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Boronia & The Basin

OCTOBER 2026

Issue 359

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. 1994

Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE

Springing towards Summer



Front cover image credit: Brian White



BALANCED BODY
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Back Pain • Posture • Headaches
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Aroma Of Wellness

Massage and Aromatherapy
Susan Podhorodecki



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New
Patients
Welcome

book via HotDoc

BAMBUS
PHYSIOTHERAPY

Neck Pain • Back Pain • Rehabilitation
Stefan Cevacac

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: Patrick Kelly The Changing Face of Boronia

Saturday, 17 October. 10.00 am - Boronia Station. Put it in the diary!

After seeing the brand-new station take shape over the last few months – with its new landscaped plaza to Dorset Road, amenities and a very Star Trek, USS Enterprise themed canopy – our whole community are invited to attend for a Celebration Day. The new station marks a new chapter for Boronia. Because, located at the very heart of our suburb, fair to say, it needed some work. After all, it hadn't been touched since the level crossing was removed some 27 years ago. It's also a very visible reminder that, yes, our suburb is changing – as my esteemed colleague, Danny Nolan, noted last month. More and more people are choosing to call our neck of the woods home – and why wouldn't they? They're now sharing a community with people who've called this part of the world their own home for decades. Some for generations.

There's new building works happening virtually every day. From the new Aldi and apartments on Erica Avenue, up to the new home for the Hawks at Tormore, whose new pavilion has maybe the best view in the whole outer east for watching local footy, and so much more. When you take a moment to look at the changing face of Boronia, it's hard not to marvel at how much it's changed since dirt roads traversed the railway line.

We're right to be proud – and even a little protective – of what we have. But I don't think it's groundbreaking to say that a vast majority of locals embrace this changing face – while still being able to reflect on what made our area what it is today. It's our neighbours that we know well. They run the small businesses that we go to every day. They bring our bins in when we're away. They share a quick g'day when you pass them on the street.

It's them – and you – who have those shared memories of what has come before, each one adding a page to the storybook of our community, as our community moves forward in an ever-changing world.

So, I hope to see you down at Boronia Station on Saturday, 17 October, where we can all celebrate this new chapter in Boronia's story.

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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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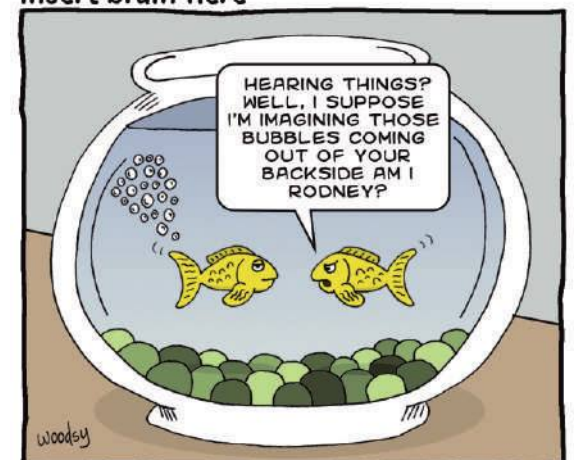
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insert brain here



by woodsy

Page 3 "Bird"

Des Palmer

Vagrants

Have you ever looked through your binoculars at a bird and thought to yourself, 'what the hell's that thing doin' here?' It happened to me a few years ago down at Phillip Island. I got up early and thought the Ventnor common might be a good spot to birdwatch. They do get some good birds there, but after an hour or so was almost about to head back to the house we were renting when I saw a bird on the overhead wires, 150 metres away. Just another Wattlebird I thought, almost didn't bother checking when, holy smoke, that's an Oriental Dollarbird!

Common in northern Victoria over the summer months, Dollarbirds are summer breeding migrants from across Asia, particularly Indonesia and PNG, but my field guide's distribution map show they don't come this far south. And yet, there it was. Great get. My family weren't as impressed as I was. I kept rabbiting on about this Dollarbird until they'd all had it up to pussy's bow, 'yes Dad, get over it Dad.' Some people, really, they just don't get stuff.

Over a decade ago a bird called the Red-necked Phalarope turned up at the Western Treatment Plant. My cousin Martin and I went down to see it, gold! The funny thing is this, Red-necked Phalaropes are one of the most abundant bird species in the world, in the Northern hemisphere they are as common as clay. No one would blink an eye if they saw one. What on earth one lone bird was doing here so far from its home is anyone's guess.

In July this year I took out an English client bird watching to the WTP, Phoebe (a Phoebe is a

type of bird in the US) and she was so fired up to go there and see all the birds. Do you know which bird she wanted to see the most? A Galah. A flock flew across us in the car and we stopped and she just couldn't take her eyes off them. When she finally got back in she started tapping on her phone with gusto, and a smile from ear to ear "I'm just emailing my girlfriend back in the UK, she said I had to let her know the moment I saw one" She was absolutely thrilled!

There is simply so much to appreciate about all birds: starlings in winter plumage, Waders with all sizes and shapes of their bills, c'mon, Spoonbills! Raptors from the massive Wedge-tailed Eagle to the dainty Nankeen Kestrel, Parrots and Rosellas and Cockatoos with their amazing colours, Owls and their ability to hunt at night time. In fact, the only bird I'm not fussed about is the Noisy Miner, but they can't help it, we have upset the ecosystem so much to give them the upper hand. And the moral of this story? Try to enjoy and appreciate the things in life around you, be it the birds, good friends, meeting great people, having a roof over your head, nice food, whatever.

And talking about meeting great people, the bird-watching morning at Wicks was fantastic, we nailed 34 species, thanks to Anna and Ashe, Brie (could you please resend me your email), Karen C (local bird guru), Karen G, Suzanne and Mark. I loved it!

Before I finish up, I have something to point out to you, something you will be appreciative of, I'm sure. Did you pick it? I spared you the pain and personal discomfort of using any Latin names. Breathe easy; it won't happen again, but!

PS. A vagrant is a bird that turns up and really shouldn't be there.

Email: birdtoursbydes@gmail.com

Website: AustralianBirdTours.com.au



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

THANK YOU to Peter, Leanne and Viswanath for answering our plea for permanent 'walkers'. We hope you'll enjoy your walks each month – your willingness to join our team of volunteers is much appreciated.

THANK YOU to Ewan who has offered to be one of our 'emergency walkers' to cover times when regular volunteers aren't available.

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 Mall and at Millers Homestead? If your paper doesn't land in your mailbox – you don't have to miss out!

If you are interested in joining our volunteer crew, please contact us here at BBCN via contact@bbcن.ن.ن.

NOTICE

BBCN Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 October at 7:00 pm

We would like to invite you to come along to our AGM. You will get the opportunity to hear how the BBCN has been tracking over the past year, and get the chance to catch up with our whole team of volunteers, and hear from our special guest speaker Miriam Cadwallader, manager of The Basin Community House. A light supper will follow.

Where: The Basin Community House

RSVP: contact@bbcن.ن.ن

Tuesday, 13 October for catering purposes

Annual Reports will be uploaded onto the BBCN website prior to the meeting.

Message from Paige Kennett

Great news for Boronia and Ferntree Gully libraries, both recipients of State dollar-for-dollar funding for new study pods, announced by the Minister for Local Government who visited us at Boronia and Ferntree Gully Library. These will be a great addition to our library spaces which I look forward to seeing over the few months.

I attended The Basin Food is Free Project's AGM, where we heard about the great opportunities for our community through this group. Are you looking for a plot of space where you can grow, learn and share fruit, veg and herbs, and have a cuppa with a lovely group of people? They also offer free food to the community and share gardening knowledge to help us in our own gardens. Get in touch with them to find out more, search thebasinfoodisfree on Facebook.

I visited Knox Council's recycling processor this month to see, where does our recycling actually



go? Knox recycling equates to 12,000 tonnes per year, of which approximately 1,478 tonnes are plastics. I saw our plastics going through a recycling process, which was separating each recyclable item through the process so they can ultimately go to the next step in the process, where they get melted down, and turned into the next item. Some interesting facts – plastics can be recycled about 3 times before they reach end of life, 20% of all items that come through our recycling bins is contamination, with textiles the most common contaminant in the recycling bin.

A bonus tip for plastic bottles – give the bottle a quick rinse, squeeze the air out of the bottle and pop the lid back on and throw into the recycling bin. This is the best way for recyclers to receive your milk bottles (and other bottles).

And an issue closer to home, I was contacted by a couple of residents who asked about a NO Standing sign that had been erected on Forest Rd, where the parking had previously been unrestricted. Looking into this, and comparing with The Basin Parking Management Plan, it was found to be a mistake. The sign was removed within a day of being made aware of this. I encourage residents to get in touch with me if they see something that doesn't seem right, or they have questions. I am here to help you.



Let's talk transport

What would you like transport in Knox to look like in the future?

Whether you drive, walk, cycle, catch public transport, use a mobility aid, or a combination of these, we want to hear from you.

Your views and experiences will inform a draft Integrated Transport Strategy, a shared vision for a more connected community.



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your say

Have Your Say in
10 languages



knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Have your say by 25 October 2026



Seniors Festival

Learn new skills and meet new people at the Knox Seniors Festival returning this month. For all the activities and events on offer for our over 55s community, visit **knox.vic.gov.au/SeniorsFestival**



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The Boronia "Super" Market: Part 2

Danny Nolan

An odd failure in a time of growth.



Last issue we explored the Boronia George Saville's "supermart"; this part we ask - and try to answer - how such an innovative business opened and then just disappeared from the collective memory of the area, a time that was well documented as a crucial expansion of the suburb's main shopping strip. Let's have a look.

After the devastating train crossing accident that resulted in nine deaths and fourteen injuries, warning lights were finally installed at the crossing intersection. The intersection also had traffic islands installed, and major resurfacing of roads began. According to the Ferntree Gully & District Times, this was the catalyst for one of the major redevelopments in Boronia since the Chandler family cleared land for their flower farm 80 years earlier.

In the two years that followed the crossing accident and placement of the warning lights, 26 sites were auctioned off in the strip for future retail shops, and building started in earnest. Falconers General Store relocated and traded by 1953 next to Maguire's garage; this would have been Saville's market's major competition. The Ferntree Gully & District Times built their new offices and printing press at what is now Ballistyx. The State school, which was notorious for being overcrowded, was being relocated to a new five-hectare site 300 metres east on Rangeview Road. All this was happening during the same timeframe. Within a week of the market beginning trading, a brand new modern pharmacy opened a week later on the corner of Dorset & Boronia in a new building with other smaller shops where Falconers once traded.

By the end of the 1950s, many new shops were built, Maguires garage



independent power supply and purchase of the parking lot. He was declared bankrupt in mid-1955. In its relatively short time as an operating business, the bankruptcy meant all the chattels would need to be sold to pay back creditors or repossessed. A small time frame of operation leaves little legacy to be remembered.

As for George Saville, he did reappear and manage to apply for and receive his auctioneer licence in 1959.

The original buildings still stand there today, though they have been totally renovated and new stores built within their framework. The arcade still remains, and the original brick wall stands next to the new park where the Youth Club once stood. A brief oddity in Boronia's retail history.

References

Boronia & its Deathtrap Crossing Ray Peace KHS

Mountain District Free Press 29/5/1953, 8/6/1954, 12/8/1954

Ferntree Gully & District Times 26 /11/1953,

was demolished, and a new service station was relocated across the road, where the Commonwealth Bank is today.

Sadly, it would not seem so for the new Market, which seems to have stopped trading before the end of the 1950s. It seems Mr. Saville overextended himself with the massive investment that included all buildings, concreted pens and yards at the rear, innovative entry & egress and ventilation,

Boronia Supermarket and Auctions
Dorset Rd., Boronia
(RIGHT AT BORONIA STATION)

Here is a list of some of the articles to be sold **Unreserved on Friday**, commencing at 2 p.m.

1. 1953 Ford	2. 1953 Ford	3. 1953 Ford	4. 1953 Ford
5. 1953 Ford	6. 1953 Ford	7. 1953 Ford	8. 1953 Ford
9. 1953 Ford	10. 1953 Ford	11. 1953 Ford	12. 1953 Ford
13. 1953 Ford	14. 1953 Ford	15. 1953 Ford	16. 1953 Ford
17. 1953 Ford	18. 1953 Ford	19. 1953 Ford	20. 1953 Ford
21. 1953 Ford	22. 1953 Ford	23. 1953 Ford	24. 1953 Ford
25. 1953 Ford	26. 1953 Ford	27. 1953 Ford	28. 1953 Ford
29. 1953 Ford	30. 1953 Ford	31. 1953 Ford	32. 1953 Ford

Please Note—
CAR AUCTIONS
10 a.m. Saturday

BARGAINS FOR ALL

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

Boronia K-12 College School Fete

November 27

Stall holders wanted

Maker's Day

Saturday, 6 June, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre

1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree

Glengollan Retirement Village's Garden Club

Saturday 10th October 2026 from 9 am to 2 pm. Pot plants for sale, knitted and sewn crafts, sausage sizzle, tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Entry is via Gate 6

Lording Street, Ferntree Gully.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Insights from Advocates

Tuesday, 23 June, 9:45 am to 12:00 pm

Knox Community Arts Centre

790 Mountain Highway, Bayswater

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

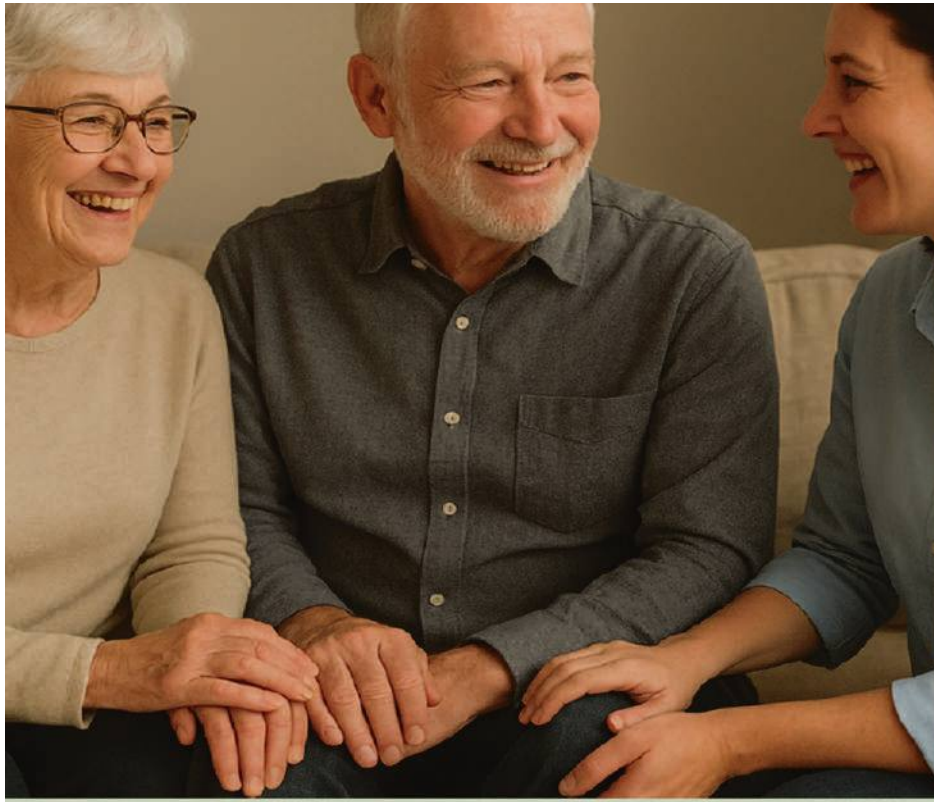
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mlh
Support at Home



67 Mount View Road, The Basin, VIC 3154
Phone: (03) 8736 2588
Email: sah@martinlutherhomes.com.au

Support at Home Program

*We take the time with you. We meet in person.
We live our slogan — we support you at home.*

Martin Luther Homes has been delivering retirement living and residential aged care services to residents of The Basin and Boronia areas since 1969. Martin Luther Homes is a not-for-profit organisation with historical connections within the Lutheran and German communities.

The new Support at Home program, delivered from Martin Luther Home premises at 67 Mount View Rd, The Basin, is continuing to move from strength to strength, continually welcoming new members to the team with a diverse range of skills and experiences in home care. The team is led by the General Manager, Cameron, who has been a registered nurse for over 30 years. Our new Care Partner, Lisa, joined the team in July and has also been a registered nurse since 1994. Our Service Coordinator, Hayley, joined the team in August and provides much-needed administrative expertise, ensuring all aspects of the service operate efficiently and effectively, and our Quality Coordinator, Teraez, ensures all aspects of service delivery meet the requirements of the Strengthened Aged Care Standards. Our direct care workers and allied health practitioners provide support to people across Eastern Melbourne, with an emphasis on supporting people in the local Boronia and Basin communities.

To complement the Support at Home Program, Martin Luther Homes also continues to provide

services to people at home through the Restorative Care program. Restorative Care is a program designed with a rehabilitative focus, and it is designed to assist people to return to optimal and safe functioning after a stay in hospital, a stint in in-patient rehabilitation, after an illness, or for those who simply need a boost. Restorative Care is a short-term program delivered over 12 to 16 weeks at home, with a package of care developed in partnership between the participant and our Care Partner, Lisa. Restorative Care engages allied health practitioners and direct care workers to deliver physiotherapy, occupational therapy and allied health programs as well as domestic assistance for everyday supports with domestic tasks.

Restorative Care is funded by the Commonwealth Government and provides excellent opportunities to recover after an acute episode. Eligibility is dependent on the outcomes of an aged care assessment, and with wait times for assessment and funding allocation potentially taking several months, now is a great time to explore the opportunity, especially with personal care attracting no participant co-payments from 1st October for both Support at Home and Restorative Care programs! This ensures personal care in these programs is affordable and accessible to participants.

If you have any questions about restorative care, contact the team at Martin Luther Homes at sah@martinlutherhomes.com.au,

Thank you, Dr Ficatas

BBCN Committee.

Every month, we post our article in the paper from the Boronia Vets. Every month we start with the same line, "Here is our very popular monthly vet piece."

This is an understatement. Ever since, some 2 years ago, these articles have been forever in the top 3 most-viewed posts on our Facebook page. It's a no-brainer why. They are engaging, informative, and well-written.

They appear in our inbox every month and are the work of someone knowledgeable and full of passion, not just for their expertise as a veterinarian but as a writer.

That person is the incredibly generous Dr Gianne Ficatas. Someone who probably could have submitted these pieces to other publications and could get paid for them.

Sadly, Gianne is leaving the Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital for exciting new career possibilities and is genuinely sad to leave.

We cannot thank Dr Gianne enough for her contributions and wish her all the greatest success in furthering her veterinary career. And, maybe, just maybe, there was a hint heard around the paper that she still may pass on the occasional article from time to time.

So thank you, Gianne. We love your work as much as you love our pets.

Meet Susan Podhorodecki

Caring for the Community Through Massage & Aromatherapy

Susan Podhorodecki is a qualified Aromatherapist and Therapeutic Massage Therapist with more than ten years of experience helping people improve their wellbeing through natural, holistic care. Her warm, compassionate approach and genuine commitment to helping others have made her a valued member of our practice.

Susan's journey into natural health began with a simple desire—to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Before pursuing her passion, she worked in office administration, payroll, sales and contract management while also raising her family. Although she enjoyed those roles, she longed for a career centred on caring for others.

The turning point came through a deeply personal family experience. One morning, Susan's mother awoke in severe pain. After various attempts to ease her discomfort failed, her granddaughter prepared a blend of essential oils and gently applied it to the affected area. To Susan's amazement, her mother experienced rapid relief. Witnessing this inspired Susan to explore the healing potential of natural therapies. Motivated by this experience, Susan undertook formal training in Aromatherapy and Therapeutic Massage. She learned that combining therapeutic-grade essential oils with skilled massage provides a holistic approach that supports both physical and emotional wellbeing.

Today, every treatment Susan provides is individually tailored to each client's needs. She believes that listening with empathy, treating people with kindness and creating a calm, welcoming environment are as important as the treatment itself.

Nothing gives Susan greater satisfaction than seeing clients leave feeling more relaxed, comfortable and refreshed. Helping people relieve pain, reduce stress, restore balance and improve their overall wellbeing is more than a career—it is her passion and the reason she loves what she does every day.

KNOX ART SHOW

knoxartshow.org.au

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November
10am to 4:30am



Churchill Waverley Golf Club
82 Bergins Road Rowville 3178

Proudly supported by



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Bayswater and Rowville - Lysterfield

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

Local experience of Fred's Big Run

Shannon Muscolino

Reflecting on the Fred Hollows Foundation's Fred's Big Run event and I wanted to share a powerful human-interest story that brings home just how life-changing the gift of sight can be.

Boronia ophthalmologist Dr Seema Mandhare has treated hundreds of patients and performed more than 500 corneal transplant surgeries, but one young girl's story has stayed with her.

The 50-year-old Boronia ophthalmologist took part in Fred's Big Run this August in support of The Fred Hollows Foundation, raising funds to help restore sight for people living with avoidable blindness around the world.

Years ago, a young girl came to Seema with severe partial blindness in both eyes. Her vision was so poor she couldn't attend school, leaving her family uncertain about what her future might look like.

Seema diagnosed her with corneal dystrophy and performed two corneal transplants, six months apart. The surgeries restored fantastic vision in both eyes, giving the girl the chance to return to school and build a life that had once seemed out of reach.

Years later, the patient returned to visit Seema. She wasn't alone. She had a husband and two young sons. For Seema, seeing the young woman she'd once treated living a happy family life was a powerful reminder that restoring sight isn't simply about helping someone see; it's about giving someone the opportunity to learn, work, build relationships and shape their own future.

"Her visit with gratitude was priceless." It is an experience that continues to shape Seema's passion for preventing avoidable blindness.

Before moving to Australia, Seema performed more than 500 corneal transplant surgeries through NGOs and witnessed first-hand the social and economic impact blindness can have on individuals and families.

She was also inspired by the work of Fred Hollows after learning more about his legacy through RANZCO and she offers a particularly timely perspective: she can speak not just as a participant of Fred's Big Run, but as an ophthalmologist who has seen exactly what restoring sight can unlock for an individual and an entire family.

Boronia Progress Hall 100 Year Anniversary

Wednesday 28 October,
2:00pm – 3:00pm
Boronia Progress Hall
134 Boronia Road, Boronia



You are invited to join us as we commemorate the 100-year anniversary of Boronia Progress Hall. The proceedings will include a brief plaque unveiling, followed by a light afternoon tea inside the hall.

Please RSVP by Monday 19 October to cwvenues@knox.vic.gov.au

Why Do My Teeth Keep Chipping?

Boronia Dental Team

Have you noticed little pieces of your teeth breaking away, rough edges appearing, or fillings that seem to keep chipping? An occasional chip can happen from biting something unexpectedly hard, but when teeth repeatedly chip or break, there may be an underlying reason.

One of the most common causes is grinding or clenching your teeth. Many people do this while sleeping without even realising it. Over time, the repeated pressure can wear down enamel, create small cracks and place extra stress on both natural teeth and existing fillings.

Teeth with large or older fillings can also become more vulnerable. As fillings get larger, there is often less natural tooth structure remaining to support the tooth. Years of everyday chewing can eventually cause a weakened section to crack or break away.

Other factors can contribute too. Tooth decay, acid erosion, trauma and regularly biting hard foods can all weaken teeth. Even seemingly harmless habits such as chewing ice, biting your nails or using your teeth to open packaging can increase the risk of damage.

Sometimes a cracked or weakened tooth doesn't cause obvious pain straight away. You might notice sensitivity to hot or cold, discomfort when biting, a new rough edge that your tongue keeps finding, or simply feel that something isn't quite right.

The good news is that identifying the problem early can often mean a much simpler treatment. Depending on the tooth and the reason it is chipping, treatment may involve a small restoration, replacing an old filling, strengthening and protecting the tooth, or addressing grinding and clenching.

If a tooth keeps chipping, don't just keep putting off fixing the chip - it's worth finding out why.



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Mayor's Message

Cr Paige Kennett

Serving as your Mayor over the past year has been a genuine privilege. Throughout my term, I have focused on strengthening advocacy for Knox and championing key priorities by engaging directly with state and federal representatives on issues including transport, waste and recycling, and community infrastructure.

Speaking up for Knox this election

One of the most important responsibilities of the Mayor is ensuring the voices of Knox residents are heard by those making decisions that affect our community. With the state election approaching in November, Council is calling on all parties and candidates to commit to a number of high-priority projects for Knox.

Over recent months, I have met with local MPs and election candidates to advocate for the funding and investment our community needs. Council is committed to ensuring that our residents, businesses and community groups have a strong voice and receive their fair share of government support.

Through our election advocacy campaign, Council has identified five key areas where we are seeking greater investment from other levels of government. These priorities include roads and public transport, community services such as libraries, sports infrastructure, housing affordability and food security, and crime prevention and community safety.

You can learn more about Council's priorities and our broader advocacy work by visiting the



Advocacy page on our website at knox.vic.gov.au.

Community safety

Community safety continues to be a priority for many residents and for Council. Our residents have shared the importance of being safe and feeling safe in the community.

We want to see more police officers and Protective Services Officers, extended police station operating hours and patrols, alongside community policing and proactive initiatives to help our residents feel safe.

Council is inviting our residents and visitors to have a Cuppa with a Cop at Stud Park

Shopping Centre on Thursday 5 November from 11 am-1 pm.

This informal session offers the chance to chat with local police officers over a cup of tea or coffee, ask questions, or raise any community concerns in a friendly, relaxed environment. There is no set agenda — just open conversation.

This initiative is supported in our Council and Health and Wellbeing Plan, under Theme 4 of Being a strong voice for safety.

As I reflect on the past year, my hope for Knox is simple: that we continue to be a welcoming, connected community where people love where they live and are proud to call Knox home.



The Internet

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7 Alpine Street, Ferntree Gully www.laundrette.com.au
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Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn

Finding My Way Part 2

I knew 1974 was going to be different, but I had no idea how different it would turn out to be.

When school began, I was no longer the assistant at Ellinbank. Roy, who was my boss in 1973, transferred to another school, and as I was more senior than his replacement, I automatically became headmaster. But I was far from happy about it. Just as I was gaining confidence and experience with the Preps, Ones and Twos, I was catapulted into the Upper School and had to take on all the other responsibilities that came with the position, such as the cleaning, the purchasing, the accounts, the meetings, etc. It was overwhelming and it felt like Hallston all over again. And again, I struggled in the classroom; I was no disciplinarian. Some of the boys were getting out of control, and when I told my housemate Al, he suggested I borrow his strap. I can't recall the actual reason for administering the punishment, but I must have been desperate. It only happened once, and I regretted it.

Outside of school though, things were looking up. Mick moved out of Rat Castle and Al found us a house in Strzelecki, on the Korumburra Road. It was a big improvement on the shack in Ellinbank. It was furnished and more spacious with a proper kitchen, a wood-fired heater and hot water, and the rent was reasonable. While it was closer to Al's school at Ferndale, I didn't mind the fifteen-minute drive down the hill. The country reminded me so much of Hallston with its rolling green hills and winter mists.

The biggest change, however, was in my social life. I had joined Rotaract, through which I met some other teachers and a bunch of young



agricultural scientists who worked at the Ellinbank research farm. One of them, Geoff, had a girlfriend Ingrid, also a teacher who I'd met in 1972 when I was at Hallston. I bumped into her in the supermarket, and she invited me to a party at the house she shared with her friend who taught at Warragul.

And that's how I met Judy, my wife of over fifty years. We started just hanging around with the same crowd, but I eventually screwed up the courage to ask her out and it went on from there. We had much in common: we were both young teachers living away from home; her mum was Scottish as was my dad and we were both fans of comedy, especially Monty Python and Spike Milligan. And it was the first serious relationship for both of us, so it was exciting.

As I had to pass Ing and Jude's house on the way to and from Warragul I began to spend more time there. Invariably Geoff would be there too and, as chance would have it, he also played

guitar. So not only had I found a partner I also found someone I could jam with. Often the two ladies would go to bed and leave us to it. We laugh about it now but there must have been times when Jude questioned my reason for visiting.

While my guitar playing was improving, I didn't have the confidence to play for my students. When you are struggling to keep control of a class the last thing you want to do is make yourself even more vulnerable by singing to them. School was work and stressful while music was my sanctuary, so I kept the two separate. I left Ellinbank at the end of the year and we married at the start of the holidays. After all the changes of '74, 1975 would prove to be even more momentous. *To be continued...*

PS. It is with much sadness that I share news of the passing of a dear friend, Athalie Brooks. We met in 1978 at Toorak Teachers College, when training to be music teachers. She joined The Paradiddle Band in 1979 to call bush dances and play bass, and we remained friends. We began playing music together again in 2018 when we joined Croydon U3A's Musical Jam. She died on August 27th after a brief illness.

STORIES BEHIND THE STORES

Miriam Major, Owner/Manager Curves Boronia Mall

I first joined Curves in my 20s after becoming disillusioned with traditional gyms. I wanted somewhere I could exercise without feeling judged, intimidated, or pressured to be perfect.

At Curves, I found exactly that: a safe, supportive, women-only environment where I could focus on feeling stronger and healthier at my own pace. After many years as a member, circuit coach and manager, taking over Curves Boronia in 2023 felt like a natural next step. At Curves Boronia, we believe in celebrating and caring for the bodies we've been blessed with. We are more than just a Gym.

One of the things I love most about Curves Boronia is the community we've built together. Our members range from their 20s through to their 90s, and while everyone comes through our doors for different reasons, we share a genuine sense of connection and support. We celebrate achievements and milestones together, laugh together, cry together and, at times, support one another through grief and difficult days.

My hope is that every member leaves feeling a little stronger, a little happier and a little more supported, even on the days when life feels tough. We're not just here to work out. We're here to lift each other up.

Giving Back to Our Community

At Curves Boronia, we proudly support causes that matter to our members and our community. From our annual National Breast Cancer Foundation silent auction to supporting Share the Dignity, Foothills community care, Liptember, the Olivia



Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre and other local charities, we're committed to making a positive difference beyond the walls of our club, and you're invited

If you've ever felt uncomfortable or out of place in a traditional gym, we'd love to welcome you to Curves Boronia. Our 30-minute workout combines hydraulic resistance machines with cardio and strength exercises to provide a personalised workout that can be adapted to your individual fitness level. Our friendly circuit coaches are there every step of the way to guide, encourage and motivate you.

Whether you're just starting out, returning to exercise or looking to maintain your strength and mobility, you'll be supported in a welcoming, pressure-free environment.

Come in and try a free workout and experience our supportive, women-only environment for yourself. If Curves feels like the right fit for you, we'll be here to support you every step of the way on your fitness journey. You'll find movement, mobility, friendship and community here.

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ZONESubmit YWI
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\$50 Prize

Annika, Year 4 from The Basin Primary School receiving her August Young Writers Award for her story *Kindness is my Superpower.*



BBCN Young Writers Initiative

October winner:

Tale of the Teleporting Porta Potty

By Heath, Year 4, The Basin Primary School

One dark and stormy night, actually no, it wasn't dark, or stormy, in fact, it was a normal Tuesday in the day!

Anyway, me (Heath) and Dre (my friend) were sitting on a bench when all of a sudden we needed to go to the toilet. So we started heading to the porta potty (yes they were doing works on the toilets). Dre was in the porta potty for a pretty long time so I decided to see if Dre was okay in there. Knock knock!

"You all good in there Dre?!" I say, but he didn't answer.

The door swung open. WHOOSH! There was no one in there. It was really odd so I went in to investigate. I got sucked in! The door SLAMMED shut! I got stretched out like a piece of spaghetti with arms and legs! I was swirling around like a stretched out piece of spaghetti with arms and legs inside of a blender that isn't sharp! Then I started getting smaller and smaller and smaller! Then I started getting bigger and bigger and bigger! Then I started getting back to normal. In the blink of an eye, I was back in the porta potty.

"Few!" I thought it was all just a daydream. But then I remembered Dre was not in the porta potty. I was really puzzled. I opened the door but there was no school.

It was a LUXURY SOCCER PITCH!

"Hi Heath!" yelled Dre. there tons and tons of soccer balls worth millions EACH! It looked SO fun so I decided to join in. We were playing for hours not even thinking about the fact that school would probably be over by now. That was when Dre said

"Hang on, wouldn't school be over by now"

"Oh yeeaaahh," I said slowly as we both didn't think and ran as fast as we could to the porta potty.

"WAIT"! Yelled someone behind us. It was Thomas.

"You got any sandwiches!" he yelled.

"No sorry!" I yelled back.

"But I'm hungry!" he said.

"Just come with us!" I said back.

We all got back in the porta potty and got teleported back to school. We all thought school would be over by now, but lucky for us, time stops when we go in the porta potty! So we went on with our day and planned to do the same tomorrow!

GREAT News:

Bendigo Bank have approved a fourth year of financially supporting the BBCN Young Writers Initiative, providing another \$2000 for schools and students.

Enjoy the YWI stories!



TO BE CONTINUED...

KIDS
ZONE

Sleep school - How can it help?

Joy Shelley

In recent years I have heard a lot about parents going to sleep school to help their baby sleep. These parents have tried everything they can think of with little success and are so tired they can't work out what to do next. I wondered what sleep school could do that they couldn't and how well it worked. I reached out to three young mothers our family knew and asked them to tell me about their experiences, including why and where they went and the methods that the sleep school used to help get their child to sleep well.

Claire - Our daughter was 9 weeks old.

She had colic and would not sleep horizontally because her reflux would wake her and keep her unsettled. The poor thing was in constant pain and we had to hold her upright all night.

We wanted to try sleep school because we weren't getting any sleep and were too tired to work out how to get her to sleep.

Our obstetrician actually recommended it. We went to Mitcham Private Hospital - Early Parenting Centre for 5 nights and got 24/7 support which was covered by our private health insurance. It was about learning our babies sleep cues and age appropriate wake windows based on scientific research. They explained her wake windows to us and we started a sleep routine involving books, cuddles, singing and bath time. We learnt that she liked to be rocked and movement was a big settle technique we could use. We also had a doctor come and check out her colic symptoms. They suggested that we increase the time between feeds, thinking she might have lactose overload from feeding on demand (something every new mum is told to do). Her colic symptoms pretty much disappeared by the end of sleep school. For us, sleep school was 100% worth it. We learnt so much which helped us for future regressions and difficult nights. It gave us more tools and techniques for us to use when others stopped working. We now have a very good sleeper at 2 years old and believe it comes down to setting up a good bedtime routine and being consistent with it.



Molly - Our son was 7 months old.

He was skipping naps, screaming when entering his bedroom and waking every hour at night. A Maternal Child Health Nurse saw his behaviour and suggested we try a day stay at the Ringwood Maternal Child Health centre. It was a free service. The method they used was called responsive settling, hands on settling. We learned that the right time for bed for him is when he gets clumsy and starts wanting his dummy. Rubbing eyes and yawning is too late (apparently that's for newborns and as they get older they have other signs first). Using a good sleep routine and a darkened room, we were able to put him into the cot awake and use patting techniques to settle him. If he cried, to use more patting, shushing or singing to calm him. If he continued to get upset and I wanted to pick him up I was to try taking

10 deep breaths, as he usually calmed by the end of this. If not, cuddle until calm and start again. I'm surprised how much better he's sleeping so quickly. It is hard not to pick him up when he is fussing or crying, but he's been so much happier and his sleep is improving, so that's what's motivating me.

I was so tired I didn't have the capacity to try something new and not know if it would help, it gave me the guidance I needed.

Cait - Our son was 8 months old.

He was waking 6-8 times a night and was often difficult to settle, so we were exhausted. He was a bad sleeper from birth and we got to a point where it was no longer manageable! I knew about sleep school from family friends who spoke very highly of Mitcham Private in particular, as they had an excellent experience. We stayed there for 5 nights. As he was 8 months old we did leave him to cry for short periods of time. We went in regularly to settle him using strategies that the nurses taught us such as shushing, patting, and verbal cues like "time for sleep". The staff were wonderfully supportive and the strategies were guided by what we were comfortable with. The nurses also helped us with reducing his feeds

(because he was so unsettled I was breastfeeding him all the time) and also with a daily routine. Unfortunately he caught a cold the day we left sleep school, which made it difficult to implement what we had learnt when we got home. We ended up going back for another 5 nights when he was 10 months old. Since then he has slept really well, and we felt much more confident in managing any sleep "ups and downs" too. **Going to sleep school also gave me an opportunity to rest.** Once he was sleeping better the wellbeing of our whole family improved.

Whilst these are three different stories they have many similarities. The good news is that there is help out there for parents who need some guidance on how to help their little ones and the whole family sleep better.

Basketball Wordsearch

K	E	L	C	L	U	R	B	P	L	K	R	P	L
H	S	L	B	I	R	R	L	A	P	D	R	A	L
L	T	L	U	T	A	E	E	A	L	E	U	S	D
U	A	P	F	N	B	W	B	Y	Y	L	C	S	A
B	C	S	F	N	C	R	D	O	A	U	D	A	L
A	D	E	A	L	O	I	A	C	U	L	P	A	O
C	L	C	L	M	U	M	O	I	P	N	P	K	P
H	I	N	O	C	R	O	F	E	R	L	D	L	O
A	W	P	E	A	T	O	F	L	B	T	B	F	I
M	H	L	S	F	C	P	E	O	A	U	S	H	N
P	O	D	U	C	E	H	B	O	E	D	F	B	T
I	O	E	O	O	R	O	B	C	R	P	S	U	S
O	P	N	T	U	D	R	I	B	B	L	E	H	S
N	S	O	A	B	D	R	A	O	B	K	C	A	B

PLAYER
CHAMPION
BUFFALOES
PASS
BACKBOARD
HOOP
LAYUP
DRIBBLE
FOUL
POINTS
COACH
BALL
REF
REBOUND
COURT
WILDCATS



Activity from Alicia Geddes

Here is a basketball wordsearch, because basketball is so popular in our area. A few fun facts found on Wikapaedia: - Basketball was invented in 1891 by a gym teacher - the first hoop was a peach basket attached to a wall

The two most common shots are the set shot and the jump shot. Before shooting, the player crouches, which increases the power of the shot.

KIDS
ZONE

KIDS
ZONE

I'M HERE TO HELP!

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

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

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keep up
to date



Get in touch

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 🌐 www.marydoyle.com.au
 📱 @marydoylemp

Mary Doyle MP Federal Member for Aston

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

Vale Local Hero, George Hetrel

Danny Nolan

On August 24th, local identity & philanthropist George Hetrel passed away at home.

George and his wife Pat were famous for their generosity and love of The Basin area.

Not only supporting many local services and clubs, but they also opened up their own home to help the community.

I fondly remember the kids getting excited about the Spring & Autumn Open Days at their property, Como. I still reckon it was the best value-for-money fun day. George's barn-like garage held his collection of classic cars and a replica of The Basin Garage complete with a treasure trove of old garage memorabilia from spark plugs to oil cans and containers. This all showcased George's passion for classic cars and his love of driving them. The kids loved the chooks out the back and the lake that hosted the radio-controlled boat club. I still get a giggle when I remember the Titanic and the remote-controlled iceberg chasing it about. Pat would have the Orchid Club displaying their wares, and the Devonshire teas and sausage sizzle were the perfect day-out foods. The gardens were a treat; I especially loved the walk along the back of the property that followed the creek, complete with a hobbit hole and statues randomly placed. I was



honoured when I offered my own backyard hobbit hole to the Hestrels, and they accepted, even picked up and placed it in a beautiful shaded area where little kids could play around, which at the time we didn't realise would be the very last Como day.

My wife loved the botanical garden and the open lawns, with the whimsical bridges that crossed the creek. And we could never forget the miniature railway that, for a gold coin donation, took us through the beautifully maintained gardens and excited the kids so much. I had as much fun checking out all the old stuff that made up the station and its kiosk. Knowing how much these days raised for the local SES, CFA & St. John Ambulance made the whole day even more rewarding.

George and Pat were generous to the extreme. No other act clarifies this than the one-million-dollar donation in 2018 for upgraded facilities at Batterham Reserve.

The Hetrel name will be long remembered alongside other The Basin luminaries such as Chandler, Griffiths and Maguire as great contributors to the community and generosity of spirit.

A funeral service was held on Friday, 4 September, at The Basin Football Club at Batterham Reserve, an organisation Mr. Hetrel loved and supported for many years.

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Looking for a friendly, welcoming club where you can enjoy lawn bowls, meet new people and have some fun?



Boronia Bowls Club welcomes bowlers of all ages and abilities – from those completely new to the sport through to experienced players looking for a great local club.

Located at 5 Marie Street, Boronia, our club offers quality grass greens and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Whether you are interested in competitive bowls, social bowls or simply want to give lawn bowls a try, you will find a warm welcome at Boronia Bowls Club.

Lawn bowls is a great way to stay active, enjoy the outdoors and make new friends. No previous experience is necessary, and new bowlers are encouraged to come along and discover what the club has to offer.

Come and see our facilities, meet our members and find out why Boronia Bowls Club could be the right club for you.

For more information or to arrange a visit:

Phone: 9761 1996 (please leave a message if unattended)

COMMUNITY BANK FERNTREE GULLY

**\$33,000 Investment Boosts
11 Scout Groups Across Knox**

Community Bank Ferntree Gully has announced a major investment in youth development, donating \$33,000 to 11 Scout Groups across Knox to help ease financial pressure on families and volunteer-run programs.

Scouting gives young people the chance to try new things - from camping and canoeing to STEM activities, leadership challenges and community service. But behind every adventure is a volunteer-run hall that needs maintaining, equipment that needs replacing and families who work hard to keep costs down.

Unlike many sporting clubs, Scout Groups don't have bars or canteens to raise funds. They rely on parents, volunteers and weekend fundraising - often collecting 10c cans and bottles to keep their halls and programs running.

Each Scout Group will receive a \$3,000 donation, which equals 30,000 cans and bottles they would need to collect. The total \$33,000 investment equates to 330,000 cans and bottles.

Scout Group recipients:

1st Boronia, 1st Rowville, 1st The Basin, 1st Ferntree Gully, 1st Wantirna, 1st Knoxfield, 2nd/3rd Bayswater, 2nd Wantirna, 4th Knox, 8th Knox and Heany Park.

Community Bank Ferntree Gully Chair, Etienne Clauw, said supporting Scouts is an investment in the future of Knox.

"Scouting gives young people skills for life - teamwork, resilience, leadership and a sense of adventure. We recognised that families and volunteer groups are under enormous financial strain, especially with rising cost-of-living pressures. This support helps keep Scouting accessible and well-equipped, whether it's fixing a hall, replacing gear or backing the volunteers who make these programs possible."

The investment will assist local groups with hall maintenance, equipment upgrades, volunteer resources and program costs, ensuring young people across Knox can continue enjoying safe, fun and challenging Scouting experiences.

For 25 years, Community Bank Ferntree Gully has reinvested its profits back into the community, contributing more than \$6 million to local organisations, clubs and programs.



Boronia Bowls Club

**5 Marie St.,
Boronia**

TWILIGHT BOWLS IS BACK AGAIN FOR 2026/27

**Bring the family and friends down to one of our Twilight Bowls sessions
Held every Friday night from 6-9pm from October 2026 to April 2027
All equipment and coaching supplied - full bar, sausage sizzle and dim sims available
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Twilight Bowls

Boronia Bowls Club - 4 Marie St, Boronia

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Jackson Taylor MP Bayswater
Mary Doyle Federal MP Aston

No fees for new bowlers for the first year - Call Membership on 03 9761 1996



Jackson Taylor MP

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Introducing Julie Buxton - Jackson Taylor MP

As many readers will know, I've made the decision not to recontest the seat of Bayswater at this year's election, bringing my time as the local Member to an end after almost eight years. I'll have a little more to say about that in the next edition before I fade off into the sunset, but before then I wanted to introduce Julie Buxton, who is Labor's Candidate for the Seat of Bayswater.

I've known Julie for many years. In fact, she was one of the first people to work alongside me when I became the local Member, so she got to know Boronia, The Basin and the broader Knox community very early on. I've seen firsthand how she works with people and the genuine interest she takes in what matters to them.

Julie has lived in Melbourne's eastern suburbs all her life and is raising her family here. She is married, a mum of two boys and a small business owner. She has also previously worked supporting communities recovering from disasters and has continued working in roles focused on helping people and dealing with government.

Over the last few months, Julie has been out door-knocking, visiting shopping centres and talking directly with local residents. She knows people are frustrated about a range of issues, and she also knows the most important thing you can do as a local representative is listen.

She has already been involved in local advocacy, including helping secure funding to continue the Boronia Breakfast Program for another year and funding for improved lighting at Tormore Reserve, where we recently opened the new pavilion. There will be more to say in the weeks ahead about local commitments and priorities, and of course plenty more work to do across Boronia, The Basin and our broader community.

Having known Julie personally and worked with her over many years, I know her as a genuine, hardworking person with strong connections to our community. I'm proud to call her a friend, and I know that, if given the great honour and privilege of serving as our local State Member, she would approach the role with enormous commitment to our community.

2026 is a BIG year! Coonara has been in operation for 50 years!

This year, we are hosting 'Coonara's 50th Anniversary Community Festival' celebrating five decades of history, community connection, learning and support.

The event will be an inclusive, family-friendly festival featuring a history exhibition, market stalls, live music, children's craft and activities, multicultural food, an animal petting farm, a magician, face painting and a bubble artist!

From early beginnings as a Community School, the Community House has grown to become a welcoming place where people of all ages and backgrounds can learn new skills, build friendships, and access valuable community programs and services. This milestone celebration recognises the countless staff, volunteers, participants, partners, and supporters whose contributions have made the Community House a vibrant part of our local community.

The history exhibition will showcase 50 wonderful years and will include photographs, stories, memorabilia and achievements. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the rich history of the house, reflect on its impact across our community, and talk with past staff and volunteers who have helped build its legacy.



Mandy Limb – Event Coordinator said, "We have had an overwhelming response to our Festival plans from residents and past and present members of the Coonara looking forward to taking a walk down memory lane. The Community Bank in Ferntree Gully is also getting behind us and sponsoring the activities for the day. We really appreciate the support and can't wait to celebrate with everyone!"

When: Saturday 7th of November

Time: 12 - 5 pm

Where: 22 Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully

Entry per person: Gold coin donation

If you can't wait until the 7th of November, Halloween at Coonara is back by popular demand!

Register your interest:



We welcome our community to trick or treat their way past Coonara Community House, 22 Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully on Saturday 31st October from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm. We will be giving away 100's of lollies, and you can stay for dinner in our beautiful gardens!

Artificial Intelligence - The New Digital Divide

Debra Wickens

For years, we have talked about the digital divide as though the answer was access - get people connected, give them a device, help them get online. But technology has moved on, and the digital divide with it. The new digital divide isn't access to technology - it's confidence using it, and artificial intelligence is about to make that divide much more obvious.

Across our communities, older adults are being encouraged to bank online, make medical appointments online, access government services online, scan QR codes, download apps and navigate increasingly digital systems. Now AI is rapidly becoming part of that world. Yet how much practical AI education are we providing the very people who may feel least confident asking for it? We often confuse lack of confidence with lack of capability. The generations we are talking about have lived through extraordinary technological change.

They went from operator-assisted telephone calls to smartphones and video calls. From posted letters to email and instant messaging. From bank tellers to internet banking. From black-and-white television to streaming services. Many had an analogue childhood and have spent their entire adulthood adapting to a digital world.

AI is not the first enormous change they have faced. And it certainly is one they are capable of conquering. But there is a problem. When people feel intimidated by technology, they often don't seek education. They quietly opt out.

They ask a son, daughter or grandchild to do it. They worry about pressing the wrong button. They don't ask the question because they think everyone else already knows the answer. And when that happens often enough, lack of confidence can start looking like lack of interest. It isn't necessarily the same thing.

That matters when organisations are deciding what programs and activities to offer older adults. There will always be a valuable place for social activities, exercise, craft, entertainment and traditional community programs, but in 2026, surely digital confidence deserves a seat at that table too. If AI is going to influence how we communicate, work, access information, identify scams, manage our affairs and interact with businesses and government, then understanding AI isn't simply a technology hobby. It is a life skill.

We also need to stop deciding on behalf of older adults that AI will be too difficult for them. That assumption is not protection. It can become exclusion. Nobody needs to become an AI expert. They need somewhere safe to start. What is AI? Where am I already encountering it? What can

it actually do for me? What can't it do? How do I use it safely? How do I recognise when it gets something wrong? And perhaps most importantly: Can I have a go without feeling foolish? Because confidence changes everything.

A person who feels confident enough to experiment starts asking questions. Questions create understanding. Understanding creates choice. And choice is what genuine digital inclusion should ultimately be about.

This is not an argument that everybody must use AI, quite the opposite. People have every right to decide that they don't want it. But "I choose not to use AI" is very different from "I don't understand it, I'm frightened of it, and nobody ever gave me the opportunity to learn."

Our seniors must be encouraged. Don't underestimate them. Don't patronise them, and don't wait for people who lack digital confidence to become confident enough to demand and advocate for AI digital education. Invite them in. Give them the opportunity. Make learning approachable and supportive. Let them ask the basic questions. Then let them decide for themselves. Because the next digital divide won't necessarily separate those who have technology from those who don't. It may separate those who were given the opportunity and confidence to participate from those who weren't.

And that is a divide we still have time to prevent.

Debra Wickens is the founder of AI Confidence Sessions (AICS), a Yarra Ranges-based business providing practical, friendly and non-technical AI education.

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The Wattles that Bloom in the Spring

It's wattle time all over the country, with September 1st officially named Wattle Day. In the bush, along roadsides, in remnant vegetation and revegetated plots, wattles are heralding the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

The Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata* is one of the first to burst out with bright yellow balls that brighten any dull winter day. The Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*, Australia's floral emblem, flowering with golden, perfumed balls is another early bloomer. These both bloom from July to October.

These are followed by the Hedge Wattle *Acacia paradoxa*, which has masses of golden yellow



balls and plenty of spiky foliage, and it's in flower between August and November.

The Myrtle Wattle *Acacia myrtifolia* is another plant in

flower from late August. This is a medium-sized shrub of 1 to 3 metres and an ideal plant for the mid-storey in the garden; it flowers profusely with creamy yellow flowerheads and is happy in most soils and most positions from full sun to full shade. Useful in a garden as a fast-growing shrub, it provides a quick screen as well as fast colour.

In your garden, you can have wattles in flower from late winter to well into spring, with the Black Wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*, producing creamy, perfumed balls in October.



And all these wattles are locally indigenous and most are available right now at Knox Environment Society's Nursery. Pop in soon to select the right wattle for your garden. Or visit the Nursery for our Spring Festival.

Spring Festival, Saturday 10th October, 9.30 am-3 pm

Knox Environment Society is planning a day of garden advice and presentations, with community groups, live music, kids' activities and plenty of plants for sale.

The Knox Repair Café, Knox Community Gardens, Australian Plant Society, Gardens for Wildlife and Friends Groups of Knox will all be present.

Presentations are free, but bookings are required through Sticky Tickets.



Talks during the day are:

10.00 am: Simone Schenkel - 'Passive House Design'

Whether you're planning a new build, a renovation, or simply want a healthier, more comfortable home, you'll leave with practical insights you can use.

11.30 am: Peter Lind - 'Aquatic Ecology'

Peter will demonstrate why protecting and restoring streamside vegetation is one of the most effective ways to support healthy and resilient waterways.

1.00 pm: Robyn Madsen - 'Soils and Water'

Robyn will talk about the natural background conditions such as soil, topography, climate and rainfall that impact plant growth and the presence of various vegetation classes.

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

For more information, please visit our website www.kes.org.au/home/events or to book in for any of the talks at www.kes.org.au/home/presentations.

SPRING, You are Welcome!

Dayangani Silva

Hot and cold, warmth and rains

You all need them for existence

Nature's gifts, I bring you

I'm Spring, came to see you

Cold nights, sunny days, work and sleep

Breath fresh air, play on the beach.

Spend time with heartiest friends

Happiness, health refresh you

Morning sun peeps over the hills

Like a silver veil

When Flowers bloom, sun beams spread everywhere the ground

Dew drops shine on green meadows

Birds make sweet tones

Skeleton trees covered with birds, creating a fantasy scenes

Evening sky painted like a part of a blue heaven

Soft clouds float all over the sky like a painted scene

The sun gets late to return home, to see the beauty of spring

Spring creates gorgeous scenes, until summer comes

Spring makes the land nice creating gorgeous scenes



EXCITING NEW PROGRAM - Kids' Church is starting on Sunday 11th October @ 5 pm. Aimed at children under High School age - BUT everyone will be made very welcome.

Contact Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

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, will be preaching at our church (209 Boronia Road, Boronia) on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. **EVERYONE IS MADE WELCOME.**

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

EVERYONE can be assured of non-judgmental and friendly support.

OUR NEXT MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET is on Saturday, 7th November from 10 am - 2 pm. Enquiries or to book a stall: contact 0421 769 067 or irenesmith2@bigpond.com

MUSICPLAY4KIDS - A FUN GROUP FOR UNDER-SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND THEIR CARERS...is held each Friday from 9.30 am during school terms. The 45-minute session is led by a trained Music Therapist, followed by a BYO morning tea. Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

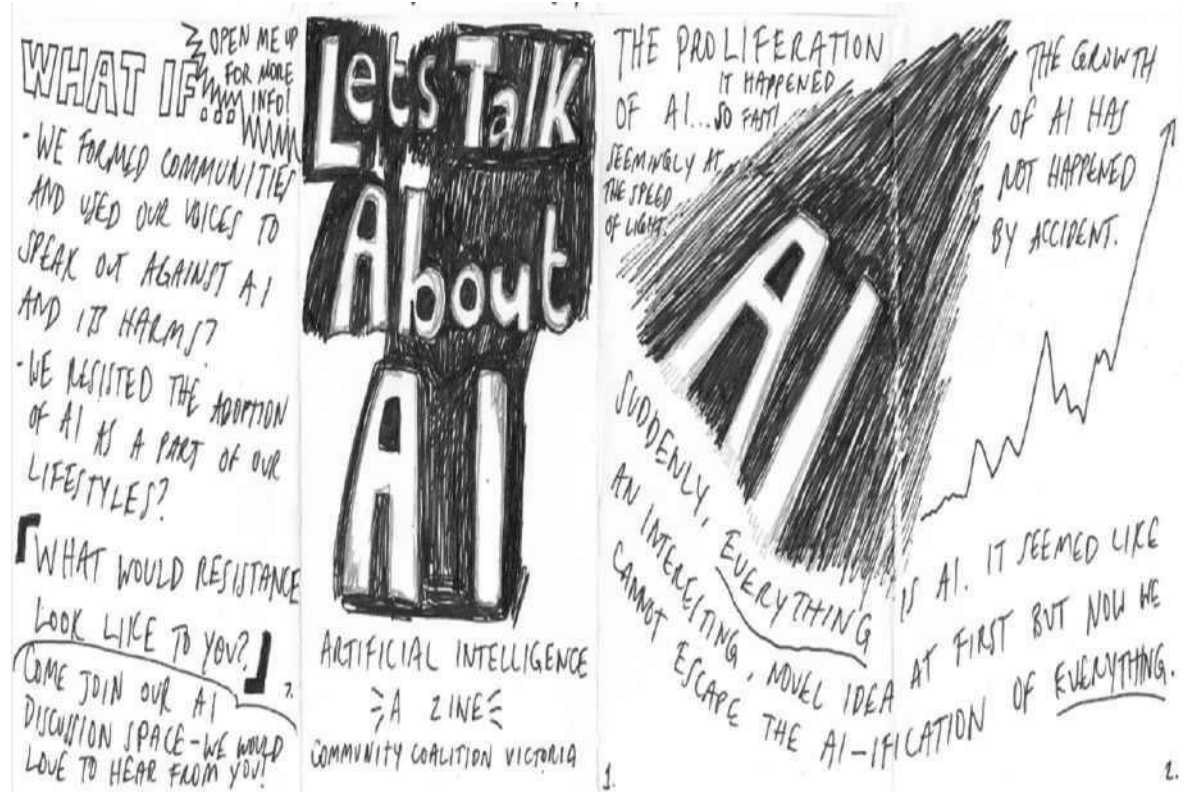
OUR CRAFT GROUP MEETS EACH FRIDAY... from 11.30 am at the church.

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.

Boronia VIEW (Voice, Education and interests of Women)

We will be meeting Friday 16 October at 11.30am at Eastwood golf Club Liverpool rd, Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch costing \$30 followed by Anne Wysham speaking about Poems and Stories. There will be a raffle, book stall and trading table with all monies raised going to The Smith Family children that the club sponsors through The Learning For Life Program. The club sponsors 10 children and the money goes towards their educational needs. The Club is looking for new members so ladies of all ages and backgrounds come along and you will be warmly welcomed. There are small groups within the club and the occasional outing. Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602

Conversations on Artificial Intelligence
Lincoln's Bookshop, October 10 12 - 3 PM



Lincoln's Bookshop in the Boronia Mall has been facilitating a community conversation on-line about the importance and impacts of AI. On October 10, this conversation is being brought into the bookshop as a physical interaction between interested parties.

You are invited to join this free event.

It is hoped that this is the beginning of the conversation, not the conclusion! It is more an exploration of what our local community members think and feel about Artificial Intelligence and give us a collective assessment of the pro's and con's for us all.



Wednesdays

11am - 12pm

Free service

Justice of the Peace services are now available to certify and witness documents at Bayswater Library on Wednesdays, 11am-12pm.

Here we are in October already.

Where has the year gone?

As you already know, October is Seniors Month in Victoria.

Because of this dedicated month, many councils and community groups (such as LAC Knox) create and run special events that are free or low-cost for seniors.

LAC Knox has 2 events organised during October.

The first event is a Fashion Parade on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 1pm at our hall (160 Underwood Rd, Ferntree Gully). \$15.00 is payable at the door.

The fashion house "U and I Designs" will be displaying their range of new season designs for purchase. Members of LAC Knox will be modelling the outfits.

A light afternoon tea will be provided at the conclusion of the event.

Our second seniors' event will be held on Tuesday 20/10/2026 at 1pm at Marie Wallace Reserve in Bayswater. This venue is across the road from Bayswater Senior Citizens Hall (where Knox Council is providing a seniors cooking class until 12.30pm). This event is a "Ground Golf Come-and-try day".



Ground golf is a game created in Japan specifically for seniors. It is played with a double-sided club and a light bocce-sized ball. The ball is hit towards a cage at various distances from the tee. Eight cages make up a ground golf course. It is like mini golf but played over longer distances.

Come along to Marie Wallace Reserve to join in the fun.

Book by text to 0423 626 639 prior to Monday 12/10/2026. There is no cost to participate. A light afternoon tea will be provided after the event.

Life Activities Club Knox have 24 other activities that are regularly on at the club hall and at outside venues and locations. These include cards, dining out, sport, social activities, travel, garden visits and walking groups.

For further information about any of these events or activities, please contact Lorraine on 0438 068 334. We have a 3-activity "try before you buy" process to allow you to find your favourite activities.

We look forward to welcoming you to any activities.



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Local Community and Club News

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 - 643 Mountain Hwy., Bayswater)

- 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 for women in their motherhood journey. We are about authentic conversations, encouragement, connection, morning tea and fun! All mums welcome.

Coffee Pot Play Cafe (Bayswater campus - 643 Mountain Hwy., Bayswater)

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

A free-entry café with an internal and external play area. Great for carers

to bring young children for a play, while you enjoy coffee and food from our menu.

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

We provide a free, 2-course sit-down meal every Friday at 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.

Safe Water September 9 people from our church drank water only during September – no soft drink, juice or coffee – and we raised nearly \$2,000 for the installation of clean water supplies in villages in Zimbabwe. What an effort to give people something (clean water) that we take for granted!

The Orchard Op Shop (Shop 51, Mountain Gate Shopping Centre) is celebrating its first birthday in August. Come and grab some birthday specials in August.

For more information on The Orchard please email:
connect@orchardchurch.org.au

THE FERNTREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY

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

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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.

A visit to the Mulgrave Country Club during August proved to be a great success. Members enjoyed the Morning Melodies and then stayed on for lunch. Photo depicts some of our "dancing queens" in action.



Our next special event will be a Cup Day Luncheon at The Boronia Hotel. Festivities will include sweeps, door prizes and, of course, there will be a "Best-Dressed" competition.

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.



Spring is in the air

Is your home ready?

Spring is one of the most anticipated times of the year for property.

The days are longer, gardens are looking their best and buyers are actively looking for their next home. For sellers, it can be the perfect time to make your move. But achieving an exceptional result doesn't happen by simply putting a FOR SALE sign out the front. It starts long before your home hits the market.

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