time is right," he said to me after I heard the news and popped in for a visit. He does leave with a bit of sadness, as Boronia has been the longest-running store for Sight 'N' Sound and Manny has many fond memories and states categorically that of all the shops he has owned and worked at, the people in Boronia are far by the best and most pleasant to be around, one of the reasons the shop has been around for so long.

Manny recalls, "All the suburbs are vastly different, but by a long way, the customers in Boronia were a pleasure to deal with on a daily basis."

Manny joins his brother Ciro, who retired a couple of years ago, and all the stock will go to the Northcote shop, which they still have an interest in, and as Manny says, is in "Good hands".

The Boronia store will not reopen after Christmas 2025.

Manny would love to thank all of his past customers and appreciates the great times and memories. So, get down to the Boronia Mall and check out the shop, and maybe relive some cherished memories when the local record shop was one of your first destinations when visiting the Mall.



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
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Jackson Taylor MP Bayswater
Mary Doyle Federal MP Aston

No fees for new bowlers for the first year - Call Wayne for Membership on 0430 451 250



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

Final Designs Unveiled For Boronia Station Upgrade

The Victorian Government is releasing the final designs of the new Boronia train station ahead of early works starting in the coming weeks. Minister for Transport Infrastructure, Gabrielle Williams, unveiled the designs, which feature a striking new station forecourt canopy inspired by nearby Dandenong Ranges flora and an expanded concourse to improve connections across the rail line.

A new landscaped plaza between the station and Dorset Road will create more green space and seating, while also providing a new community meeting place and simplifying pedestrian movement between the station and Boronia's shopping precinct.

The station concourse will be widened, with the ticket office relocated to the Erica Avenue entry and the protective services office moved to the Lupton Way entrance – boosting safety through improved visibility across the plaza and station area. Accessibility will be enhanced with an upgraded pick-up and drop-off zone on Lupton Way, better footpaths to both station entrances, and more bike hoops and improved cycling connections.

Community feedback on the design enhanced commuter benefits with new platform shelters, seating and improved lighting, providing comfort and protection from the weather. Additional lighting and CCTV across the precinct will further improve safety.

As part of the project, a new pocket park near the Boronia Junction Shopping Centre will feature garden beds, trees, seating and a nature play area, creating a welcoming green space for the community.

Early works will begin in the coming weeks, including traffic light upgrades at the Dorset and Chandler roads intersection to add a dedicated right-turn arrow for drivers. The Boronia Station upgrade will be completed next year, following major works that have already made the Belgrave Line boom gate free between



Ferntree Gully and Melbourne's CBD, and the Lilydale Line level crossing free – improving safety and reducing congestion across Melbourne's outer east.

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor said, "This is the biggest investment into Boronia in a generation and like locals, I'm absolutely stoked to see the release of final designs for a better Boronia Station precinct. From a new landscaped plaza, new platform and concourse amenities – we won't know the place anymore!"

The final designs and further information can be viewed at:

bigbuild.vic.gov.au/boroniastationupgrade



Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

Mallacoota Skies

A Holiday Song

©Rob Fairbairn 2025

'Who Knows Where the Time Goes?' is a song written by Sandy Denny in 1966.

It's a question I often ask myself. This year seems to have flown by. Soon it will be Christmas, and not long after, the beginning of a new year. I wonder what 2026 will bring? Who can tell? But for my wife and I, one thing is certain. We will hitch up the old van and make the long trek down to Mallacoota for a lazy camping holiday with family and friends. It's something we have done for nearly forty years. Every year, I take my guitar and lead a sing-along, and sometimes I will even write a song. Here are the lyrics to this year's effort. I've called it 'Mallacoota Skies'.

We are travellers, we share a destination

Though we are scattered like the pebbles on the shore

Happy pilgrims on the road to paradise

Under Mallacoota skies

Where the island lies beyond a blue horizon

Eagle circles high above the ocean's roar

Clouds are gathering, a storm is on the rise

Under Mallacoota skies

Early morning, the ocean's calling, there's magic in the air

Bellbirds ring, the magpie sings, there's music everywhere

In the forest, dappled sunlight falls across the track

All around the sights and sounds that keep us coming back

Ocean whispering a story through the ages

Muffled voices drifting gently through the dark

Stars appearing and the moon is on the rise

We're under Mallacoota skies

We are travellers, we share a destination

Old acquaintances, who gather in a park

Cheery welcomes then it's time to say goodbye

Under Mallacoota skies

Where the ocean sings a lazy lullaby

Under Mallacoota skies

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all our readers.



Mayor's Message December

Councillor Lisa Cooper

Advocating for Knox



Reflecting on the year, Council worked hard advocating to all sides of politics for greater investment in our community — particularly during a federal election year.

We highlighted the need for better roads and public transport and advocated for funding towards upgrading clubrooms, sports grounds and sports field lighting across Knox. We secured funding commitments of \$4.8M to redevelop pavilions at Carrington Park and Templeton Reserve, and \$10M towards upgrading the intersection of High Street Road and Mowbray Drive in Wantirna South.

It takes all sides of politics and all levels of government working together to ensure that our community thrives.

Coming together as a community

We know it has been a tough year for many, with more people than ever reaching out for help with food and other emergency relief in Knox.

This year, Council responded to surging community need by entering into a lease with Outer East Foodshare to operate a food relief distribution centre in Wantirna. They are using the Council's building to sort, store and distribute supplies from Foodbank and other agencies to over 46 local services that support residents in need.

If you live in Knox and need help with food and other emergency relief, visit knox.vic.gov.au/relief-providers

Seeing out the year

As we approach the end of 2025, it's a time to look out for each other as a community and events like the Knox Carols are a way for us to come together as one. I invite everyone to this free family event hosted by the Council on Saturday, 13 December at Wally Tew Reserve in Ferntree Gully. Now in its 24th year, the Carols event regularly attracts up to 25,000 people. It runs from 4 pm–9.30 pm, kicking off with family entertainment, kids' activities and performances from the Knox Factor 2025 winners. The main show starts at 7.30 pm, with a fireworks finale at 9.30 pm. I hope to see you there.

*This edition was sent to print before a Council meeting to elect the new Mayor on 20 November.

Managing Debt and Spending This Christmas

The festive season can be a wonderful time for family and celebration — but it can also bring financial stress. Many Australians head into the new year weighed down by Christmas debt, after spending more than planned on gifts, food, travel, and social events.

When costs pile up, credit cards, Buy Now Pay Later, and personal loans can seem like easy solutions. But by January, those repayments often add to the post-holiday blues.

Spotting the Signs of Financial Strain

If you find yourself using credit for essentials, only paying the minimum on bills, or avoiding opening statements, you're not alone — these are common warning signs of financial stress. The good news? With a bit of planning, you can enjoy the holidays without the debt hangover.

Tips for a Budget-Friendly Christmas

- Set a realistic limit — decide how much you can afford and stick to it.
- Plan ahead — include gifts, food, and

upcoming bills in your budget so January doesn't catch you off guard.

- Choose meaningful over material — handmade gifts, shared meals, or time spent together often mean more than expensive items.
- Talk to family and friends — suggest a spending cap or Secret Santa to ease the pressure.
- Seek help early — if money worries are keeping you up at night, financial counsellors can help you explore options and deal with creditors. Their services are free and confidential.

A Kinder Christmas for Your Wallet

Remember, Christmas isn't about how much you spend — it's about who you spend it with. Taking a mindful approach now can protect your finances and your well-being in the new year. If you need support with any debt concerns

- Contact EACH Financial Counselling or Financial Capability Program: 9871 1817
- Contact National Debt Helpline: 1800 007 007

Boronia K-12 College Year 3-6 Mill Valley Ranch Camp Adventure

From the 17th – 19th of November, our Year 3 to 6 students embarked on an unforgettable three-day camp at Mill Valley Ranch in Tynong, nestled at the foothills of the Bunyip State Forest. Set across 167 acres of rolling bushland, open paddocks and tranquil lakes, the camp provided the perfect backdrop for students to step outside their comfort zones, make lasting memories, and strengthen friendships.

Mill Valley Ranch is renowned for combining adventure, teamwork, and personal growth, and our students took full advantage of the wide range of activities on offer. For many students, it was a chance to discover new strengths, collaborate with classmates, and build confidence through new adventures.

Each day offered a mix of high-energy challenges and slower-paced leisure activities, ensuring every student could find something they loved. Whether it was testing their balance on the ropes course, paddling across the lake during canoeing, or honing their aim in archery, students embraced each experience with enthusiasm.



For many, the highlight was discovering areas of the camp they had never explored before. Groups navigated the Wiggy Wetlands, competed in a friendly but fierce Amazing Race around the property, and tried their hand at rogaining, an exciting mix of navigation and problem-solving. The Bark Hut Tour and Eco Tour gave students a deeper appreciation for the local environment and its history.

When not adventuring, students enjoyed downtime with Frisbee Golf, Gaga, craft sessions, and recreational games on the village green. The Ferris wheel, a quirky, human-powered favourite at the Ranch, was a hit once again, with students eagerly lining up for another ride.

Mill Valley Ranch proved to be the perfect setting for fun, connection, and growth, and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

The 1812 Theatre A Review: Rhinestone Rex & Miss Monica

A romantic story written by David Williamson.

A story of love between two very different people Gary, a tradie and Monica, a retired violinist with tendonitis in her shoulder,

Miss Monica was played by Angeline Thompson. A wonderful performance and worked well with Gary. Some of her scenes were a sheer delight with a change of heart from classical music to understanding Country and Western Music. Actually, she didn't really like Country and Western, but her tradie, Gary did.

Monica was a violinist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and some of her scenes while listening to classical music were delightful.

Gary, played by Nigel Leslie, was a tradie brought in by Miss Monica to redo her kitchen. But Gary turned out to be a Country and Western singer called Rhinestone Rex and has a spot on the local community radio. Gary started work in the kitchen, then asked Monica what

she was playing. He was not impressed. Nigel gave the character a great performance, working well with Angeline.

They worked well together, and some of their scenes were remarkable. A good performance from both characters.

The 1812 Theatre had a great set. Miss Monica's apartment, the lounge room with a door to the audience, right to the kitchen, where Gary was working. This changed into a bar at the local pub by swinging the audience right wall out and the pub scene was indicated by two chairs and a table. Aneline's performance in this scene was terrific, a contrast to how she played her role previously. Nigel balanced her performance with expertise and left the audience wondering what they were up to,

A wonderful evening at the 1812 Theatre and a show worth seeing.





and beneficial insects.

Some butterflies use grasses to lay their eggs on and their caterpillars will use grasses as a food source.

Try tall Tussock Grasses, Wallaby Grasses and Kangaroo Grass for your garden. Add to these cut-leaf Daisies, purple or white, Bluebells and Common Everlastings and you will have a colourful display that also attracts more butterflies, as well as bees and beetles, which will provide more food sources for the small birds.



Also, provide rocks and logs in a spot that receives the morning sun in the garden. This will become a basking spot for butterflies and lizards.

And finally, the most important element is water. Provide water in hanging bowls for small birds, or bowls on the ground for lizards and echidnas and larger birds. Place rocks and logs on one side with a branch into the pool to help the smaller creatures to access the water without drowning.

Common Tussock Grass *Poa labillardieri* and Purple-sheath Tussock Grass *Poa ensiformis* are taller grasses growing from 1 to 1.5 metres high.



Both are adaptable, growing in moist clay-loam soils. Purple-sheath Tussock Grass prefers semi-shade to full shade, whilst Common Tussock Grass likes the full sun and semi-shade. They begin flowering in late October and will be in flower over the hotter months of the year.

Grasses and sedges are an important element in the habitat garden. In addition to a canopy tree and a tall mid-storey layer, a ground layer can be full of exciting possibilities for small birds, lizards, echidnas

Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* supports native biodiversity by providing habitat and food for insects and small wildlife. Growing up to 1 metre tall, it is adaptable to most soils in full sun to semi-shade. The distinctive flower heads are appearing now in late October and like the Tussock Grasses, will be in flower during the hotter months of the year.

There are many Wallaby Grasses indigenous in Knox. The Velvet Wallaby Grass *Rytidosperma pilosum* is a small grass growing up to 50 cm. This is just one of many species of Wallaby Grass, which are both tall and small and they make an attractive addition to the indigenous garden.

You will find many grass species available at the Knox Environment Society Nursery. Come along to 1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully, to see what is available there.

Spring Festival



The KES Spring Festival on 11th October was a great success. The weather was just right for all our exhibitors, and there were lots of visitors to the Nursery.

Knox Community Gardens was there with a comprehensive array of seedlings, and the Australian Plant Society (Foothills Group) had a very attractive floral display. Gardens for Wildlife had lots of advice on habitat gardening with local native species.

Other displays included the Friends Groups of Knox and Sarah's Arts and Crafts featuring pillow cases, bags, and tea towels, all beautifully decorated with native animals and plants. Sarah's father, Peter, was also there promoting his new book *Wombats Do Cube-shaped Poo*.

Throughout the day, Tisha was busy with children's activities, and there were presentations and entertainment by our music group, the Flying Foxes. As well, the Rotary Club of Knox supplied a welcome sausage sizzle.

All in all, it was a successful event and a delight to see everyone there on such a fine day.



Knox Business Awards

The Knox Business Awards are annual honours that celebrate outstanding businesses and entrepreneurs in the City of Knox. These awards recognise excellence across a wide range of industries and highlight contributions to the local economy, community, and innovation.



The Basin Backyard took out the best Retail & Professional Service for 2025.

What started out as a hobby home based business by Michael and Meredith Johnson has now become a full time job for both Meredith and Michael. Their shop is a must visit location in Knoxfield where the shop not only sells 45 varieties of Australian honey, but offers a great range of other honey based products and bee related giftware.

Other winners this year included:

Industry Category Winners

Barry Plant Wantirna – Business & Professional Services, Training Service

True Hearing – Health, Care & Wellness Industries

The Basin Backyard – Retail & Professional Services

Yellowstone Landscaping – Trade, Construction & Manufacturing

1961 Coffee Roasters – Tourism, Recreation and Hospitality

Leadership Awards

New Business – The Hair Network

Excellence in Sustainability & Environment – Yellowstone Landscaping

Outstanding Employee – Ashley Laffan, The Hair Network

Outstanding Young Business Leader – Josiah Coluccio, Lexity Plumbing & Electrical

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Local Community and Club News



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 27th of January, 2026, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay on.

We provide guest speakers, many day trips and an annual trip, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies.

A pleasant surprise awaited us at our monthly luncheon during October. In the spirit of Halloween, Ringwood RSL had decorated their dining-room with some scary, but fun, figures.

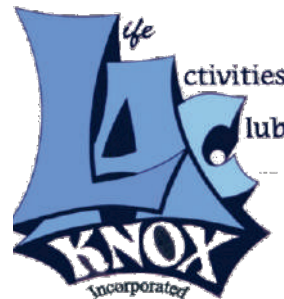
A large group of members enjoyed a trip to the West Coast of Tasmania during November. Also, during November, we had our Cup Day Lunch at the Boronia Hotel.

Our Social Committee is already organising events for 2026 and we will start the year with our monthly luncheon on the 13th of January at the Knox Club.

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 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.



Here we are racing through the last two months of 2025. At the end of September, we had a great Footy Day for the Grand Final and celebrated with pies and hot dogs followed by 'footy' games using harmless balloons. On 6th October, we had a group take off to the Blue Mountains and they had a fantastic time away.

An Open Day was held in October which allowed prospective members to visit our hall, where activities and outdoor events were featured, and the Coordinators were present to chat.

We are having a return visit this month from Life Activities Geelong, who gave us a great day down in Geelong a few months ago.

On 8th December, we will be holding our Christmas lunch at the Chirside Country Club. I believe Santa may be attending.

Coming up in the following months and into the new year are movie days, (held monthly), walks, golf, dining, cards and coffee mornings. If you are interested, have any questions, or would like a copy of our newsletter, please ring Lorraine on 0438068334.



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Boronia View Club Voice, Interests, Education of Women

We will meet on Friday 19th Dec at Eastwood golf club, Liverpool rd Kilsyth at 11.30am with a 2 course lunch costing \$30 followed by a day of christmas activities.

There will be a huge Christmas raffle on the day with all monies raised going to the Smith family children that the club sponsors through their learning for life program for their educational needs.

The club is looking for new members, so ladies of all ages and backgrounds come along and you will be warmly welcomed. There are also small groups within the club and the occasional outing. **Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602**



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3pm Sunday 21st Dec. - Sensory friendly

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Christmas Day Service : 9:00 am - Thursday, 25th Dec.

Contact: connect@orchardchurch.org.au



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