Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

JULY 2026 Issue 356

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PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE

Cover Story: page 5
Image credit: Madelyn Brown

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Editorial: Rob Fairbairn
The Kindness of Strangers

It's so easy to become disillusioned with life; disappointed by the thoughtlessness of others. Treading on dog droppings on the footpath, finding a new scratch on your car in a carpark or somebody cutting you off in traffic; these are the kinds of occurrences that can ruin your day. But it only takes one small act of kindness to restore one's faith in humankind.

Take, for example, what happened to me recently at the SPC Outlet in Bayswater. I don't like to spend too much time in shops; I find what I need, then I'm out of there. On this particular occasion, I grabbed my jar of strawberry jam from the shelf and headed for the checkouts. Choosing the one which I judged would allow me the shortest waiting time, I stood patiently behind an elderly couple who themselves seemed to have only a handful of items. As his wife continued to produce purchases from her shopping bag, the husband turned to me, looked at my single jar of jam and said, "You've got what you want, and that's it." Then, glancing at their growing pile of shopping, he added, "We always seem to buy more than we need. Last week in Bunnings I just wanted a plug for the end of a cable and ended up spending $70 on dog food." As he searched for his credit card, while his wife went looking for a box for their purchases, he pointed at my jar of jam, then gestured towards the counter. Thinking he was allowing me to jump the queue, as it were, I put down my jar and found the cash to pay. Before I had the chance to object, the elderly gent turned to the cashier and said, "I'll get that", handed over his credit card and paid for my jam. "That's so kind, thank you", I said and patted him on the shoulder. "No worries", he replied before adding softly, "Have a good day", and I walked out with a spring in my step and a smile on my face.

So next time you are in a line of traffic, and you see a car trying to enter on your left, leave a gap and let them in. Or if you are queuing at the supermarket checkout with a full trolley and the shopper behind you has only one or two items, allow them to jump ahead. It only takes a small, random act of kindness to make someone's day.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

As a result of last month's editorial, Boronia Road Uniting Church would like to thank the four community members who generously donated bags of pantry items to distribute to those in need.

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

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

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Page 3 "Bird"

Des Palmer

Australasian Shoveler

(Anas rhyncotis)

No, readers, I'm not referring to a builder's labourer on a construction site, nor a stoker on the old- fashioned steam ships, or someone furiously shovelling coal into a steam train's belly. I'm talking about a species of Duck which is classified as endangered in Victoria. A species not easily encountered unless you visit the Western Treatment Plant in Werribee.

Australasian Shovelers are what are best described as dabbling ducks; these are ducks who filter feed on small insects, crustaceans and plant matter in the water column by using highly specialised bills, and they do this by lamellae (grooves) on the edges of their bills.

This species is a large duck which sits low in the water and, when viewed through good optics, is stunning to look at. Breeding males have a grey-green head with a large white crescent, a chestnut belly with a blue shoulder patch, bright yellow eyes and almost glowing bright orange feet. Females are duller, mottled brown with blue shoulders, darker eyes and yellowish-brown feet.

These ducks are highly nomadic and can be present in large numbers one day, then the next day simply vanish. For example, there are around 2,000 of this species currently at the Western Treatment Plant, which could easily be the entire population of this species in Victoria. Sometimes you can visit the WTP and be lucky to see a dozen. Knowledge of seasonal dispersal by this species and many other birds is very limited; in particular, how on earth can a bird like this know that heavy rains in the arid interior have occurred and suddenly take off to these newly inundated swamps? I have no idea.

It is also worth pointing out that this species has recently been taken off the target species for duck hunters, of which I hope most are responsible and adhere to bag limits and species taken. The fact that there are some idiots who shoot anything that moves is beyond pale; why this government has not listened to all the advice and banned it is beyond comprehension. And for any shooters reading this, I could suggest many invasive species to target instead, most notably feral cats and the introduced Red Fox; both these invasive and introduced mammals accounting for a million native species being wiped out each day across the continent.

That probably exhausts my knowledge of Australasian Shovelers; if anyone has further information, forward it to me for inclusion in my next article on this species in about 66 years time.

Well, go on, ask me how my new bird watching business is going. Yeah, how is your new bird watching business going, Des? I thought you'd never ask; yes really, really good, thanks. I'm very much enjoying it; I guess I especially enjoy taking international bird watchers out to see new species; it is such a thrill for me. My French Island tours are also starting to take off; French Island is a remote paradise on Melbourne's doorstep, chock-a-block full of surprises around every corner.

I also run a photography masterclass as part of Australian Bird Tours, in conjunction with my good friend Kim Wormald. This month's photo is supplied by one of our happy customers, Vlad, who hails from Lara and is a brilliant photographer. Love this shot of the Shoveler doing a wing stretch!

I will be running a FREE bird-watching for beginners class at Wicks Reserve in The Basin on Saturday, July 18th. Starting time is 9.00 am and will run for about 2 hours. It is open to all ages, but I would like to encourage any younger birdos to attend. Remember, any children must be accompanied by a semi-responsible adult.
Don't forget your binoculars.

Email:
birdtoursbydes@gmail.com

Website:
AustralianBirdTours.com.au

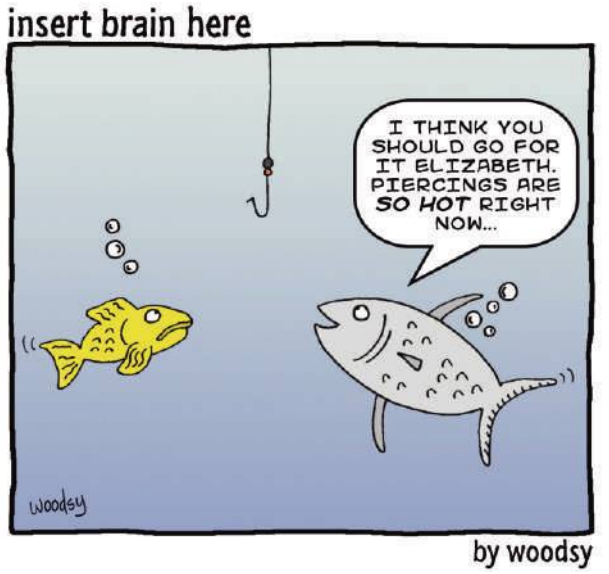
CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

You may not always get a copy of the BBCN in your mailbox for some reason or other.... BUT did you know that there are copies of the paper in the local Library, IGA stores, Farmer Joes, The Boronia Mall and at Miller's Homestead? If your paper doesn't land in your mailbox – you don't have to miss out!

WE NEED HELP TO COVER HOLIDAYS / ILLNESSES! As we are all volunteers, we are ALLOWED to sometimes go on holiday; we occasionally fall ill or for some other reason cannot deliver the papers in a particular month - it would be great to have a few 'emergency walkers' we could call on occasionally.

The commitment isn't huge - around an hour's walk once a month. Your papers will be delivered to your home on the last Thursday of each month.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer crew, please contact us here at BBCN via contact@bbcn.org.au.



What's on around Boronia and The Basin this month?

My School Lunch Intergenerational Workshop

Wednesday, July 8

10:45 am to 12 noon

Knox U3A

Immerse Bus Tour Seniors (Over 55)

Thursday, July 14

3:00 pm to 5:45 pm,

Meet at Knox U3A

(cost $5)

National Tree Planting Day

Sunday, July 26

10:00 am to 12 noon

Lewis Park, Wantirna South

Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot

Wednesday, July 1, 1:30-4:30 pm

Boronia Library

RSPCA Pet Toy Workshop

Tuesday, July 7, 11- 12 noon

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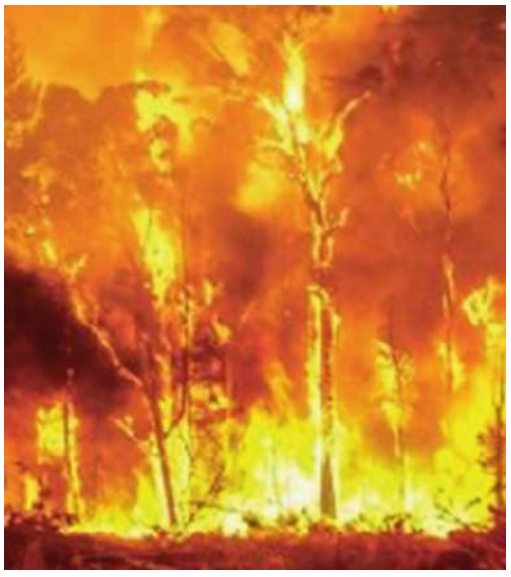
Bushfire research strengthens Victorian preparedness and response



New bushfire research to review fire behaviour during major bushfires in western Victoria in February 2024 has identified important learnings for future bushfire preparedness and management.

Bushfire scientists from CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), through the Safer Together program, have reconstructed five bushfires from the 2023-24 fire season, including the Bayindeen – Rocky Road, Mt Stapylton, Bellfield, Staffordshire Reef and Dereel bushfires.

The reconstructions strengthen CFA and FFMVic's science and learnings across fire behaviour, modelling, suppression and overall management effectiveness to improve how we prepare for and manage major fires.

Researchers examined fires that burned more than 28,000 hectares and interacted with areas that had undergone planned burning in the past five years.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said reconstruction reports are essential for understanding fire behaviour in real conditions and improving how agencies manage bushfire risk and are part of an annual program of research that fire agencies collaborate on.

"These reports help us learn directly from major fires and understand what worked, what was challenged and where we can improve," Mr Hardman said.

Researchers looked at how fuel treatments, the landscape, weather and firefighting efforts affected how the fires spread and how severe they became. This included on-the-ground observations, aerial infrared imagery, fuel moisture data and new 3D mapping technology. Overall, research from the Bayindeen – Rocky Road fire found that fuel management can make a real difference during major fires by slowing or moderating fire behaviour in some parts of the landscape and creating safer conditions for firefighters.

"The research shows fuel-reduced areas can support decision-making during a fire by giving crews more options on the ground," Mr Hardman added. When fire moved into areas that had been treated by planned burning, researchers found lower fire severity, suggesting that fire behaviour was less intense. Experienced crews on the ground reported that those treated areas made it safer and easier for firefighters to work closer to the fire edge, slow or stop the fire, and establish containment lines.

The research also observed lower fire severity in treated areas in parts of the fire footprint. This included reduced canopy scorch and char height compared with nearby untreated areas. These patches of lower severity fire can help reduce longer-term ecological damage and support environmental recovery. The reports highlight variability in the effectiveness of planned burning, influenced by factors such as fire behaviour at the time of interaction, time since treatment, fuel regrowth and weather. This reinforces the need for ongoing research and continual improvement in how fuel management is planned and delivered.

The reports also reviewed how fire danger ratings and bushfire simulators performed. Those insights will help refine modelling, risk assessment and operational planning. CFA Deputy Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic AFSM said reconstruction reports ensure lessons from major bushfire events are recorded and shared across the sector so that we continually improve mitigation, planning and operations.

COVER STORY: Why everyone loves Echidnas

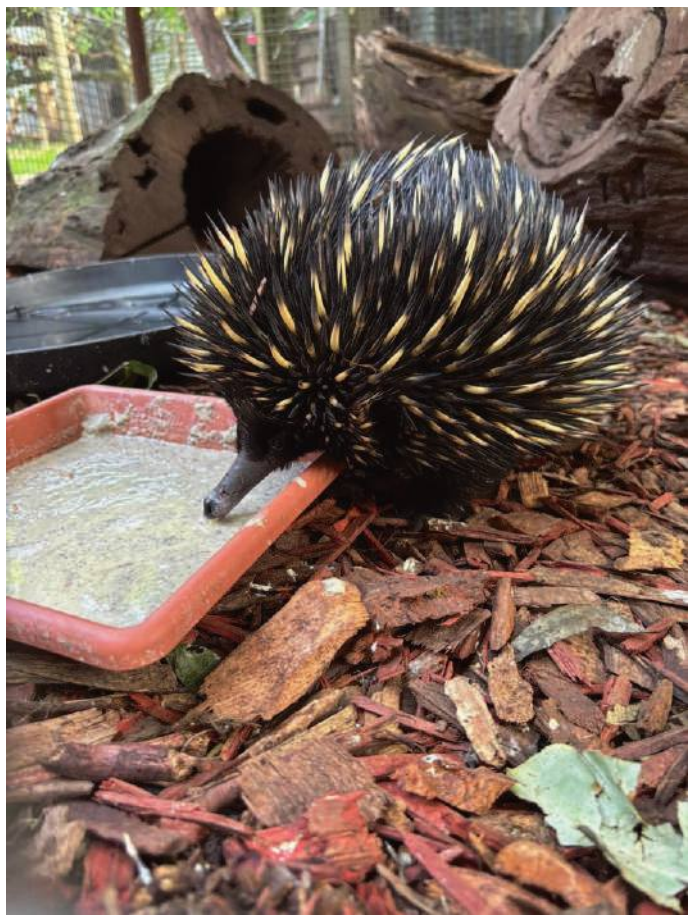
Danny Nolan

The Echidna is a truly unique Australian animal. Along with the Platypus, it is a monotreme, the only two mammals on Earth that lay eggs rather than giving birth to live young. Like the Platypus, it is also fiercely protected and a whole lot of fun to learn about.

How did the Echidna get its name? Join me as we fall down the rabbit hole…

I grew up calling the Echidna the Spiny Ant-eater, a name that has fallen out of fashion in time, but recently I acquired a book called the Furred Animals of Australia, its revised & 2nd edition printed in 1942 and written by Ellis Troughton, the curator of mammals at the Australian Museum Sydney, no less. He starts his two-page description like this: The Spiny Ant-eaters, echidnas or so-called "native porcupine" and ends it thus:

…the name "Echidna" has been applied to the spiny ant-eater in many natural history books. This name, however, belongs to a well-known genus of eels to which it is more applicable; it must therefore no longer be used for the spiny mammal. The valid generic name Tachyglossus refers to the rapid action of the ant-collecting tongue, while the popular name of Spiny Ant-eater gives the best indication of the form and habits of the egg-laying mammals.



It is now widely accepted that Echidnas are possibly named after Echidna, a creature from Greek mythology who was half-woman, half-snake, as the animal was perceived to have qualities of both mammals and reptiles. An alternative explanation is also based on the Ancient Greek word: ekhînos, which means 'hedgehog or hedgehog-like animal" and is also used for the sea urchin. This seems quite apt for describing an animal that looks like both and loves the water. Echidnas are often found swimming and playing in both freshwater creeks and lakes, as well as in the ocean. This is yet another similarity with the platypus, from which it is theorised they evolved. Here I was thinking it was the animal given the Aboriginal name for all these years.

I'm glad we've cleared all that up.

About a year ago, the Yarra Valley Zoo was lucky enough to have an Echidna become part of their ever-growing roster of native animals. A young female, she quickly became a firm favourite and was given a typical ironic Aussie name. Fluffy.

Fluffy was born in captivity up in Queensland but was abandoned by her mother and was raised by a carer, where she decided to make her home in the couch, where she proceeded to tear the entire undercarriage to shreds. Here she stayed, only venturing out occasionally to eat. A stroke of luck occurred when someone decided to play Brittany Spears on the stereo, and Fluffy took a liking to it, and this was how they managed to get her to come out and be more sociable until she was relocated to her new home. When she arrived in Melbourne, Fluffy needed a heat lamp in her enclosure to help her acclimatise to the southern weather.

Fluffy is a determined girl who can't be made to do anything against her will.

The Yarra Valley Zoo also runs a Café in Kilsyth called Yarra Valley Bush Café, which has special temporary accommodation where customers can view certain members of the zoo's native animals. The Koalas and Dingos are regulars, as is the wide variety of lizards, snakes, and other reptiles.

Fluffy would be a major attraction, up there with the koalas, if only she felt like being there. She is a very independent girl and will not let anyone pick her up if she is not in the mood, and will bury herself up to her quills. Echidnas are famous for their strength when it comes to burrowing down. Good luck to anyone who tries to attempt to move her.

To add to the growing list of things why everyone loves Echidnas, did you know their young are called puggles? Children break out in squeals and giggles when Fluffy extends her tongue if she finds a trail of ants. It extends out of her snout to a length half the size of her whole body.

Oh yeah, her favourite party trick…She can blow bubbles out of her nose.

Yarra Valley Zoo

Yarra Valley Zoo began as a school project and an initiative created to give NDIS participants the opportunity to become zoo keepers, learn job-ready skills, and feel connected to their community. Built as a unique program, Yarra Valley Zoo uses hands-on animal care to teach important life and employment skills in a supportive environment. By working with animals, participants build confidence, develop teamwork, form friendships, and gain meaningful skills while being active, valued members of the community.

More information:

https://yarravalleyzoo.com.au/

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A model relationship

Danny Nolan

Sometimes things just come together nicely. Mutual interest and hobbies can bring together all types of people and lead them to great things. Casey is a model maker and YouTuber. When Peter's Classic Collectables opened in the Boronia Mall, he found a place where people shared his interests. One day, Casey brought one of his models into the store, a replica of the HMS Endeavour. Casey had modified it a bit by building a diorama where the ship is under full sail, gliding across the Pacific. This was seen by Mick O'Neil, shop owner Peter's cousin. An award-winning model painter who decided the work was very impressive, invited Casey to join him in competing in the country's premier model showcase, The Australian Model Expo, held at the Sandown Racecourse in June. A three-day event that draws the best model makers, painters, and constructors.

Casey was born with a congenital hand defect, and he has never let his disability get in the way of life's ventures. He has a professional career in finance and the ability to type infinitely better with four fingers than I can with ten. The Endeavour model is his first ship construct, with his preferred kits being aeroplanes and his ultimate favourite: helicopters. He demonstrates the construction process of building them on his well-subscribed YouTube channel, Hobby Hands, where he unselfconsciously films himself doing delicate and accurate work on his current project. As a bit of a tribute: the model was purchased from Chris of the now, sadly closed, Models & Hobbies 4 U. (see last issue)

Let's move forward a week or two.

On the King's Birthday Holiday, I was watching the footy on TV when I got a phone call from an excited Mick. He called to tell me that both he and Casey picked up awards at the Model Expo. Not one but two each. Mick was very proud; he had won quite a few prizes over the years and was very well known in the industry, but he was over the moon for Casey, the guy he had so much faith in.

Mick, Peter and Casey

Peter is now having Casey's award-winning model on permanent display in the shop.

This story confirms that community isn't just in the groups or neighbours we interact with but also in our local stores.

Golf Course at Doongalla

Rick Coxhill

Many people will have walked the "Golf Course Track" in Doongalla and wondered why it is so named. In conjunction with "Stables Track" and "Bills Track," the tracks surround an area that was most likely laid out as a golf course around 1923. Golfing enthusiasts have variously had an interest in the Doongalla area. George Bruce and John Munro Bruce, early owners of the Doongalla area, first known as Fern Glen, were both enthusiasts. John Munro Bruce was the first Captain of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club (RMGC).

The next owner, Sir Matthew Davies, who built Doongalla around 1891 (he called it Invermay) was a foundation member of the RMGC in 1891.Davies also owned the land the RMGC played on. The next owner, Miss Helen Simson, renamed Invermay to Doongalla. She died in 1912 and had named Lauchlan Kenneth Scobie MacKinnon as one of her executors and trustees. MacKinnon was a solicitor and her sister's husband.

In 1921, he was President of the RMGC. T. M. Burke Proprietary Limited purchased Doongalla in 1929. Burke was an estate agent who had negotiated numerous property deals for the RMGC.

Given the above people had golfing interests, it was no surprise that in The Melbourne Argus newspaper, dated 3rd November 1922, a tender was called for: "Grubbing and Clearing. Golf course at "Doongalla", 5 miles from Bayswater. Plans and specifications at T. M. Burke's Office, 340 Collins Street and at Falconer's store Bayswater." On 25th January 1924, a notice appeared in the Melbourne Herald newspaper: "Doongalla Estate Proprietary Ltd. has been formed to acquire the property known as "Doongalla" situated on Mount Dandenong, about 22 miles from Melbourne."

Doongalla Estate was formed to purchase Doongalla and convert it into a "club house and country home for lovers of golf and other athletic sports, as well as those seeking a restful place away from the city" as described in a letter to prospective clients. The letter also stated that "golf links had been laid out by an expert." The Doongalla Estate prospectus offered shares of £1,000 to raise capital to purchase the property, but it never eventuated.

In 1950, the State Government purchased Doongalla, and it has since been administered as a Forest Park reserve. Google Maps show a clearing above the Golf Course Track to the right of Bills Track, and below the Stables Track, which easily could have been a Par 3. There are also other clearings around the area. On-site checks of these areas confirm they could have been part of a golf course.

Thanks to Leon H Rowbell, who provided me with RMGC history, the Doongalla Estate letter and did an on-site check.

Cubs Activity Update

Jan Fisher,

District Leader of Cub Scouts.

On Sunday, May 31, 24 Cub Scouts gathered at Knox District Scout Headquarters for the bi-annual Cub Scout Personal Development Course. This course is a compulsory component of the Grey Wolf Award, which is the highest achievement for a Cub.

The Cubs participated in sessions such as teamwork, respect, character and leadership. The Cubs reflected on values, character traits and leadership styles. Although it was a long day, the Cubs stayed engaged and had meaningful discussions in small groups and as one large group. They also played games that reinforced what they had learned.

The course was facilitated by leaders from 2nd/3rd Bayswater, 4th Knox, 8th Knox, 1st Rowville, 1st The Basin and 2nd Wantirna Cub Units.

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

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

Hikes, Campfires and Adventures: 1st The Basin Cub Scouts Take on 2026

***Nicole Klepp**, District Leader of Scouts*

2026 has been an action-packed year so far for 1st The Basin Cub Scouts, with local youth embracing adventure, learning new skills and achieving major milestones along the way.

The year began with a "splash" as the Cub Scouts made the most of Melbourne's warm summer weather. Activities included beach outings, a memorable trip to Phillip Island to see the penguins, magnet fishing at the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin, a giant homemade waterslide at The Triangle, and a pool night with friends at Aquahub Croydon. "It's been fantastic getting outdoors and exploring the local area while having fun together," the group's leaders said.

Term Two has shifted focus "down to earth", with the Cub Scouts tackling a series of adventurous hikes and outdoor challenges. Highlights included an Adventurous Journey along Sassafras Creek from Monbulk to The Basin, as well as a challenging six-hour hike along the Dandenong Creek Trail in pouring rain. The hikes also gave Cubs the opportunity to complete important badgework milestones while learning valuable lessons about navigation, outdoor safety and how quickly waterways can flood during heavy downpours.

In May, the group travelled to Wonga Park for a two-day Adventure Camp focused on pioneering, outdoor preparation and first aid skills. Cubs learnt how to build their own first aid kits, perform CPR, explored the night sky and practised essential camping skills.

The standout moment for many was building campfires and learning to cook damper on a stick.

The group also celebrated several significant achievements this year. Cub Scout Hazel Martin received her Grey Wolf Peak Award — the highest achievement in the Cub Scout program and the first awarded by the pack in many years.

On the leadership front, Zee Sampan achieved her Wood Badge, the highest leader qualification in Scouts, while the group also welcomed new leader Leigh Worell (Kaa) to the team.

With plenty more adventures planned for the remainder of the year, 1st The Basin Cub Scouts continues to provide local young people with opportunities to build confidence, resilience and lifelong memories.

If you would like the join in the fun (we welcome both adults and youth!) please register for a free trial https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/location/1ST-THE-BASIN/scouts

NEW BUILD FOR THE BASIN'S FIREFIGHTERS

The State Government is getting on with delivering more Country Fire Authority (CFA) stations for our firefighters to keep Victorians safe when they need it most.

Minister Ward, Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor and Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino and Labor candidate for Bayswater Julie Buxton recently announced that volunteers in The Basin are a step closer to receiving a brand-new fire station.

Intrec Management Pty Ltd has been appointed as the builder at 5R Basin-Olinda Road.

The new station will include:

· A motor room with three drive-through bays

· More storage space

· A multipurpose room and turnout areas

· A new car park.

The new station design also includes solar panels, rainwater recycling and an electric vehicle charging station.

For almost 100 years, the Basin Fire Brigade has stood by the community through its toughest moments, including the 2026 summer fires in Walwa, Longwood, Otways and Natimuk.

The delivery of the new station is all part of the state government's $109 million Capital Upgrades Program. Upgrades of CFA stations continue with construction also powering ahead at Clyde, Dartmoor, Leitchville, Winnindoo and Yarram.

Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward stated: "Our emergency services are the best at what they do and we're making sure they have what they need to keep Victorians safe."

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor added: "The Basin Fire Brigade has always been there for our community when we have needed them most, so I'm stoked that we're providing them with new digs to help them keep our community safe."

Bad Breath: Causes and How to Fix It

Boronia Dental Team

Bad breath, also known as halitosis, is a common problem that affects many people at some point in their lives. While an occasional case of bad breath after eating certain foods is normal, persistent bad breath can be a sign of an underlying dental or health issue.

The most common cause of bad breath is bacteria in the mouth. These bacteria feed on food particles left behind after eating and produce unpleasant-smelling compounds. Poor oral hygiene allows these bacteria to build up on the teeth, gums, and tongue, leading to ongoing bad breath.

Other common causes include gum disease, tooth decay, dry mouth, and certain foods such as garlic and onions.

Dry mouth can be particularly problematic because saliva helps wash away bacteria and food debris. Some medications and medical conditions can also contribute to bad breath.

The good news is that most cases of bad breath can be improved with good oral hygiene. Brushing twice a day, flossing daily, and gently cleaning your tongue can significantly reduce odour-causing bacteria. Staying hydrated is especially important, as well as attending regular dental visits.

If bad breath persists despite good oral hygiene, it may indicate a dental problem such as gum disease or a hidden cavity. In some cases, the cause may be related to the nose, throat, digestive system, or a medical condition that requires further investigation.

Whether the issue is related to oral hygiene, gum health, dry mouth, or another dental concern, addressing the underlying cause is the key to long-term improvement.

Top Tip: If you are concerned about bad breath, don't be embarrassed; it's a common issue. Bad breath isn't always caused by what you eat. A quick daily tongue clean, staying well hydrated, and regular dental check-ups can go a long way towards keeping your breath fresh.

Sculpture and gathering place honours Aunty Dot

A sculpture and gathering place celebrating the life and work of Yarra Yarra and Yorta Yorta woman Aunty Dorothy 'Dot' Peters AM has this month been installed along Blind Creek off Scoresby Road at Boronia.

Knox Mayor, Councillor Paige Kennett said Aunty Dot used her roles as activist, educator, author and Elder to raise awareness of a range of issues impacting First Nations people.

"Aunty Dot was a highly active and influential leader in the First Nations community in Melbourne's east, working to build understanding and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community," she said.

"In 2019, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her service to the First Nations people of Victoria.

"The artwork titled Binak Ngarrgu (Basket of Knowledge), is a sculptural gathering place designed by First Nations artist Simone Thomson, a Wurundjeri, Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri woman, with Weston Rumbold Art Projects (WRAP)."

A new sculpture and gathering place in Boronia honours Aunty Dorothy 'Dot' Peters. At the heart of the artwork is a gathering circle engrained with flowing lines representing two rivers, Birrarung (Yarra River) and Dhungala (Murray River), reflecting Aunty Dot's two Clans and her deep relationship to Country.

Aunty Dot learnt the art of basket and eel trap weaving from her grandmother and was passionate about passing on the tradition to future generations. The artwork includes the poppy symbol, acknowledging Aunty Dot's commitment to having First Nations service men and women recognised throughout Australia. Her father, Vincent Robert Peters, was a prisoner of war who died on the Thai-Burma Railway in 1943.

Council commissioned the artwork after successfully applying for state government funding under the Victorian Women's Public Art Program. This program aims to address the underrepresentation of women and their achievements through the creation of public artworks.

Find out more and see the artwork just off Scoresby Road, opposite Manuka Drive in Boronia — follow the Blind Creek Trail.

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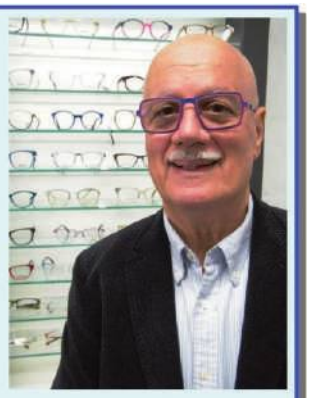
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KIDS ZONE

Submit YWI entries here:

Free Entry

$50 Prize

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

After a slow couple of months for the YWI, we said we were considering whether to continue it. You responded in the best possible way with a deluge of entries. Amazing - thank you. Hard to decide from so many great entries, but we went with these two, one from Boronia BK-12 College and one from The Basin Primary School. We will hold some of the entries for reassessment next month. ***Enjoy!***

Life Without You

By Kayla

Year 11, Boronia K-12 College

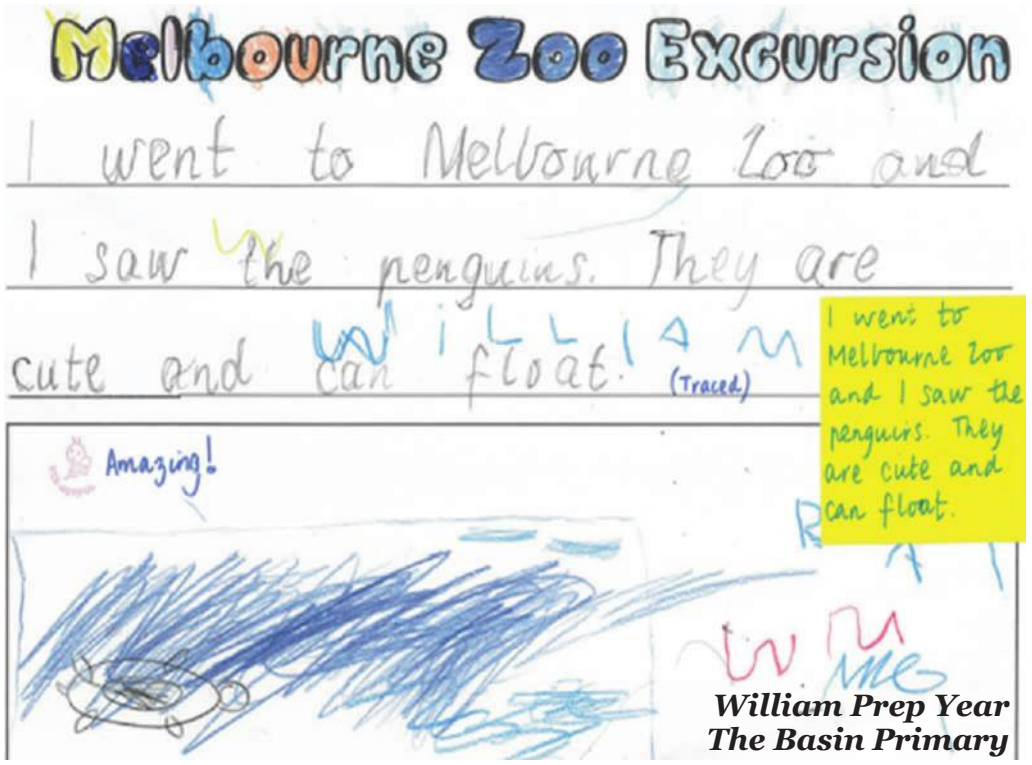
I never imagined of a life without you, when I thought of my future, you were there, smiling and giggling through the silent pain you were experiencing. Grief is a strange concept; it consumes everything that it shouldn't. I suddenly feel guilty for the simple things of everyday life, eating, laughing, sleeping even feels like a privilege most days. It feels weird to talk about you in the past tense, because I cannot fathom the concept of you no longer being with us, the terms "you were", "she was" send chills down my spine as I remember that your gone, its only been 2 months without you and I still haven't properly comprehended the fact that I will never see you again in this lifetime, if I think about it too much I begin to tear up.

Grief sticks around; it's in the air. It's on your clothes, every room you walk into, some roads you drive by. It's everywhere you look, even when you're trying your hardest to compress the pain of it all. I still smell you on random days, at the most random times, sometimes I see people who resemble one of your distinct features and it sends me into a spiral, knowing that I will never see your beautiful face again. On the hardest days, it takes over my body, I shut down and I cannot function just thinking about life without you. Grief is not for the weak, and I'm proud to say I've fought through the heartbreaking pain I've endured with losing you. It is by far the hardest thing I've ever had to go through.

Knowing you was my greatest privilege, it will forever be the one thing I will never take for granted, because you were taken from us too soon, with so much life left to live. I look up at the sky, especially when you paint us a beautiful sunset, and I think about how you're doing up in heaven, wondering if you are finally at peace, with no stress of what will happen next in life. I pray every day that you're doing okay up there, it brings me peace knowing you're not alone, that you have loved ones up there with you that you finally reunited with.

I cannot wait to see you again one day, even maybe in a different lifetime. I love you forever.

KIDS ZONE



William Prep Year
The Basin Primary

Which Popular Shows Are Safe for Your Toddlers?

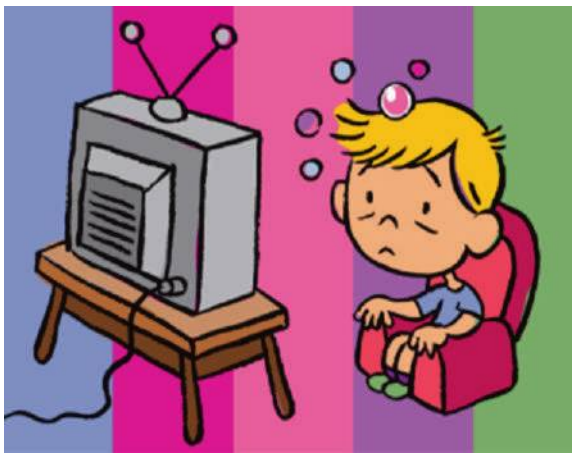
Joy Shelley

With winter coming on and more time spent indoors, the age-old question is often raised. How much TV is too much, and how can you determine the suitability of the hundreds of programs available?

The Australian Government and Paediatric associations recommend no screen time for toddlers under two, and for preschoolers aged 2 to 5, it is no more than 1 hour per day. They encourage parents to watch the content along with the children, to encourage learning, and to never let them use media by themselves at this age.

How much is too much or excessive is difficult to answer, as it really depends on how much the TV takes away from time spent with parents or caregivers. However, the more important factor nowadays is the type of show they are watching rather than necessarily the amount.

Over the last couple of years, I have watched many of the popular shows with my grandson, who is now four and a half, as well as now watching some with my granddaughter, who is just over two. My daughter told me that I should not let him watch CoComelon as this was overstimulating due to the short time frame sequences. I was quite glad about this as I found the show quite boring with the same background tunes that seemed to go on and on. I didn't mind Paw Patrol, although this is in the medium



overstimulation category.

The two-year-old is quite fond of Miss Rachel, but this is also classified as medium overstimulation. Fortunately, she doesn't watch it for too long, as I can only take small doses of this one too. I was quite happy when Bluey was given the all-clear as a low-stimulation show, as it is about families having fun together and is heartwarming to watch.

What I didn't really understand was why these shows were overstimulating or calming and what effect they can have on the developing child's mood post watching. Overstimulating shows are those which have scene changes every 2-3 seconds, have bright or neon colours, flashing lights, quick movements, and constant loud music or sound effects happening simultaneously and often with characters that talk in high-pitched, frenetic voices. All of these effects in combination cause kids' brains to work faster to process all the stimuli their brains are receiving. Then when the show ends, their brains continue functioning at high speed, but now without the stimuli, which can cause negative emotions such as despair, anger, or boredom once the screen is turned off. One study showed that just 9 minutes of viewing a fast-paced television cartoon had immediate negative effects on 4-year-olds' executive function, which allows children to manage their thoughts, control impulses, and stay focused on goals.

So how do you work out which shows are low stimulation or acceptable for your child to watch? A quick guide is to ask yourself the following questions.

Can Your Child Turn It Off Without Screaming?

This is the ultimate litmus test. If ending screen time consistently triggers a meltdown, the show itself might be part of the problem. Low-stimulation shows often have natural endings, goodbye songs or calm conclusions that help kids transition away from the screen. For example, at the end of Twirlywoos, they go home in the big red boat.

Do They Play Independently While It's On, or Go Into a Trance?

There's a big difference between a child who glances at the TV while playing with blocks and one who sits motionless, mouth slightly open, completely zoned out.

Does Their Behaviour Change After Watching?

Many parents notice personality shifts after certain shows. Some shows wind kids up. Others help them regulate. Pay attention to the 30 minutes after screen time ends, that's when you'll see the real impact.

Can You Tolerate It?

This may not seem relevant, but generally from what I have seen and read, the shows I really don't like have turned out to be the ones that are not great for kids.

The goal isn't to eliminate stimulation entirely as kids need engagement along with learning and fun. The goal is finding shows that don't require a post-screen "detox period" where everyone's cranky and overstimulated. Overall, whilst low-stimulation shows are generally better, a couple of episodes of the medium to high-stimulation shows are okay as long as there are no problems when they are turned off, and your child understands that they can't watch them for longer periods.

Boronia K-12 College
Upcoming Events

There is plenty to look forward to at Boronia K-12 College in the coming months, with a range of exciting events that celebrate creativity, community spirit and student talent. Whether you're testing your knowledge at our annual Trivia Night or enjoying a magical journey to the Land of Oz at our school production of The Wizard of Oz, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

We warmly invite families and members of the wider community to join us at these fantastic events and support our students.

Trivia Night 2026

Hats Off for a Night of Fun!

Boronia K-12 College is inviting the community to dust off their funniest hats/head pieces and join us for an entertaining evening of trivia, laughter and friendly competition at our annual Trivia Night on Friday 7 August.

Held in the College's Performing Arts Centre, this adults-only event promises a fantastic night out while raising funds to support our school community.

Guests are encouraged to embrace this year's theme, "Funny Hats & Headpieces", with prizes and plenty of laughs on offer for those who get creative.

The evening will feature trivia, games, a silent auction, great prizes and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends, family and fellow community members.

Guests are welcome to bring their own food and drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, and are encouraged to enjoy the evening responsibly.

Tickets are available through TryBooking https://www.trybooking.com/DMRNU

The College is also seeking support from local businesses and community members who may be able to donate goods, services, vouchers or experiences for prizes, raffles and the silent auction. Any contribution, large or small, will help make the evening a success while supporting students and school programs.

The Wizard of Oz

Boronia K-12 College School Production

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to an unforgettable adventure as Boronia K-12 College proudly presents The Wizard of Oz.

Join Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion as they journey through the magical Land of Oz in a spectacular production featuring the talented students of Boronia K-12 College. Filled with memorable characters, beloved songs and colourful performances, this family-friendly production promises to delight audiences of all ages.

Performance Details:

Friday 16 October

• 7.00pm – 10.00pm

Saturday 17 October

• Matinee: 12.00pm – 3.00pm

• Evening: 7.00pm – 10.00pm

Venue

Boronia K-12 College Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

Tickets are available now via TryBooking, https://portal.trybooking.com/au/event/1585587

Don't miss this wonderful journey over the rainbow and the opportunity to support the talented young performers of Boronia K-12 College.

Boronia K-12 College looks forward to welcoming families, friends and community members to these exciting events throughout the year as we celebrate learning, creativity and community connection.

PAIN OF A FLOWER

Dayangani Silva

A wonderful flower, nice but proud.
I winked, inviting her to be a friend.
She smiles, but not sway in the wind.
I wait eagerly, to touch her hand.

Buds and flowers, dancing in the yard.
Colourful flowers, waive me through the wind.
Tossing their heads, enchanting our mind.
What a nice day, we all have had!

Bloomed flowers, gives nice smile.
Bees and butterflies, fly around the flowers.
I enjoy, watching the nicest scenes.
But a wonderful flower, looks at me sad.

A big bee told me, the story of the flower.
She was a plastic, not a natural flower.
Forever she stays there, gets pale and dried.
Nobody waters her, to give her the life.

Pet's Piece

Dr Gianne Ficatas, Veterinarian Boronia Vet Clinic

Recently, one of the most incredible mentors and influential people in my career has retired after many years as a veterinarian and decades at Boronia Veterinary Clinic. For me, Dr Stephen Brown has had a profound impact on both my professional and personal growth, helping shape me into the best version of myself.

I would like to dedicate this month's newsletter item to sharing his story. I know many of you will have encountered Dr Stephen in some capacity, and the industry will miss him more than he realises.

Then and now by Dr. Stephen Brown

I started at Boronia Veterinary Clinic (BVC) in February 1986 as a 27-year-old fresh-faced graduate of 3 years. In those days BVC consisted of 4 full-time and two part-time vets and a building with two consulting rooms and a tiny surgery. The second consulting room doubled as an X-ray room. X-rays were developed in a portable dark room about the size of a broom closet.

These days the clinic has around 20 Vets, five consulting rooms, two large surgeries and a digital X-ray and ultrasound machine.

Back then, any blood tests were sent off once a day to a dedicated Veterinary Pathologist, and results were phoned back later that night or the next day (except on weekends and public holidays). These days, with a well-equipped laboratory on the premises, we can have results within 20 minutes and more specialised treatment administered immediately.

Back in the day, by-laws were less policed and dogs and cats were free to roam. As a result, pets hit by cars were common. Due to the absence of Specialists, we would (owner consenting) give any bone repair a go, as opposed to the less palatable alternative. Approach was guided by bloodless diagrams in books. Fortunately, animals were a lot tougher in those days. More Heelers and Bull-terriers and less Maltese and Cavoodles. Over the years, I don't think there is a long bone that I haven't plated, pinned or wired.

Today, the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria reported 174 registered veterinary specialists in Victoria.

The one thing I won't miss is the After Hours duty. The only difference that's changed over the years is the advent of mobile phones. You receive a call on the way home from work rather than hearing the phone ringing as you place your key in the door.

In February 2026, it marked forty years of working at BVC and the date of my retirement. Looking back, I wouldn't change a thing. I've been blessed to work in the best profession in the world.

The people I work with and the clients I see have become some of my lifelong friends and extended family. I feel comfortable leaving, knowing you are in the good hands of the caring and skilful Vets and nurses at the clinic.

Now I can concentrate on spending time travelling and enjoying life with my own family and fur babies.

Boronia Veterinary Clinic
& Animal Hospital

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Serving the community for over 45 years

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

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.

Life Activities Club Knox (LACK) is an active social group for over 50's who are retired, approaching retirement or had a change of life circumstances.

With an annual membership averaging 200 our Club provides over 20 different social activities to encourage people of both sexes, various nationalities and marital status to socialise, make new friends, learn new skills and banish the loneliness of isolation that can occur after leaving the workforce or from personal circumstances.

Some of the recent activities have included a 6-day trip to Bright with visits to Lake Mulwala, Pepito pumpkin seed factory and Bonegilla. (There will also be mini-holidays to Nagambie and Canberra to follow), a Convenors and new members lunch, a movie and pizza-lunch day, a matinee at 1812 Theatre and various guest speakers at our "Wattle Hall Talks" activity.

Upcoming events include a trivia day, live theatre at 1812 Theatre (FTG), Knox Community Arts Centre (Bayswater) and Princess Theatre (Melbourne) and dinners at Stonez and Fontaines Restaurants.

LACK was founded in 1986, making 2026 our 40th anniversary. A special celebration will be held at the club hall (160 Underwood Rd FTG) on Friday 31/7/26. A spit roast and dessert meal will be part of the day's activities with entertainment provided by Glenn Starr. There will also be a special 40th anniversary cake for all to share.

As well as these "special" events, LACK has regular activities running during weekdays, weeknights and weekends. We have activities in the following categories: Cards; Eating Out; Sport; Travel; Walks; Social; Live Theatre and Music Appreciation.

We have a "try-before-you-buy" policy through which you can attend up to 3 activities to determine if the activity (and Club) is something you think you will enjoy. If so, a membership is required and can be purchased for a small fee.

To find out more, please look at our website (Lifeknox.org.au) or phone our membership secretary (Lorraine) on 0438 068 334. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at any of our 22 activities.

Enjoy all you do.

The Ladykillers
Review at 1812 Theatre

Peter Kemp

An eccentric Professor rents a room in an old house overlooking England's railway from Mrs Wilberforce.

He claims to be a musician and has other musicians to train with him. But no, they are not musicians; they are small-time crooks planning a van robbery.

The 1812 Theatre had a good set with two stories; the front was the lounge of Mrs Wilberforce, rear was upstairs where all the action of the crooks took place. There was a window in the upstairs room that was very important to the plot.

The professor was given a good performance by Tony Clayton, although your correspondent was at a loss regarding the huge scarf that Professor Marcus wore.

Mrs Wilberforce was given a good interpretation by Genevieve Ryan.

A very annoying person as per the "musicians". She kept interrupting their plans and wanted them to put on a musical afternoon for her friends.

Constable Macdonald was given a fair interpretation of such a character by Josh Hayes. ajor Courtney was played by Roger Paul, a good performance of such a part, and Roger caught the essence of such a character.

Henry Robinson, played by Christian Brown, a good performance measuring up to the play's standard. One-Round was interpreted by Mark Clunning. A good feel for the character and well done.

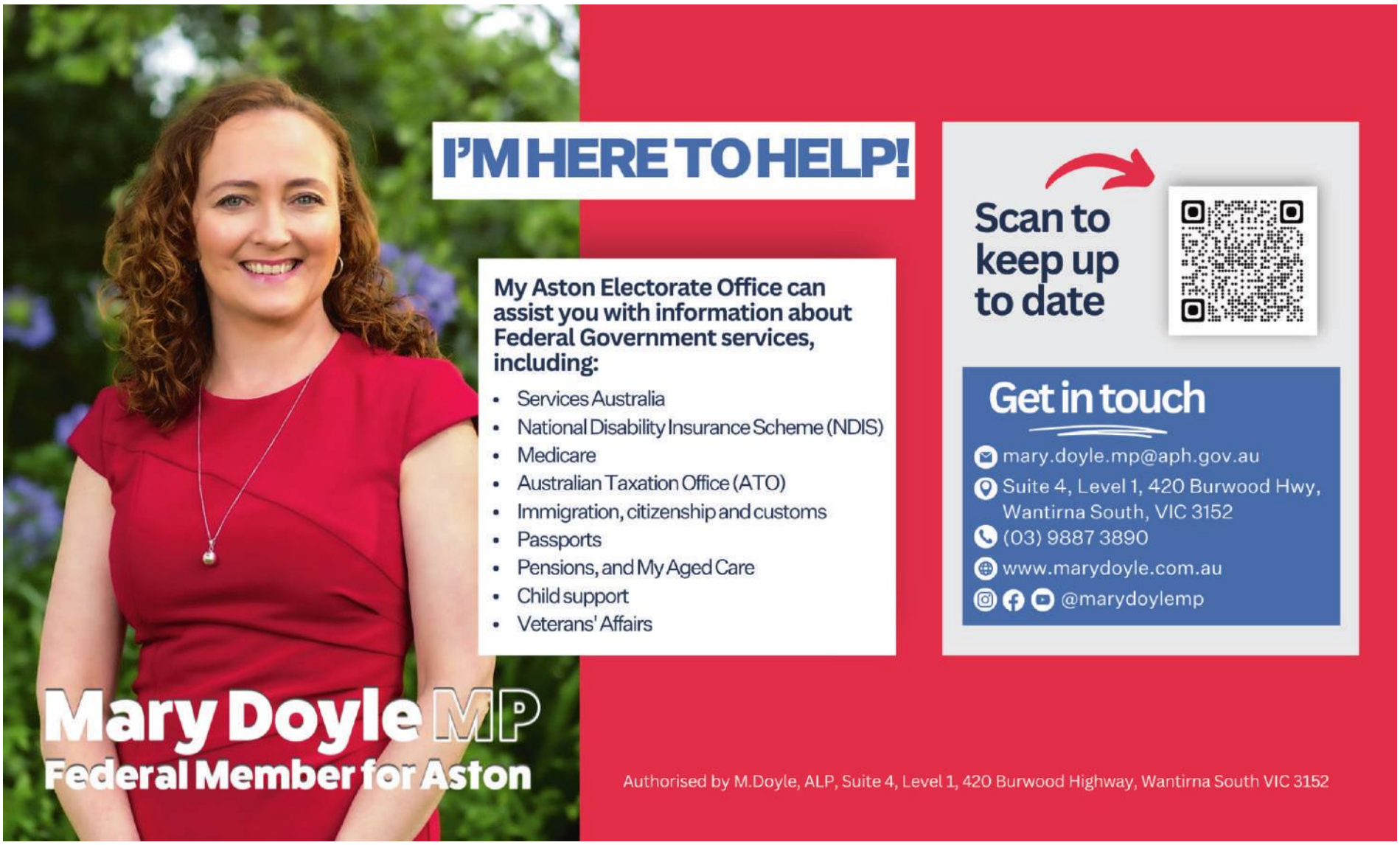
Lewis Harvey was played by Tim Byron. A good understanding of the character, especially when he could not remember his name as a musician.

Mrs Wilberforce's friends were Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Fensby.

Mrs Hamilton was played by Susana Gfet and Mrs Fensby by Valerie Michelmre. Each gave good performances, adding to the enjoyment of the evening.

ngurrak barring RidgeWalk

Residents of Monbulk and visitors to the Dandenong Ranges can now experience ngurrak barring, a new arts and culture walking trail made possible through investment from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund. Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino MP joined Senator Lisa Darmanin, representatives from Yarra Ranges Council, community members and Traditional Owners to recognise the completion of the Yarra Ranges Council's ngurrak barring RidgeWalk project at Grant's Picnic Ground in Sherbrooke Forest. The official opening acknowledged the strong partnership with Traditional Owners, with a Welcome to Country by Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin AO, a Call to Country by Wurundjeri woman Chenile Chandler, and cultural contributions including didgeridoo/yidaki by Ganga Giri and a performance by the Djirri Djirri Dancers, sharing story, culture and connection to Country. This development delivered a significant new arts, culture and recreation asset for Monbulk and surrounding communities. The project has delivered a 39-kilometre network of linked walking trails extending through the Dandenong Ranges. Other features include purpose-built architectural elements, public artworks, storytelling signage, new pedestrian crossings and additional parking, improving access, safety and connectivity across the region.



Eastern Raptors Continue Building Momentum On and Off the Field

The 2026 season is proving to be an exciting one for the Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club, with players across all age groups showing tremendous growth, commitment and team spirit.

At the junior level, the club's non-competition teams continue to thrive. Players are embracing the skills and lessons taught at training, with coaches and parents noticing significant improvement each week. Most importantly, the young Raptors are having plenty of fun while developing their confidence, teamwork and love for rugby league.

The club's U13 and U15 Boys teams have faced some tough competition this season but have continued to show the determination and resilience that the Raptors are known for. While results do not always tell the full story, both teams have produced plenty of highlights and have demonstrated impressive grit, never backing down from a challenge and continuing to improve each week.

After a challenging start to the season, the Senior Men are beginning to find their rhythm. Their hard work and persistence have been rewarded with their first wins of the year, providing a welcome boost in confidence as they continue to build momentum.

One of the most exciting stories at the club has been the return of the Senior Women. Back on the field for the first time since 2020, the squad has worked tirelessly throughout the pre-season and that effort is now being reflected in their performances. The team continues to grow stronger each week, developing combinations and working together as a united group.

Adding to the excitement this season has been the introduction of new playing uniforms for the U15 Boys, Senior Men and Senior Women. The fresh designs have been warmly received by players and supporters alike and have given the teams an added sense of pride when representing the club.

With strong participation numbers, growing pathways for both boys and girls, and a committed group of volunteers, coaches, trainers and families, the future continues to look bright for the Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club. The focus remains on developing players, building strong community connections and ensuring every player has the opportunity to learn, improve and have fun.

Message from Cr. Paige Kennett

I did five ***Meet the Mayor*** sessions during May/June. I really want to hear from residents, so I found these very valuable.

I know that feeling safe in Knox is important to our residents. I attended a Neighbourhood Policing Forum, where residents, police and Knox staff discussed local safety, crime statistics and issues that matter to our residents, which helps the Police plan for how they can best work across Knox. I also attended a Safety Roundtable with organisational representatives across Knox, aimed at identifying ways to assist Police, improve safety and reduce crime.

As winter begins, I took part in the Vinnies Winter Sleepout to help raise awareness of homelessness and support critical fundraising for people experiencing hardship.

Another highlight was the opening of the dementia-friendly sensory garden at Knox Community Gardens, a welcoming and inclusive space designed to support wellbeing and connection through nature for all. Everyone is welcome; more details on council's website.

To celebrate World Environment Day, I joined local tree-planting events in Boronia and Scoresby, where over 3,300 plants and trees were planted!

I enjoyed a visit to Feed One Feed All (FOFA), to see the extraordinary work of volunteers who prepare and deliver meals to vulnerable people in our community. They are always looking for volunteers, so if you're interested, visit www.fofa.org.au

I'm looking forward to Immerse 2026, the Knox Arts trail, running from 26 June – 26 July, which I hope you'll enjoy too.

Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

Try To Remember*

A guy goes into a hotel to rent a room. As the concierge hands him his keys, he says, “Enjoy your stay, sir. By the way, do you have a good memory for faces?” “Why do you ask?” says the customer. To which the concierge replies, “Because there is no mirror in the bathroom.” I love that Spike Milligan joke. It’s such a clever twist on the concept of memory. Memory is what songwriters call a ‘trigger’ word. (Heart and Love are two well-used others). Think of all the songs about memory and remembering: “Memories”, from Cats. “I Remember You” By Frank Ifield, “I Remember When I Was Young”, by Matt Taylor; the list goes on. "If there are so many songs about remembering," I hear you say, "There must be an equal number about its opposite, forgetting." Well, if there are, I’m not aware of them. So, I’ve decided to square the ledger one song at a time, beginning with one I’ve based on a Bob Dylan song “A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall”. It's called “It’s Hard to Remember”.

Those who know it, join in the refrain. The rest can play air harmonica.

Oh, where have you been, my blue-eyed son?

Where have you been, my darlin’ young one?

I went to the bedroom, I was lookin’ for somethin’

Then I looked in back room and came back with nothin’

So I went to the lounge room and I sat there a thinkin’

It’s hard, it’s hard,

It’s hard, it’s hard,

Oh it’s so hard…to remember

Oh what did you see, my blue-eyed son?

What did you see, my darlin’ young one?

I saw a great movie with whatsisname in it

And that woman from the TV, she was also in it

And a guy was the villain from that other movie

The effects were amazing but what was the story?

And then came the credits with you know who singin’

The director was English but I could be mistaken

‘Cos it’s hard, yes it’s hard

It’s hard, yes it’s hard

Oh it’s so hard…to remember

So what did you hear, my blue-eyed son?

What did you hear, my darlin’ young one?

I heard a good joke but I forgot the punchline

I learned a new song but I forget the first line

I heard on the news of an incident somewhere

I heard on the grapevine, a story ‘bout someone

I heard my phone ringin’ but forgot where I left it

I heard from your sister, now what was the message?

I heard from my doctor, I missed my appointment

And it’s hard, yes it’s hard

It’s hard, yes it’s hard

Oh it’s so hard…to remember

So what will you do now, my blue-eyed son?

What will you do now, my darlin’ young one?

I’ll leave a pad by the ‘phone to write down the messages

And list all the things that I need when I’m shopping

I’ll write on the calendar, all my appointments

And write in my diary my grandchildren’s birthdays

I’ll buy me some string to tie to my glasses

To hang around my neck so I’ll never lose them

And I’ll keep the case near a bowl on the dresser

And I’ll keep my keys in that bowl on the dresser

And I’ll leave my phone with my keys in a bowl on the dresser

Then I’ll go to the lounge room and sit there and wonder

Why it’s hard, yes it’s hard

It’s hard, yes it’s hard

Oh it’s so damn hard…

To remember.

* Note:

"Try to Remember" is also the title of a song from the stage musical, "The Fantasticks".

Knox Uniting Church
BORONIA ROAD

WORSHIP WITH US on any Sunday morning at 10 am – we have a fairly traditional style of service with lots of singing, a children’s segment… and fellowship over tea/coffee afterwards. Our Knox Uniting Church minister, Rev Russell Croxford, preaches at our church (209 Boronia Road, Boronia) on the first Sunday of each month.

Check out our website for ALL church activities https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au.

ORGAN RECITAL by PETER GUY will be held on Sat, 1st August at 2 pm.

Entry by donation - with children free. A delicious afternoon will be provided following the recital.

Peter is a recent graduate with Masters and Post-Masters qualifications at the Kodály Institute of the Liszt Academy of Music, Hungary, he returned to Australia in 2025 to continue his career as an organist, choir director and teacher. Peter is currently Director of Music at St Mark’s Anglican Church, Fitzroy.

PETER WILL SHOWCASE OUR NEW ORGAN!

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

Bring your lunch and your own craft project - although working on ANY craft is optional! You are welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat. The kettle is always on.

For more information about us, check out our Facebook page and Website or phone the church office on 0481 397 007

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.

Funding Boost for Local Community Groups

Local community groups have been celebrated at Bendigo Bank, Community Bank Ferntree Gully's 2026 Community Grants Night, with funding awarded to support grassroots sport, volunteering, social connection and community wellbeing across The Basin, Boronia and surrounding Knox region.

The event recognised 38 local community organisations that are working to strengthen participation, resilience and belonging across Knox, including:

The event recognised 38 community organisations working to strengthen participation, resilience and belonging across the region. Local recipients included:

- The Basin Music Festival – $24,000 in total over three years to support the delivery of this much-loved community event
- Knox Infolink Inc. – $36,000 in total over three years to continue providing vital local food relief
- Feed One Feed All - $45,000 in total over three years to continue their food relief program
- Boronia Soccer Club – $2,500 for the replacement of ageing goals to support safe and inclusive play
- Knox & District Toy Library – $2,000 to expand its STEAM toy collection for local families
- Ben's Place – $3,000 to strengthen its volunteer workforce
- Boronia Hawks Football Club – $2,000 for an interactive whiteboard in the club's new boardroom and selection room

Grateful recipients of Bendigo Bank community grants

Community Bank Ferntree Gully Chair, Etienne Clauw, said the Grants Night is a highlight of the Bank's calendar and a powerful reminder of what local banking makes possible.

"This night highlights the power of local banking. By choosing to bank locally, our customers make it possible for us to reinvest profits back into the community where it matters most. It's how we keep strengthening Knox."

Often described as the heart of Knox, Community Bank Ferntree Gully has returned more than $6 million to local organisations over the past 25 years through grants, sponsorships and partnerships.

Community Bank Ferntree Gully congratulates all round one grant recipients and confirms that applications for the second round of Community Grants will open soon, encouraging local not-for-profit groups to keep an eye on its website and social channels for details.

Remote water dip-tanks boost aerial firefighting in Victoria's forests

Victoria's firefighting helicopters had improved access to secure water supplies in remote forest areas this summer, reducing turnaround times and assisting efforts to slow the spread of fires.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) used four of its new heli-dip tank sites to support firefighting at Wonnangatta, Mt Selwyn and Woods Point.

The sites allow fire-bombing helicopters to refill faster during bushfire response, saving critical turnaround times.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer, Chris Hardman, said every minute counts when responding to remote bushfires.

"Having these remote water storages in high elevations of the landscape enables aircraft to access water faster and provides time for our rappel and on-ground firefighters to respond."

Mr Hardman said 15 more heli-dip tank sites are being built across remote forest areas as part of a new three-year project.

"Victoria is one of the most fire-prone places in the world," he said.

"By strategically locating secure water supplies where aircraft need them, we can hit fires faster, harder and improve our chances of limiting their spread before they impact communities," Mr Hardman said.

"Reliable water supplies strengthen the efforts of our on-ground firefighters, machine operators and skilled contractors who respond rapidly to fires on public land."

The sites can reduce flight turnaround times by up to 15 minutes, making air operations significantly more efficient. Each location includes a 25,000 or 50,000-litre tank built specifically for helicopter refilling.

Planned sites include Straight Running Creek, Mt Wills and Selwyn Five Way in north-east Victoria, and Dargo High Plains and Mt Hope in Gippsland.

The project is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian governments through the Disaster Ready Fund.

Boronia and The Basin Local Services Directory - Support your local businesses

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Local Community and Club News

KNOX & DISTRICT OVER 50S INC.

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 28th of July, 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.

For our 2026 annual trip, we are planning a visit to the NSW Riverina in October, which will include Griffith for their annual Springfest.

During May, a number of our members enjoyed a tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne, followed by lunch at the Settlement Hotel in Cranbourne. Our photo shows some of the group who enjoyed this experience.

Continuing the great variety of events offered by Knox Over50s, July brings us a tour of the Victoria Police Museum in Docklands.

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) or, for further information, see our Facebook page, Knox & District Over50s Inc. We look forward to hearing from you or, more importantly, seeing you in the near future.

The Orchard Church of Christ

The Orchard Church of Christ is a thriving church community with a clear vision for worship, discipleship, and growth into the future.

This vision includes a strong gospel-centred, outreach-oriented mission, which has been the catalyst for growth, salvation, discipleship and baptisms. We believe that multi-generational congregations can better serve many people's worship and faith development needs.

Regular Services: (Bayswater campus)

• Sunday 9.45 am, Traditional service

• Sunday 10:30 am, Relaxed and informal service

Play Group (Bayswater campus - 643 Mountain Hwy., Bayswater)

• Wednesdays in school terms: 10 am – 12 noon.

Open to parents/grandparents/carers with infants or pre-school children**.**

MumCo
(Boronia campus – 59 Boronia Rd., Boronia)

• Fridays fortnightly, 10 am-11:45 am

A community of mums with a heart to champion women in their motherhood journey. We are all about authentic conversations, encouragement, connection, morning tea and fun! All mums welcome.

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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The Orchard Church of Christ

Coffee Pot Play Cafe (Bayswater campus)

• Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:30 am – 1 pm.

Community Meal (Boronia campus – 59 Boronia Rd., Boronia)

We provide a free, 2-course sit-down meal every Friday, 5:30 pm for people in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. This is a great place for connecting with others as well.

Contact: connect@orchardchurch.org.au

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Boronia VIEW

voice, interests and education of women

Boronia VIEW (Voice, Education and Interests of Women) will be meeting Friday 17 July at 11.30 am at Eastwood Golf Club Liverpool Rd Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch costing $30 followed by a speaker from The Guide dogs Association. 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 their 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 small groups within the club and the occasional outing.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602

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