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Boronia & The Basin

FEBRUARY 2026

Issue 351

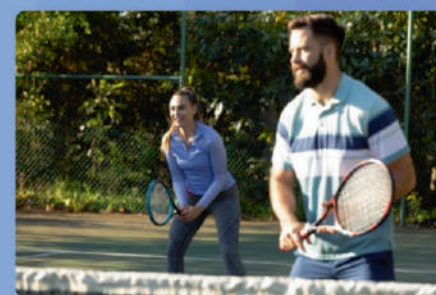
COMMUNITY NEWS

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

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MOVE YOUR WAY



TENNIS, MARTIAL ARTS, DANCE,
EXERCISE AND SO MUCH MORE



**KNOX'S FREE,
ACTIVE PROGRAM
IS BACK!
FIND OUT MORE ON
PAGE 5...**

Cover Image Design: Daniel Barber

Welcome to 2026! Feature articles this edition

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NO!
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Maybe?*

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Free printed circulation to 13,100 households and businesses in Boronia and The Basin. Read online and on Facebook.

Published by Boronia and The Basin Community News Inc., ISSN 1321-3164

Editorial: Arthur Shelley

At BBCN, loyalty is celebrated. We acknowledge it is a core factor that enables our publication to be produced and delivered to inform our wider community about what matters most to them. Our volunteers have displayed great loyalty to BBCN, often for years, even decades.

Thank you – we would not exist without this!

If you look at the practices in much of the commercial world, you could be forgiven for assuming loyalty is a lost value. Companies of all types (Insurance, Retail, Manufacturing, etc.) are looking to maximise profits at the expense of loyalty. They provide discounted sign-up fees to attract new customers, and then quickly elevate prices in the coming billing cycles. In industry, this is callously referred to as “Lazy Tax”. If you are too lazy to shop around to get a more competitive rate, then they will happily charge you well over inflation increases, to maximise short-term profits. Traditionally, organisations provided special discounts for loyal customers, but now they gouge them. They no longer value loyalty, and then wonder why they have high customer turnover. Loyalty is a trust-based reciprocal relationship, requiring commitment from both partners to be sustained.

We believe that such organisations have got it wrong. Loyalty remains crucial today because it builds trust, strengthens relationships (personal and business), and provides stability in a quickly-changing and competitive world. Done well, it fosters deeper connections beyond simple transactions, leading to greater resilience and advocacy through brand connection and identity. BBCN have always looked to discount costs to our long-term advertising partners and minimise cost increases. We appreciate the long-term relationships we enjoy with all our partners throughout the publishing process.

Loyalty remains critical to our personal lives and to the communities we choose to serve. It is the bedrock for trust, personal relationships, mutual support, intimacy, and our sense of belonging. BBCN community members feel part of our communications network, because we appreciate and respect what our volunteers do for us, and they believe in what we do for their community.

insert brain here



by woody

Boronia & The Basin Community News

Published monthly February to December
by Boronia and The Basin Community News Inc.

PO Box 141, Boronia 3155

www.bbcn.org.au contact@bbcn.org.au



NEXT EDITION (March) DATE DEADLINES
Casual Advertisement: FRIDAY 13th February
CONTENT COPY : 5pm SUNDAY 15th February
Issue Distribution: From Thursday 26th February
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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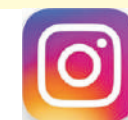
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Association Office Bearers

President: Patrick Kelly **VP:** John Edgley

Treasurer: Ella Szlegier
Assoc. Sec: Arthur Shelley

Editing Coordinator: Kimberley Hanson

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BBCN.org.au

Complete history of bound editions at
Boronia Library

Printing by Newsprinters, Wodonga

Page 3 "Bird"

Des Palmer

Portuguese Man-of-war
(*Physalia utriculus*)

"Whatcha get up ta on ya holidays?"

"Yeah, not much, went ta Phillip Island for 8 days then Warburton for 3 weeks, same old thing every year."

"Sounds great, see much?"

"Not really, I've turned into a real 'sit by the fire', can't be bothered birdwatchin' and stuff anymore, I'm over it."

NOT!

It was epic! Birds and mammals, plants, trees, anything we could get our hands on, we saw loads of cool stuff!

My daughter Soph and I were walking along the beach at Silverleaves, on the Westernport side of Phillip Island, when she noticed a blue jellyfish with long tentacles and a blue body washed up on the beach. She informed me they were Blue Bottles, or Portuguese Man-of-war. I poo-pooed all that and told her we don't get them this far south and they are only found in the tropics. Incorrect! The next day we saw more on the ocean side of the island, at Surf Beach. I thought I'd do a little research on the subject. Here goes!

I think most people who read some of this stuff I write think I must be making it up, but keep reading, you won't believe it! Blue bottles are not individual organisms; they are in fact, colonies of multiple small organisms called Zooids which collectively become one animal.

Blue Bottles float on the surface of the ocean by means of a float, which is an individual zooid,



and this float can be orientated in one of two ways: one steers the jellyfish to the left and the other way steers it to the right. This is nature's way of ensuring they don't all get blown in the same direction.

Stings from a Portuguese Man-of-war are very painful but not fatal, 10 out of 10 on the pain scale apparently. Don't intend on finding out just quietly. Dead specimens washed ashore are still able to sting; don't be tempted into touching one! Yowwww!

Blue Bottles are surprisingly small creatures; the balloon float is 6cm across but the tentacles can trail for a metre. They feed on small fish that come into contact with their tentacles. These animals have been a fascination of mine since I was a small child, so to finally see some was thrilling to say the least. Marine creatures rock!

How many tickles does it take to make a jellyfish laugh? Ten. If you don't get it I'll explain it in next month's edition.

Australian Bird Tours are starting to get busy, book in early to avoid disappointment. We go to French Island, Phillip Island, Western Treatment Plant and many other places and see some cool things.

australianbirdtours.com.au

des@australianbirdtours.co.au

VALE PAULINE BROWN

Pauline passed away in December at the ripe old age of 101. She was one of the founders of the BBCN and a long-time contributor to the paper, sharing many stories about her life. Born in Mildura in 1924, one of four children, the family moved to Melbourne and Sydney before settling in Brighton when war broke out in 1939.

In 1950, Pauline married Keith Brown, and together they had three children. A prolific writer, she also won many awards for poetry and enjoyed playing squash and golf.

Pauline spent a lot of her time volunteering at Monkami Centre in Croydon, a not-for-profit disability service provider supporting adults with an intellectual disability. She also wrote a book about Monkami. The Basin and Boronia area has lost a great asset. Our condolences go out to her family,



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

We are always looking for volunteers to deliver the paper. Are you interested?

Currently we need walkers for these three areas.:

Dixon Court & Rathmullen Rd

Donald Court & Marlborough Road

Boronia Road & Laurel Avenue

It takes up about an hour or so once a month. If you are interested please contact us here 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 have just had one retire. So if you are after something to do whilst on that daily walk, contact us on the email address above.

New Year Dawns

Dayangani Silva.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Let us begin our work for the year,
Peace and happiness, theme of the year
Not just in words, but truly,
A year success year.

A new sun dawns, a new moon shines,
Hidden stars make new designs.
They decor the blue sky, "wonderful scenes",

Let us make the Planet Earth serene and green.

Let anger and greed be rooted out as weeds.
As cool winds blow and freshen our souls.
Move to a new path with care and bond,
Let's be together joining hands.

Our home is the Planet Earth,
Our roof is the, endless sky.
Light, shade, water, fresh air free,
In a land of serenity, How lucky !
We are to be.

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Move Your Way 23 February – 8 March

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Shape a safer, better Knox

Your feedback will help shape our new Local Law. Share your thoughts on our everyday rules to support residents, neighbourhoods and our environment from 9 February.

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



Free community training

Register for upcoming workshops to build new skills, strengthen your organisation or club, and connect with others.

Register now:
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knox



COVER STORY: Move Your Way initiative in Knox

Get Moving This Summer

Daniel Barber

Have you ever wanted to learn to dance? What about skateboarding or practicing martial arts? How about trying a tai chi, yoga and pilates fusion class? Or is a walking group more your speed?

From the 23rd of February to the 8th of March, everyone is welcome to join in Knox City Council's "Move Your Way" program, which boasts a diverse range of activities. There's Bollywood dancing, yoga, pickleball, tennis and so much more on offer. With extra options for kids, seniors and for mindfulness activities, there is something for everyone to enjoy. And what's better, it's all completely free!

Age and skill level are no longer limitations for your Summer movement fix. There are groups and activities specifically tailored for young kids, like dance parties, as well as for older adults with mobility issues to attend with their carers, such as exercise parks. There is even the opportunity to take the whole family to a beginners martial arts class, if you all want to go together.

The program is designed to build your social wellbeing alongside your physical and mental wellbeing. "Move Your Way" is about connecting with other like-

minded people inside the Knox City community and engaging with them in fun, new ways, where you otherwise might not have. Maybe you meet a new friend at an aqua aerobics session, or in an upbeat body step class, or relaxing in chair yoga while you learn about breath awareness. The program empowers you to find others who are willing to give new things a go, whilst feeling good about your body.

"Move Your Way" activities can be found within the Knox City area, from Rowville to Bayswater to Ferntree Gully, making it easy and convenient for you to access.

If you are interested, more information can be found on Knox's "Move Your Way" website. Please register at least two days before your chosen activity and check venue details beforehand. Don't forget to wear loose-fit gym clothing and make sure to bring your drink bottle!



For some other outdoor fun, why not attend the upcoming Knox Fest on February 28th. The event will feature live music, art, food trucks and market stalls, alongside workshops cultural showcases and plenty of activities for kids.



Cubs go exploring the jungle!

Nicole Klep, District Leader of Cub Scouts.

On the 14th to the 16th of November, just under one hundred Cubs from eight Cub Units and many Cub Leaders from Knox District descended on Bay Park Scout Camp in Mt Martha for a weekend of 'Jungle' fun. The weather was great on the Saturday, not so great on the Sunday. The leaders and some Cubs dressed up in jungle costumes and created a wonderful atmosphere.

On the Saturday, the Cubs made jungle masks and jungle woggles and climbed along the walls of the bouldering shed. They flew on the flying fox and created shelters out of the equipment provided. They took on the mini golf course and had to spot the jungle animals hidden along the course. They tackled the jungle scavenger hunt and found all the clues and jungle objects

along the way. The Cubs also went canoeing and earned their level one paddling badge. On Saturday night, all the Cub units put on a jungle act or performance of some sort on the stage at camp, and it was an awesome night. The leaders all got up and performed to the song 'The Bare Necessities'.

On Sunday, we had a reflection in the chapel, and then we went yabbing in the dam. I think the yabbies were feeling a bit shy that day; perhaps they were scared off after all the canoeing from the day before. We closed the camp earlier than anticipated, as the rain



came over and everyone was dropping tents before the wild weather set in.

Such an awesome weekend! The Cubs went away tired, but extremely happy, and they loved the Bay Park Camp badge.

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

8th Knox 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!

Mouthwash: Do You Really Need It Every Day?

Boronia Dentist Team



Walk down the oral care aisle at any store and you'll see rows of colourful mouthwash bottles promising fresher breath, whiter teeth, and stronger gums. But do you need mouthwash every day, or is it just an optional extra?

What mouthwash does:

Mouthwash isn't a replacement for brushing and flossing—it's more like a backup player on your dental care team. Depending on the type, it can:

- Kill bacteria that cause bad breath and gum disease
- Freshen your breath
- Help prevent cavities (if it contains fluoride)
- Reduce plaque and gingivitis with antibacterial ingredients

When mouthwash can help most:

Mouthwash is especially useful if you:

- Have chronic bad breath
- Struggle with gum sensitivity or gingivitis
- Want extra cavity protection with fluoride rinses
- Wear braces, which can make cleaning tricky

The downsides:

Not all mouthwashes are created equal. Many contain alcohol, which can cause a burning sensation and dry out your mouth. Overusing strong antibacterial rinses might also upset the natural balance of bacteria in your mouth.

Do you need it every day?

For most people, daily mouthwash isn't strictly necessary. Brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and flossing once a day are still the gold standards. But using mouthwash once a day can be a nice bonus step, especially if you want fresher breath or extra protection.

Final Tip: If you do choose mouthwash, look for an alcohol-free option with fluoride, and use it after brushing and flossing—not instead of them. Think of it as the finishing touch to your oral care routine, not the main event.

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Pet's Piece: Summer Hazards

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic

Ingested Grass Seeds

With summer comes an increase in health concerns for our patients, and this season we are seeing a high number of cases involving heat stress and grass seeds.

Grass seeds are small, sharp and barbed, allowing them to easily work their way into almost any part of a pet's body. We most commonly find them lodged between the toes, where they can form painful cysts filled with pus, in the ears leading to sudden head shaking and pain, or in other unusual locations.

As grass seeds are foreign bodies, the animal's immune system reacts by attempting to wall them off. This can lead to significant pain, irritation, inflammation and abscess formation.



Meet Wesley, a 1.5-year-old desexed male Jack Russell who loves running around and going on adventures. One morning, although Wesley appeared otherwise bright and well, his owners noticed he was passing blood in his urine. This was particularly concerning, as male dogs are far less predisposed to urinary tract infections compared to females, and Wesley had no prior history of urinary issues.

Given that Wesley lives on a large property, we first wanted to rule out rat bait toxicity, which can cause uncontrolled bleeding. Clotting tests were performed and returned normal results. His red blood cell count was also checked to ensure there had been no significant blood loss, and this remained stable.

An abdominal ultrasound was then performed, focusing on Wesley's urinary tract including the kidneys, ureters (tubes), bladder and urethra to identify the source of the bleeding. We wanted to rule out any other causes of blood in urine

including stones, sediment or bacteria. On ultrasound, a long, straight structure measuring 2.98 cm was detected within the bladder (see image). This was highly unusual, as a normal bladder filled with urine should appear completely black on ultrasound. At this stage, we were concerned that Wesley had a foreign object within his bladder.

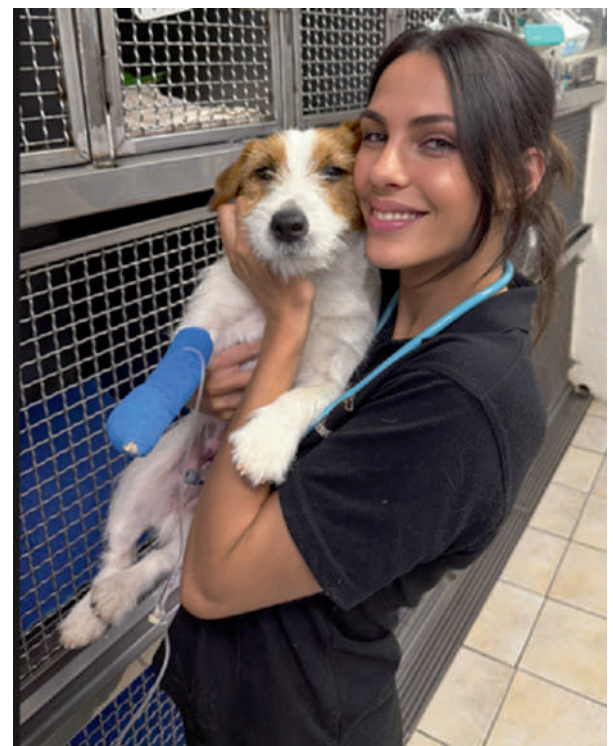
An X-ray was performed to determine whether the structure could be metallic, as X-rays are effective at detecting metal objects. This appeared normal, highlighting the importance of using multiple imaging modalities. Ultrasound and X-ray often complement one another, allowing us to gather as much diagnostic information as possible.

Given that the structure was clearly causing pain and discomfort and was identified as likely responsible for the blood in Wesley's urine, the decision was made to proceed with exploratory surgery. During surgery, the bladder was opened and carefully examined, and a large grass seed matching the exact size and shape seen on ultrasound was removed.

While it is quite rare for a grass seed to enter the bladder, it can happen. In this case, the seed likely migrated from the outside of the body and eventually entered the bladder.

Thankfully, Wesley made a full recovery. After two weeks of rest to allow his abdominal incision to heal, he returned to his normal, energetic self. He is now urinating normally and happily running free in the grass once again.

This case highlights the weird and wonderful places grass seeds can end up, and why it is so important to investigate new or unusual



symptoms in our pets. Early and thorough diagnostics allow us to reach the correct diagnosis and provide appropriate treatment. If we had just treated him with antibiotics, he may have partially responded, but it would have returned because the underlying cause was not treated. Had this grass seed remained in the bladder, it could have led to serious complications such as an abdominal abscess and may have even been life-threatening. We are so impressed by his family noticing and acting promptly. Wesley is an absolute trooper!

Next month, we will be discussing heat stress, including how to prevent it and how to recognise the early signs. As a reminder, dogs should not be exercised in temperatures above 27°C, as the risk of heat stress increases dramatically.

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GALLERY: “ANYTHING GOES”

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FOYER: “12 BOYS”

Our very talented artist, Johanna Boehm, is exhibiting her colourful artwork

MARCH Exhibition 28th Feb -27th Mar

GALLERY: “NATURAL WORLD”

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FOYER: Marg Thompson's “ECLECTIC EPHEMERA”

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Local youth's challenge with rare health conditions

Suzanne MacNish

Kali, a 14-year-old girl from Boronia, is facing a life-threatening battle with Superior Mesenteric Artery (SMA) Syndrome and Nutcracker Syndrome, two rare and poorly understood conditions. SMA Syndrome occurs when the duodenum is compressed between major blood vessels, preventing proper digestion and causing severe pain, persistent vomiting, malnutrition, and dangerous weight loss. Nutcracker Syndrome occurs when the left renal vein is compressed, disrupting blood flow and causing chronic pain and fatigue.

If left untreated, SMA Syndrome can be fatal. Prolonged malnutrition and dehydration place extreme strain on the heart and other organs. In severe cases, the bowel can become compromised, allowing bacteria to enter the bloodstream and trigger sepsis, a life-threatening immune response. "Without timely treatment, SMA Syndrome can lead to severe



frequently misdiagnosed as more common problems, such as eating disorders or gastrointestinal upset, delaying critical treatment. Kali's health deteriorated rapidly in early 2024 following glandular fever, repeated tonsillitis, and a viral infection. After months of misdiagnosis, advanced imaging finally revealed a dilated duodenum, severe left renal vein compression, and a dangerously reduced aortomesenteric distance (AMD) of just 2 mm. "An aortomesenteric distance of just 2 mm, combined with a dilated duodenum, is a severe finding in SMA Syndrome and confirms the structural cause of life-threatening symptoms," specialists explain.

Australian treatment options for SMA Syndrome are extremely limited. After extensive research, Kali's mother, Astrid, identified a

malnutrition, dehydration, and even sepsis, which can progress to organ failure," experts note.

These conditions are

specialist clinic in the Philippines led by American paediatrician Dr Alvear, who has successfully treated many SMA patients. Kali's surgery is scheduled for February 24th at the Muntinlupa Medical Centre in Manila, Philippines. Because the procedure is unavailable locally, it is not covered by Medicare, creating a major financial barrier.

A GoFundMe campaign has been launched to help the family access this life-saving surgery. While local support has been generous, additional contributions are urgently needed.

Kali's story is not only about a young girl fighting for her health but also about raising awareness of rare conditions, the danger of misdiagnosis, and the critical importance of timely treatment.

Support Kali's surgery: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-brave-14-year-old-kali-get-life-saving-surgery-overseas>

More information about SMA and the treatment: <https://www.ladbible.com/news/health/superior-mesenteric-artery-syndrome-symptoms-charlotte-kent-984000-20250804>

Collectors Call: Peter's Classic Collectables.

Danny Nolan

Peter O'Neill has a collection; it has been building for decades. Now he wants to share it with everybody.

In one aspect, that's true. In actuality, Peter has realised you can't take it with you.

With downsizing his home and no room to display or store anymore, Peter took the option to open a store and display, with the ultimate goal to sell and shrink his collection. Along the way, have some fun and share all of it with like-minded folk.

What he has created is a shop of memories and a personal museum. Situated in the old Newsagents in the Boronia Mall, it is a must-visit destination for collectors and model enthusiasts.

The collection includes classic kits in original packaging from the 1950s & 60s, Corgi, Dinky and Matchbox cars from the same period, a huge collection of trains of all gauges from all periods, as well as more modern collectables such as statues and figures from movies and TV series. It's an eclectic selection of amazing variety that is going to interest even the most fussy collector.

The setup is that half the shop features a huge mixture of cabinets of collections from mid-century to the present day. The other half, Peter's collections of classic motorcycles, mostly British, and two customised choppers. This area will also include, soon to be revealed later this year, a nearly 12 square metre train set complete with a slot car in the middle.

Peter looks so much younger than his 75 years and is enthusiastic and friendly to everyone he greets. He is knowledgeable and could tell you the story about every piece in the shop. Not just his personal experience, but also the manufacturers and the products they made. A walking encyclopedia of his craft.

Peter started making models like most kids, in the early years, but he liked

to make them as realistic as he could, taking time to glue and paint as accurately as possible. He would then take these finished models back to the toy shop, which would ask to keep them for display and give Peter a new model as compensation.

Along the way, Peter developed a love for motorcycles that is still strong today. He rides his Harley Davidson to the shop every working day.

Peter's passions also include miniatures and figurines, and he has had a lifelong love of the classic horror movie monsters. The shop has a huge collection of early and re-issued plastic model kits as well as larger one-quarter-size statues that are popular today.

Peter credits his collection with helping him through his professional life. Working many years in high-pressure social roles, including Child Protective Services, was mentally as well as physically demanding. Peter's collection was a way to cope, rewind and relax from stressful days and situations.

Peter has the help of his cousin Mick O'Neill, who is an award-winning model maker and painter, and Peter, who has so much faith in Mick's work, is proud to announce he is taking him to Madrid in 2028 to the World titles. Peter says it's important because: 'It gets someone else a chance to win in Australia for a change'

To round off the crew is Dave Huybens, an ex motorcycle cop and resident IT guy and little Mickey, a chihuahua/fox terrier cross who has the run of the store and is always happy to greet you.

Peter's Classic Collectables brings with it another unique shopping experience to the Boronia Mall, which is quickly becoming a place for people looking for something a bit more niche, unique and fun.

Peter's Classic Collectable is situated at Shop 1, Boronia Mall, 50 Dorset Square, Boronia and is open currently Thursday to Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM.



Message from Cr. Paige Kennett

Reflecting on the past year, many great things were achieved for our city, continuing to put our residents, business owners and visitors at the centre of everything we do.

We reaffirmed the 10-year community vision for Knox, finalising the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan 25-29, and the Annual Budget which was based on the feedback received from over 1,100 community members, including significant and targeted input from a community panel which closely represented our community on a small scale.

Knox residents have continued to reduce rubbish going to landfill with waste diversion at 73%, one of the highest in Melbourne, which places Knox well for meeting State and Council targets. This result allowed Council to reduce your waste costs for the year.

Cost-of-living pressures were acknowledged by Council, extending grant funding by another \$100,000 to support relief agencies such as Knox Infolink and Foothills Community Care. Through collaborative efforts, council supported 67 residents to submit housing applications, and two upcoming major residential developments have had a requirement to include a 10% affordable housing, doubling previous targets. Our valued library service saw an increase in memberships, by 14,000, with more visits than ever before.

Over 50 community organisations shared in over \$373,000 worth of council grants from the community development fund which delivered community projects spanning artistic swimming classes for older women, to outreach support projects, art shows and community meals. The breadth of community projects was inspiring, and we deeply appreciate our community and volunteers for what they contribute.

And as for community assets, council delivered 419 small-to-medium scale renewal projects and 66 road resurfacing projects across the Knox local road network.

There is of course more work yet to happen, so I look forward to 2026!



Knox Fest on Saturday, 28 February, Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully.

Knox Fest is a FREE community event welcoming locals to come together and celebrate community life, from 10am to 10pm, with nergy, flavour and activities for the whole family. Featuring a range of activities for the whole family including live music, amusement rides, cooking demonstrations, food trucks, arts and outdoor play, youth hub, kids activities, active hub, community and market stalls, 'come and try' activities and heaps more!

There will be a fireworks display at approximately 9:45pm.

Knox Fest is an all ages, family friendly, alcohol/ drug/ smoke/ vape free event.

Please leave your pets at home, however guide dogs and companion dogs are welcome.



A middle-aged couple is looking forward to a relaxing holiday at a Spanish villa, but are alarmed to find their accommodation has been double-booked by a washed-up actor and his girlfriend. Then they discover their holdall is mysteriously full of money and soon come face-to-face with its gangster owner. Throw in a police inspector, and soon you have a perfect recipe for a hilarious farce that brings laughter from start to finish.

Assumed identities, breakneck pace and hilarious mishaps of farce mix with the tension and startling plot reversals of a thriller in this clever, amusing play.

By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical On Behalf of Samuel French A Concord Theatricals Company.



DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW

LIBRARIES AFTER DARK

Boronia Library, Mondays
from 5PM-7:30PM

FEBRUARY

MON 02

MOVIES AND MAKERS:
Murder Mystery Night

MON 09

CHAIR YOGA

MON 16

PUZZLES AFTER DARK

MON 23

SIP & JOURNAL NIGHT

The Libraries After Dark program is supported by the Victorian Government

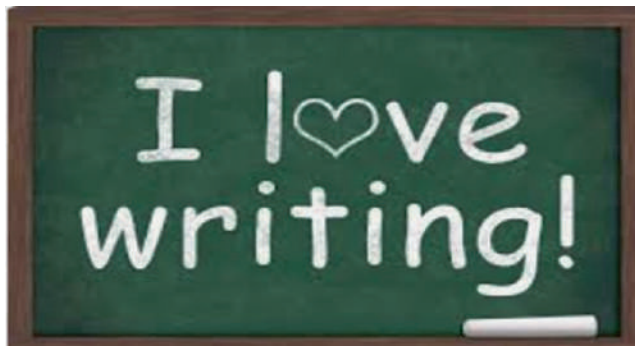


Please Check Online for Specific Details for Each Night

"Heatstroke"

opens Thursday 19 February
2026



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

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

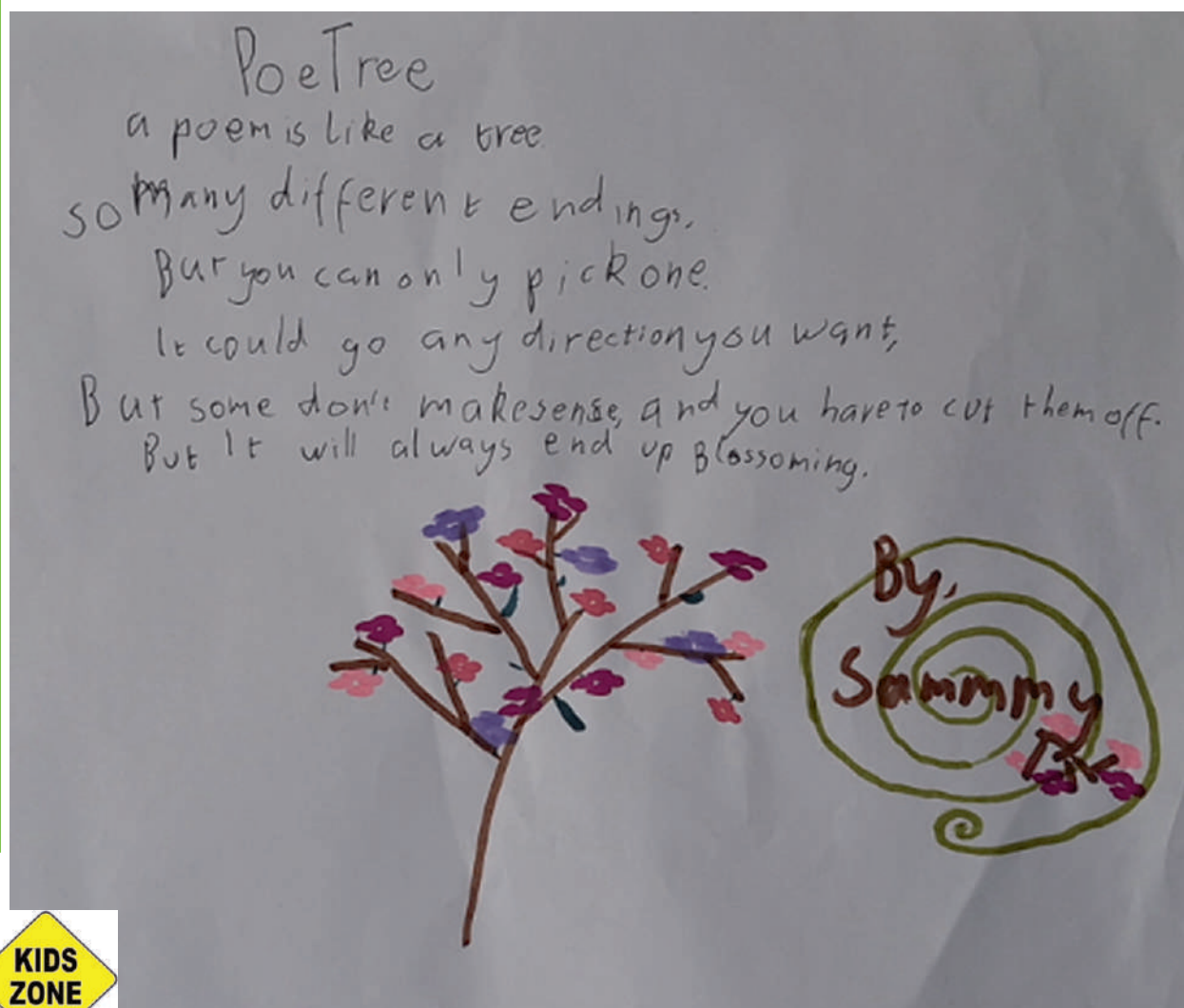
We all smile about writing

Since its inception in mid-2023, the BBCN Young Writers Initiative has contributed \$6000 in prizes to students and schools thanks to the financial support grants from Bendigo Bank, Boronia. The Young Writers Initiative has also brought smiles to many local faces. Smiles of the writers as they get the opportunity to share their writing contributions with members of our community and receive cash prizes. Smiles of the proud parents, family, friends, and teachers of the recipients of YWI Awards. Smiles of community members as they read the creative contributions our young people are making. We proudly contemplate the insights these young people will bring as they become leaders in our society through their writing competence and confidence to share ideas. There are also smiles from others like us, the publishers of BBCN, who delight in encouraging young people to share their voices and refine their writing capabilities.

February BBCN Young Writers Initiative Award goes to Sammy L, from Boronia Heights Primary School. Students can win one monthly award each year.

Monthly YWI awards receive a certificate and \$50 prize.

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

KIDS
ZONE

BBCN are grateful to Bendigo Bank, Boronia for their ongoing support of the the BBCN Young Writers Initiative. They have just committed to provide \$2000 for the 2026 program, which covers ALL prizes to all students, as well and the annual school awards. A BIG Thank you!



Above:

Year 1 Boronia Heights Primary School student, Grace Andrew receiving her Young Writers Award for 2025 Best Primary School Submission.

Annual YWI awards include a certificate and \$200 prize. Congratulations!

Below:

BBCN President Patrick Kelly presenting Young Writers Initiative award for "2026 Most supportive primary school" to The Basin Primary School principal, Mr David Orlandi. In 2026, TBPS students submitted 38 stories and won 5 individual contribution awards. TBPS receive \$400 for this award, funded by Bendigo Bank, Boronia.



Preschoolers: Encouraging Truth-telling and Creative Imagination.

Joy Shelley

It's no secret that sometimes kids lie. It's part of their development, and nearly all children will tell a lie or two from time to time. Because toddlers' language skills are just emerging, they don't have a clear idea yet of where truth begins and ends. They don't always know the difference between reality, daydreams, wishes, fantasies, and fears. Adults also often joke about things or tell "little white lies" which can also make it hard for them to kids to distinguish lies from truth. At about 2-3 years old they start to realise that you aren't a mind reader, so they can say things that aren't true without you always knowing. Children lie more at 4-6 years. They get better at telling lies by matching their facial expressions and the tone of their voices to what they're saying.

They may lie for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it is simply to see how you will respond or perhaps to make their story sound more impressive. They may tell their grandparents that "Mum lets me have lollies before dinner"

(The wise grandparent never falls for this one!). They may also lie to cover something up so that they don't get into trouble.

Pretending and imagining are important to your child's development, and it's good to encourage this kind of play. Imaginary stories don't need to be treated as lies, especially for children under 4 years. If your child is making up a story about something, you can respond by saying something like, 'That's a great story – we could make it into a book'. This encourages your child's imagination without encouraging lying.

Toddlers are too young to be punished for lying, but parents can subtly begin to encourage truthfulness. Teaching children about

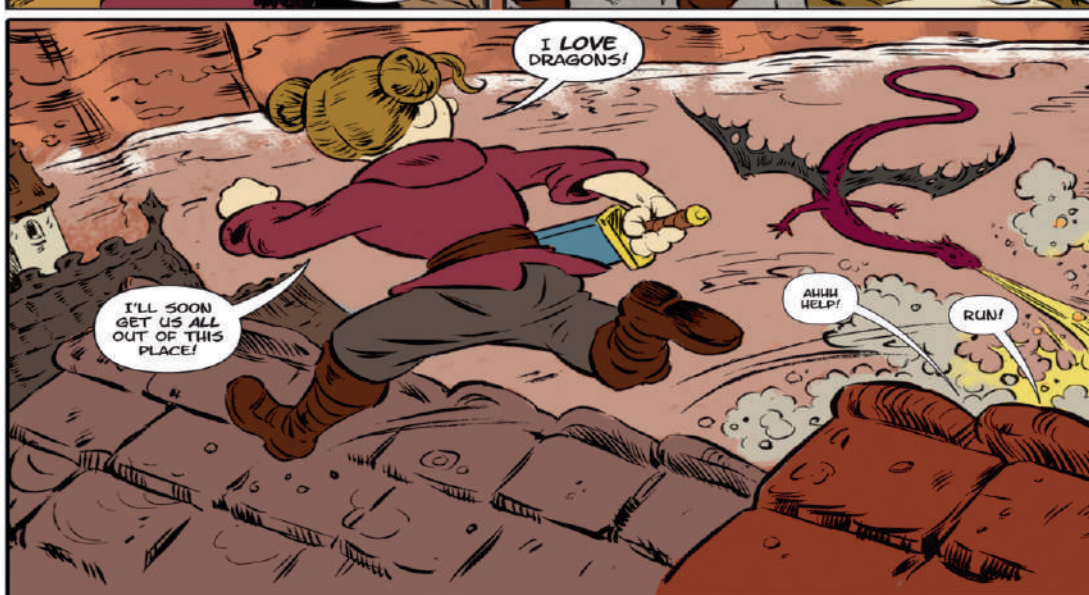


KIDS
ZONE

TOBY and the MAGIC PENCIL

Story so far...

What's inside the Whale?



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

TO BE CONTINUED...

the importance of honesty early and teaching them how to resolve situations so they don't need to rely on lying will help to ensure that they will be honest—most of the time.

If you catch your toddler or preschooler in a lie you can try saying some of these things: "Let's talk about lying and why it's not OK." "That sounds like you're not telling the truth." "Are you absolutely sure that's what happened?" Make it clear that you are not taken in but move on gracefully after listening to and gently correcting your child. Avoid confronting the child further or digging for the truth unless the situation is serious and demands more attention.

Here are a few tips that can help encourage honesty and discourage lying.

Have conversations about lying and telling the truth with your children. For example, 'How would you feel if Lexie lied to you?' or 'What happens when you lie to a teacher?'

Help your child avoid situations where they feel the need to lie. For example, if you ask your child if they spilled the milk, your child might feel tempted to lie. To avoid this situation, you could just say, 'I see there's been an accident with the milk. Let's clean it up'.

Don't put your child in a position to lie again by asking them if they did something that you already know they did, state the fact – "I see that you broke your brother's toy."

Praise your child for owning up to doing something wrong. For example, 'I'm so glad you told me what happened. Let's work together to sort things out'. Point out and praise your child when they are truthful. "Thank you for telling me the whole story"

Remember that story-telling and fibbing in preschoolers is normal. Approach each new situation as an opportunity to teach your child. Teaching positive character traits takes time!

KIDS
ZONE

Elm St Mission 50s+ Friends Program

From 29 January, Elm St Mission will offer a new program called 50s+ Friends. This program aims to create connections for people aged 50+, from all walks of life, experiencing life's ups and downs or social isolation. The main aim is enjoyment and connection, with useful information added to the mix – such as some expert-led conversations on mental health, wellbeing, grief and loss; it will celebrate cultural diversity and provide information on local services.

50s+ Friends is free and will run on Thursdays from 1 – 2.30 pm at Elm St Mission in Bayswater.

“We will continue our Care4Carers program in Term 1,” said Ethne Pfeiffer, Program Coordinator. “This free program is for women who do unpaid care work to enjoy some time out, connect with others, have a chat and feel free to be themselves. We are delighted to offer this program in conjunction with Women's Health East.”

Care4Carers is on Thursdays from 10.30 am – 12 pm.

“Our core open-door program runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – 10 am to 2 pm – and continues to provide connection for younger and older adults experiencing mental health challenges or social isolation,” said Ethne.

Some feedback on the open-door program includes: ‘Elm St Mission is a great support to my Mum and myself. We



look forward to each Wednesday to meet fellow friends and travellers. They are like our support group, and the volunteers do an amazing job which we really appreciate.’ ‘This is my happy place.’ ‘We're like family.’ ‘I like the activities. I like singing. I like practising conversation.’ ‘I look forward to getting out of bed and coming here.’

Elm St Mission's open-door program is free during school terms offering free tea and coffee, activities and a light lunch.

More information

Phone: 0428 330 873

Email: info@elmstmission.org.au

Address: Elm St Mission, 654 Mountain Highway, Bayswater

Web: elmstmission.org.au

Facebook: ElmStMission

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



Get in touch

✉ mary.doyle.mp@aph.gov.au
📍 Suite 4, Level 1, 420 Burwood Hwy,
Wantirna South, VIC 3152
☎ (03) 9887 3890
🌐 www.marydoyle.com.au
📱 @marydoylemp

In search of the Meisels' House. Part Three.

Danny Nolan

November's expedition to find traces of the Meisels' house proved more bountiful than we had expected. After the exciting discoveries of the stonework steps and the terrace with the BBQ, we were getting our hopes up that we would find some more physical evidence of the Meisels' house. Despite these findings, there was no trace of the actual house. How the pathway, a piece of brick pillar and the upper terrace survived in such condition is a bit of a mystery.

Moving down the block towards the front western side, we were endeavouring to find traces of the swimming pool. We had found a piece of brickwork with a concrete half drain earlier when coming onto the site, but what we really wanted was one of the distinctive mottled bricks that lined the pool area, which can be clearly seen in the photo. We walked around the heavily grassed area for some time, constantly poking the ground, hoping we would hit something hard under the growth. But to no avail.

While on this side of the block, it was obvious this levelling of the land had raised the heights of the front yard in relation to the road, and we were a good 3 metres higher on this side. This gave me a clearer idea of the reason behind the easier access where the stairway led. It was the point where the bulldozers or excavators entered to clear the block, and they must have used the cleared pathway as an incline for easier

access. But why this level area? Did they just fill the pool in with debris and cover it? Then Madelyn's eagle eyes picked out something. Close to the edge of the block overlooking the road, she found two one-inch galvanised pipes sticking out of a concrete block that was buried just under the surface. Measuring the block's frontage, we discovered that these pipes were just inside the property boundary. That being 100 feet (just on 30.5 metres) from the easement (or creek edge). Taking the retaining wall that once ran along the front, we had a good feeling that we had found a corner of the pool. Moving toward the right, we started scraping away at the undergrowth to discover a smooth 200mm wide concrete course that ran for about five metres. Digging beside this revealed a smooth, rendered face that had a white/light blue tinge in colour.

We had found the pool.

As we moved further along, I noticed the ground was still level, but the highway was rising. I stepped down the edge towards the road, and I came face to face with a brick wall. From road level, it was difficult to see, being obscured by a small tree. Joining up to these bricks was a stone wall of the same height. This is about two metres above road level, and I was shocked I hadn't noticed earlier. I believe this to be the outer support/landscaping of the pool, as it sits too high for the original retaining wall where the cars once parked in front. Maybe



Meisel's Pool



Pool retaining wall

they did just fill the pool with debris and cover it, leaving the structure to help reinforce the slope that fell towards the road. It made sense.

Looking back at what we uncovered, it was a great insight into what once stood on this land. The fact that the Meisels created this wonderful weekend with all the mod cons, while the other handful of brave souls who built in the estate were happy with the most basic of structures and amenities, was a testament to the man who came from war-torn Europe and created one of the most exclusive tailors in Melbourne, which still exists today.

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

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

MAJOR SPONSORS

Community Bank Ferntree Gully
Loci Real Estate
Chemist Discount Centre Boronia
Palandri Insurances Boronia
Wallgates Electrical Services Rowville

Bottle Stop Boronia

The Spectacle Site Boronia
Mackinnon Jacobs Lawyers Boronia
Hearing Professionals Boronia
Glengolian Village Ferntree Gully
Powerhouse Consulting



CLUB SUPPORTERS

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

Boronia RSL Caps Off Season with Premier Billiards Glory

The Boronia RSL Billiards and Snooker Club has rounded out Season 2 of 2025 with a series of strong performances across both snooker and billiards, underscoring the club's reputation for resilience and pride.

Snooker Campaign

The Boronia Gunns made their way to the MSBA Snooker preliminary final, showing determination in a hard-fought contest, unfortunately losing a very close match 6-7.

Billiards Campaign

The Boronia Rays fell just short of a finals berth, but it was a spirited effort throughout the season. Meanwhile, the Boronia Greens finished their Southern League billiards preliminary final locked at 2-2, only to be edged out by the narrowest of margins on a handful of points.

Premier Billiards Triumph

The highlight of the year came in the Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association Premier Billiards Grand Final. Boronia's side, captained



by Julie Watson and including Michael Lithgow, Andrew Brown, Marie Brown, Mick Kirk and Peter Russo, secured the championship with a convincing 3-1 victory. Having scraped through both their preliminary and semi-finals by a total of 2.5 points, the team rose to the occasion in the decider, delivering a commanding performance when it mattered most.

Individual Success

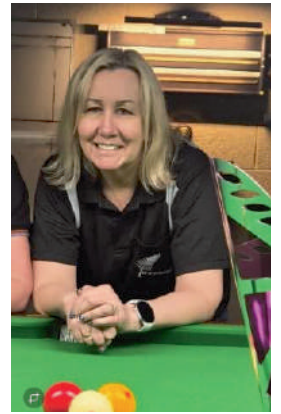
Club treasurer Julie Watson added further distinction to the season, winning her second

Victorian Billiards ranking tournament of 2025. The victory extended her lead at the top of the state rankings, cementing her position as Victoria's number one woman billiards and snooker player.

A Proud Club

Though modest in size, Boronia RSL continues to punch above its weight. With gallant efforts across the board and another grand final victory to its name, the club has once again demonstrated that success is built on commitment, teamwork and pride.

Throughout the snooker and billiards season, Boronia RSL opens its doors to spectators, offering a fully operational bar and a comfortable viewing area. Supporters are encouraged to come along, enjoy the atmosphere, and witness the club's players in action as they continue to build on their proud tradition.



Croydon Film Society Do you enjoy a good movie?

Would you like to see movies other than the mainstream showings in the big cinema chains?

Do you enjoy chatting about the movie you've seen over a beverage at a local café?

Would you like to pay around \$6.00 for each movie you see?

If your answer to all or any of these questions is yes, Croydon Film Society is for you.

A long established film society – we are 70 this year – Croydon Film Society is currently screening films at The Metro Cinema in Dorset Square, Boronia. A program of 18 films for the year will screen every second Monday evening in school term times, beginning this year on February 2nd.

We use 3 cinemas at the Metro for each film

screening, at 6.50pm, 7.00pm and 7.10pm. With a membership of some 250 people, around 200 typically attend each film screening.

This year we have films from around the world – Australia, Italy, USA, France, UK, Palestine, Brazil, Ireland, India, Spain and New Zealand. Some are films you may not have heard of and some are films that have had some local releases. The season begins on February 2nd with the Australian film *The Correspondent*, telling the story of journalist Peter Grete, his incarceration in an Egyptian prison and his eventual release.

The full program and membership details can be found on our website: www.croydonfilms.org.au

We are a friendly bunch who love to welcome new members. Whether you're a serious movie buff or whether you simply enjoy a good story, you will find a cinematic home at Croydon Film Society. Annual membership of \$120.00, or

concession \$100.00, will give you access to 18 stimulating, entertaining and occasionally challenging films.

After each movie, you have an opportunity to give your opinion of the film in a Starbox Scoring system – 5 stars is great, down to 1 star for not so good. The audience always awaits with interest to find the average Starbox Score for each film at the next screening.

We look forward to seeing you at the movies!



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

Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

What's in a Name?

What do these names have in common? James McCartney, William Pitt, Rachel Markle. Perhaps the last one will give you a clue, but if you haven't already figured it out, the answer is that each of them is better known by their middle name. Beatle James Paul McCartney was named after his father, but to avoid confusion in the McCartney household, he was always called by his middle name. The man himself said it was "an Irish tradition".

The name Dweezil Zappa may be familiar to some readers. He started life with three middle names. You may (or may not, the choice is yours) be interested to know that Dweezil was not the name on his birth certificate. Had his famous father, guitarist, composer, band leader and iconoclast, Frank Zappa, had his way, his firstborn would have been Dweezil from birth. But the nurse refused to register the name, so he was hurriedly named Ian Donald Calvin Euclid Zappa after the members of The Mothers of Invention, Frank's band. Anyway, in the end, Frank got his way because, at the age of five, Dweezil insisted his parents legally change his name. And the origins of the name Dweezil? Thanks for asking. It was Frank's pet name for his wife Gail's unusually shaped little toe. It was the 60's after all, and no, Frank Zappa didn't do drugs.

I have a middle name, too. It's Robert. Yes, like young Beatle Paul, I had an official first name, Arthur, which the family chose not to use, and for most of my early years, I answered to the name Robbie. There were no other Arthurs in the house. My family were not Irish, and I had no say in the matter, so you may wonder, how did this come about? Well, I was named Arthur after my English mother's much-loved older brother, who died in World War 2. And Robert was after my favourite Scottish grandfather, who worked on the railways. According to my mother, it was the senior Fairbairns who decided I was to be Robbie, and the name stuck. Scotland 1, England 0.

For many years, I had a strained relationship with my first name, particularly in high school. In a world populated by Bruces, Gregs, Geoffs, Stevens, Ians, Grahams and Neils, Arthur seemed such a daggy, old-fashioned name. I was embarrassed by it, and I tried hard to keep it a secret. If I could talk to that foolish, immature, oversensitive teenager, I would say, 'Get over it. It's a noble name, be proud of its heritage.' Then I would say, 'Look at all the famous Arthurs throughout

history: Arthur C Clarke and Arthur Conan Doyle (authors), Arthur Ashe (tennis champion), Arthur Brown, (English musician), Arthur Oliver (champion Footscray ruckman 1935-1950), Uncle Arthur, (Glen Robbins) and of course, King Arthur (legend)'.

And if I could respond I would say, 'Hang on, that may be true but what about all the famous Roberts throughout history: Robert The Bruce (King of Scots), Robbie Burns and Robert Browning (poets), Robert Louis Stevenson (author), Robert Stephenson (inventor), Robbie Robertson (Canadian guitarist and songwriter, The Band), Robert Plant (English singer, Led Zeppelin) and Robert "Bob" Murphy (broadcaster and Western Bulldogs legend).'

While we're on the subject of names, in Victoria, in 2025 the most popular baby names were Charlotte and Noah. These are two sensible, traditional names, but I'm so disappointed that neither Arthur nor Robert made the list. 'Never mind', as my mother would often say, 'maybe next year.'



Knox Mayor's Message

Welcome to 2026

As the year gets underway, I hope that 2026 has started well for you and your family.

I feel genuinely privileged to serve as your Mayor for this year. I've been a Knox local for 20 years, now raising my family here and running a local business, so I understand how Council decisions affect everyday life. Council is here to serve the Knox community, listening and delivering on your priorities. I encourage you to have your say, so our decisions continue to reflect the needs and values of our community.

Save the date for Knox Fest

An epic program is planned for this year's Knox Fest on Saturday, 28 February in Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully, running from 10am until 10pm, finishing with fireworks.

This much-loved free community festival started more than 40 years ago and is the biggest event on the Knox calendar. Highlights include a dedicated kids' stage, music, dancing and performances, amusement rides and inflatables, makers markets, hubs for food, sport and recycling, a roller skating rink, free kids' workshops, activities and face painting, and roving performers.

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

Celebrating grassroots sport and leisure

Council is inviting nominations in the Knox Sport and Leisure Awards.

Each year, Council recognises the outstanding contribution and service of our local sport and leisure clubs, who do so much work all year round. You can nominate in six categories: Club of the Year, Best Club Initiated Program, Club Person of the Year (Adult and Junior), Women in Sport Leadership and Years of Service. Nominations close on 10 March and winners will be announced on 17 June.

Find out more at knox.vic.gov.au/SportAwards or please contact the Leisure Team on 9298 8367.

Have your say on our Local Law Review

From Monday 9 February to Monday 9 March, we're inviting feedback on our review of the Knox Local Law.

These are everyday rules to help Council support the safety of residents and neighbourhoods, and protect our environment. They help us manage activities to make our community safer, cleaner and more enjoyable for everyone. These rules mainly relate to Council-managed land, buildings and roads, but also cover private land, neighbourhoods and animal management.

We're proposing improvements to:

- Tighten standards for builders to keep roads and drains tidy
- Better limit nuisance from noise and lighting
- Address unsightly land, incomplete building works, overgrowth, litter and graffiti
- Protect Council buildings and community safety
- Reduce dog attacks
- Manage election signage to keep public spaces safe and tidy
- Enable residents within a Bushfire Management Overlay to burn off to reduce fuel loads without a permit, provided safety conditions are met

We're asking you to share your thoughts because it's important that our Local Law reflects your needs and issues that matter to you.

Get involved

You can find out more details about this and other projects, and how to have your say online or in-person, by visiting our Have Your Say page: knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay

I invite and encourage all residents to stay up-to-date with what's happening in Knox and get involved in community life and Council's decision-making.

More information: Knox weekly eNews at knox.vic.gov.au/eNews

Boronia K-12 College Open Night 2026

Paul Broecker, Principal

Over the past few years, Boronia K-12 College has undergone significant transformation, marked by strong growth, renewed energy and a clear focus on both academic excellence and student wellbeing. In 2025, the College achieved the best academic results and student attitudes to school survey results in its history. These outcomes included excellent NAPLAN results, particularly in Reading and Numeracy, as well as outstanding VCE results for the second consecutive year. Together, these achievements demonstrate a school that is delivering strong learning outcomes while nurturing confident, engaged and supported students.

This improvement has been driven by a new Vision and Strategic Plan consisting of meaningful curriculum renewal and expanded opportunities for students at every stage of their learning. Families now benefit from a wider range of electives and an exciting suite of co-curricular programs, including our Elite Basketball Program, Dance, the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, and the upcoming Youth Skills Shed opening in 2026.

2026 OPEN NIGHT!

Everyone welcome!
All ELC, Primary & Secondary families welcome.

DAY

9.30am	School Tour
--------	-------------

TUES 24 MARCH

EVENING

5.00pm	Welcome Sausage Sizzle
5.30pm	Information Session
5.45pm to 7.15pm	School Tours Music performances Learning area exhibits Meet the teachers

WHY CHOOSE US

- ✓ Supportive school journey from ELC to VCE
- ✓ Small school with big school benefits
- ✓ Excellent Facilities and Programs
- ✓ Fantastic Academic Results and Wellbeing Support

WIN A \$100 STATIONARY VOUCHER!*

A: 35-37 Albert Avenue, Boronia, VIC 3155 P: 03 9760 4900 *T&Cs apply

New programs and facilities include:

- Elite Basketball Program
- Student-Run Café
- Dance Studio
- Fitness Centre
- Odyssey Program for High Achievers
- Expanded Elective Choices and Scholarships
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden
- Little Learners Love Literacy
- Explicit Mathematics Program
- Year 6 Electives
- Instrumental Music, Bands and Choir
- State Schools Spectacular

We warmly invite you to join us at Open Night and discover what makes Boronia K-12 College an outstanding place for your child to learn, grow and succeed.

Knox Street Orienteering Walkers *200 walks and still going!*

David and Glenys Mallen were first introduced to Street Orienteering by Wally Cavill and Stan & Sue Gurman in 2005. They ran a weekly orienteering walk as part of the Waverley Retirement Activities Group (WRAG) in Glen Waverley. David and Glenys participated every Tuesday until they resigned from WRAG in December 2013. (Although no longer associated with WRAG, that orienteering group is still walking every Tuesday!)

After moving to Knox in 2011 David and Glenys joined the Life Activities Club Knox (LACK). They organised a 'trial' orienteering walk around Rowville for the Club's Friday Walkers Christmas Walk on 13th December 2013. It was enjoyed by most walkers and David submitted a proposal to the LACK Committee to set up and subsidise a Street Orienteering Walkers Group as one of the Club's Activity Groups. It was accepted and they held the walks on the 3rd Friday of every month.

The walkers have maps showing 20 clues and have to find the answers to as many clues as possible in one hour. They then go to a local café for a coffee and a chat. Knox SOW's first walk was held from Canterbury Gardens Reserve in Bayswater North on 20th June 2014.

The First Walk: LAC Knox SOW Group (20 June 2014)

For the next 3½ years, they averaged 14 walkers each month, but by 2018, it was so popular that they were getting over 25 walkers. The group was getting too large, as many cafes were not big enough for so many people. David & Glenys resigned from LACK at the end of June 2018 and continued to run the group. They split it into two and ran 2 walks in the same area each month: Course#1 on the 1st Friday and Course#2 on the 3rd Friday of the month. By the end of 2018, they had 48 members. They have continued running the group ever since.

During the COVID lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, David introduced Virtual Orienteering. He set up a page on the Group's website, enabling one to 'walk' without having to leave the house. This involved downloading a map and using Google Maps Street View on a computer, tablet or phone to 'walk' around the streets and find the answers to the clues. This was particularly popular for Primary Schools. He even had an orienteering group in Genoa, Italy, participate!



2020-21 Virtual Orienteering

Knox SOW occasionally runs orienteering walks as a special activity for local seniors groups, businesses and schools. One of their walks in October is often nominated as a 'Seniors Walk' for the Knox Council's Seniors Festival or their Over55s Zest4Life promotion.

The Group now has 25 members and most walk every month. If it is too hot or too wet the walk is usually postponed to the following Friday. David and Glenys now select only the flatter parts in and around Knox to walk these days.

For their 200th walk in January 2026 the Group returned to the same location as the first walk – Canterbury Gardens Reserve in Bayswater North, with coffee and a chat at the same Canterbury Garden Café in the nearby shopping centre. All walkers who came along got a special Walk #200 Certificate.

The 200th Walk: Knox SOW Group (16 January 2026)

If you would like to give Street Orienteering a go, contact Walk Organiser, David, on 0419 337 311 or david.knoxow@gmail.com. You will also find them on Facebook.

Since Europeans came to Knox, much of the natural vegetation and green spaces have been cleared for agriculture and housing.

Now, up to 84% of plant species in Knox are thought to be locally threatened. This is an indication that scores of species could die out in Knox unless positive action is taken. Some of these species are also threatened statewide.

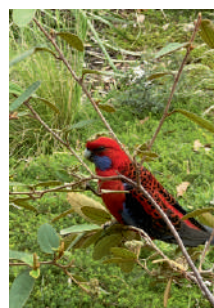
With the loss of the flora, we will lose the fauna that depends on the plants for habitat and food resources. The fauna includes birds, mammals, frogs, lizards and a host of invertebrates so important for pollination and a thriving ecosystem.

Fortunately, Knox Council and the Knox Environment Society came together 20 years ago to form the Gardens for Wildlife partnership to safeguard the natural environment.

Under the banner of the Gardens for Wildlife, local residents and businesses are providing safe havens for endangered flora and fauna. By planting local native plants, residents are creating habitat stepping stones or corridors for local wildlife to use to travel between our bushland areas. This practice is vital to the long-term protection of our shared environment.

The process for a Gardens for Wildlife visit is via the Knox Council website.

1. Register your interest in a garden visit on the Knox Council website.
2. Two volunteers will organise to visit and offer helpful advice.
3. You will receive a report with comments and planting suggestions for your garden.
4. You will also receive a booklet and letterbox sticker to help promote the program.
5. And a voucher for 20 indigenous plants provided by the Knox Environment Society Nursery.



For more information and to register your interest, go to <https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/our-services/gardens-environment-and-sustainability/trees-plants-and-gardens/gardens-for-wildlife>.

The Knox Environment



Society has been an active partner in the scheme, supplying the voucher for 20 local native plants for those who have a garden visit. The volunteers at the Nursery also offer information on species and planting advice and several also volunteer with Gardens for Wildlife.

The Gardens for Wildlife scheme is now celebrating 20 years in 2026. There are lots of wonderful achievements to celebrate with over 1000 participants building habitat in their gardens to build a sustainable natural environment in Knox.

The success of this initiative has been noticed and other local government areas throughout Victoria are using the Knox model to design their own programs. Over half the local government areas in Victoria are involved under the umbrella of Gardens for Wildlife Victoria. And now interest has also spread into New South Wales and South Australia.

Gardening in summer

Summer is not really the time of year to be planting in the garden. With the extreme heat and dry weather, wait until the cooler days

return. Weeding or pruning in the garden are the jobs for a cooler summer day, as well as planning all the changes you might like to bring about during the year.

The most important job for summer is to provide water in the garden for the fauna that might visit. Even invertebrates need water. So keep the water available and top up or refresh regularly. Visit www.kes.org.au for heaps of useful indigenous flora information and <https://www.kes.org.au/homeandgarden/g4w> for more about Gardens for Wildlife.



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 HOLDING A WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10am – our church is a busy place!!!

MUSIC GROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR CARERS each Friday from 9.30am during school terms, beginning on February 6th 2026. A 45 minute session is followed by a BYO morning tea. Call Sue on 0402 079 432

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

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

EARLY NOTICE - OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET is on Saturday, 2nd May from 10am – 2pm. Enquiries or to book a stall - contact 0421 769 067 or irenesmith2@bigpond.com

Church office: 0481 397 007 Facebook: www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch

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

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

Boronia VIEW

(Voice, Interest, Education of Women)



We will meet on Friday, 20 February at 11.30 am at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd, Kilsyth, for a 2-course lunch costing \$30, followed by a chatty afternoon. No speaker. There will be a raffle, book stall and trading table, with all monies raised going to the Smith family children that the club sponsors for their educational needs through the Learning for Life program. 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, e.g., the coffee and book club and the occasional outing.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602.

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**Local Community and Club News**

At Knox & District Over50s we are a very friendly and sociable group who normally meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month from January to November.

Our next General Meeting will be held at 10.30 am on Tuesday, the 24th of February, 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 large group of members enjoyed a trip to the West Coast of Tasmania during November 2025. From all accounts, it was a wonderful event and thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. Our photo shows the group enjoying a beautiful sunny day.

During early December, we held our Annual Christmas celebration at the Churchill Waverley Golf Club in Rowville. As always, a most enjoyable and entertaining event.

This month we will be touring the Coombes Estate in Coldstream, a former home of the fabulous Dame Nellie Melba.

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.

**Panda Rounds Round Dance Club****Free Introduction to Round Dancing Class**

Panda Rounds annual Introduction Class is on Friday 27th February in the Boronia Senior Citizens Hall at 6 - 7pm. This year you will be taught Waltz. By the end of the session you will be waltzing around the hall! You are welcome to stay after

the class and watch the experienced dancers. Refreshments provided.

Round Dancing is social cued ballroom dancing with a partner. It is the easiest way to learn to dance. After the Introduction Class, beginners' lessons will continue at 6pm on Fridays for the following 6 - 8 weeks at \$15 per night. Other rhythms include Foxtrot, Rumba, Two Step, Cha Cha and Tango.

Date: Friday 27th February 2026.

Venue: Boronia Senior Citizens Hall at the western end of Chandler Road, near the corner of Erica Ave. & Genista Ave., Boronia.

Parking: In front of the hall. Enter the carpark next to the pedestrian crossing in Chandler Road.

Public Transport: The hall is 200m from Boronia bus and train stations.

Cost: Free.

Registration: Please contact Phil on 0425 720 442.



Panda Rounds Intro

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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Local Community and Club News



Well! Happy New Year to all who are reading our latest article for our local Knox Newspapers. Hopefully, you will find with the activities mentioned that there is at least one in which you would like to be included.

On the 8th December, we had our 2025 Christmas celebratory lunch, which was very well attended. The day was also added to with the dulcet tones of that talented singer

and instrumentalist, Brendan Scott, PLUS the attendance of Santa Claus. We finished off the day with a myriad of those present winning lucky number prizes. In the upcoming year, we have Line Dancing, which I've been assured is low-impact. Our annual Picnics in the Park at the Tim Neville Arboretum which will be held on 5th February and 5th March. For this occasion, please bring your own chair, food and drink.



In addition, there will be two film afternoons, with pizza and talks being given. Once a month.

Another opportunity to meet a few members who may appeal is that each month, there are coffee mornings. The ladies' is held on the first Tuesday of each month and the mens' the second Tuesday. These occasions give you the chance of getting to know other members in an informal environment.

Furthermore, to add to 2026 activities are Bush Dancing, monthly Golf, and Dining out. Etc., etc. Bus trip to Bright in May for a five-night and six-day sojourn with lots of touring around. In September, there will be a trip, via Alice Springs, to Darwin on The Ghan.

Call Lorraine on 0438068334, for more information.





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