Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2026 Issue 360

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Delivering to Boronia, The Basin and surrounding areas

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST NATIONS LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE



Boronia Station Upgrade Opens

Cover Story, page 5. Historical article, page 15.

Image credit: Thomas Broadbent



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Editorial: Irene Smith
A DIFFICULT SUBJECT

Do you know someone who is terminally ill - or do you know someone who may be caring for them? Perhaps it's a family member, friend or neighbour, or maybe you find yourself in this situation?

Eastern Palliative Care (EPC) is a non-for-profit organisation where trained volunteers can step in to help at this terribly difficult time.

How can these Community volunteers help? Perhaps the sick person 'just needs a break' from their loved one 'checking' every half hour whether they've taken the correct medication, had enough to drink, to eat, moved their bowels!! Maybe it's the other way round – perhaps the carer is tired and needs to have some 'time out' before he or she 'snaps' or says something later regretted. So, the volunteer spends a couple of hours a week sitting with the person who is ill – while the carer gets to have some 'me time'... maybe playing a game of bowls, having a haircut, catching up with a friend for coffee...

This can be a special time with the Community volunteer and the person who is ill – a time of telling stories or hearing stories – a time when illness doesn't need to be mentioned at all. The volunteer is not emotionally involved and so is a 'breath of fresh air'.

Every situation is different – and every volunteer brings something different to each family. If there is a dog in the family which can no longer be given a regular walk – EPC has a team of 'volunteer Dog Walkers'! If the sick person would like to have a biography of their life written – EPC have a team of volunteer biographers.

And for the carers, after the person they have been caring for has died, there is a team of Bereavement Support volunteers who will visit and support you.

You can be connected to EPC via your GP, your specialist or the hospital you have been attending – or you can self-refer to EPC via their website.

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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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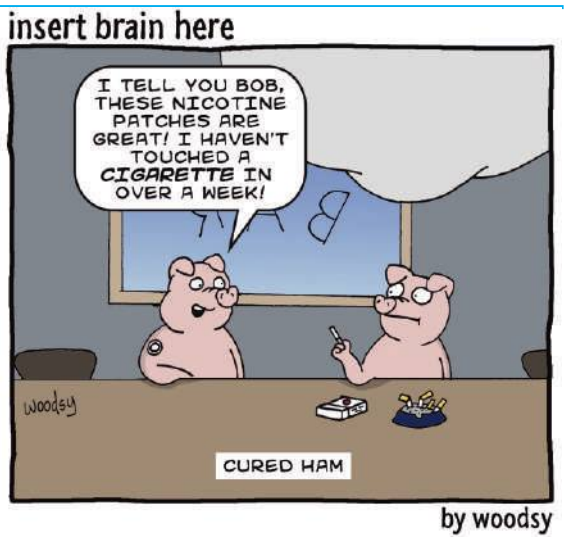
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Page 3 "Bird"

Des Palmer

Gang-Gang Cockatoo

(Callocephalon fimbriatum)

I fully suspect there are readers of this monthly column who check my spelling is correct of the scientific names of each species every month; hell, I would! Anyhow, those scientific names are back this month, with a vengeance!



You show me anyone who doesn't love Gang-Gangs and I'll show you a liar. These birds are characters of the highest order. Highly mobile and normally quite vocal when flying, the diagnostic 'rusty hinge' noise always gets your attention. In stark contrast, when they are feeding, they are sometimes completely silent and can be extremely cryptic. They can also be very confiding whilst feeding and, if down low, can give absolutely crippling views. We saw some in the Grampians recently; I thought they must have been pets we got so close to them! A cracking bird, the male has a bright fiery-red crest and the female has a breast with fine red barring.

Don't tell any of my clients this fact, but I would honestly pay them to come on a tour with me; the thought of being paid to take them out bird watching I view as being a complete privilege. And the people you meet, honestly, it takes my breath away; absolutely amazing people with so many incredible stories to tell. I could write a book on some of them, but a chap I took out last Sunday takes the cake.

Bill is from Surrey in England and has seen 6500 species worldwide. Yes, that's correct, 6500! I picked him up off the cruise ship he was on at 8.30 am from Station Pier in Port Melbourne and had to have him back there by 3.30 pm. A short window of time. His enquiry form stated he wanted to see Crescent Honeyeater and Gang- Gang Cockatoo.

Ok, Crescent Honeyeater I knew I could get for him at Grants picnic ground in Sherbrooke -forest, not an easy task, long story, but yep, we got him! Bill shook my hand vigorously and in a heartfelt fashion, I was on cloud 9, proud as punch! I had got a 'lifer' for a man whom lifers don't come easily. One down, one to go.

Bill was aware as I was Gang-Gangs are the type of bird you don't find, they find you. A highly mobile and specialised feeder, they travel constantly in search of known (to them) food sources, namely wattle seeds, walnuts, Hawthorn seeds, leaf gall larvae and the 'spitfire' larvae of Sawflies, not many birds or mammals can eat them, for Gang-Gangs though, an important source of protein.

My daughter Soph has been seeing them at Lysterfield Lake and surprisingly at my grandson's school. Tried them, no luck! Went to Belgrave Lake, Birdsland reserve, all the while the clock ticking. Feeling like a failure, a real loser, I took Bill back to his ship. I lamented the fact as he paid me, he said 'mate, I've been doing this a long time, I knew it wasn't going to be easy'.

Well, there's a day in the life of a bird tour operator, it's a tough gig but someone has to do it! I love every moment, especially for example taking out a man from Pennsylvania recently who got lifers at every turn. He loved it so much!

I can give special rates for tours for local readers of the Basin and Boronia Community Newsletter; shoot me an email and I'll have the minister for finance crunch the numbers. It would be for local spots only, but we have some rippers, let me tell you!

Email: birdtoursbydes@gmail.com

Website: AustralianBirdTours.com.au

Image Credits: Kim Wormald



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 and at The Mall? 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: Contact@bbcn.org.au.

Our Volunteer Thank You Day is at Millers Homestead on December 4 (12-2 PM)

Boronia and The Basin Community Newspaper AGM

(BBCN) held our Annual General Meeting at The Basin Community House on Tuesday 20th October. Formal reports showed BBCN to be operating well and meeting all its financial commitments. Office-holder and committee positions were voted on, and there is room for more committee members. Twenty members attended the meeting. All reports have been published on the website BBCN.org.au

BBCN is a small volunteer not-for-profit organisation that would benefit from some additional volunteers. Please contact us (see page 2 for details) if you are interested in contributing in any way.



BBCN contributors recognised

Danny Nolan

The BBCN's July edition front page photo was a finalist in the annual Community Newspaper Association of Victoria's awards held in October in Geelong. Though not a winner, we take pride in having local contributors being recognised. The picture of Fluffy the Echidna from the Yarra Valley Nocturnal Zoo was taken by Madelyn Brown.

Here's what the judges had to say:

Madelyn's photo gets a mention because, let's face it, Everyone DOES Love Echidnas, but they're famously difficult to photograph and will roll into a protective ball at the slightest hint of trouble. In this case, Madlyn has managed to go close with a Wide-Angle lens - the only way to include the caretaker - and done it gently & quietly enough that we get a close-up of the Echidna's expression, even that laughing twinkle in his eye, as if we're all in on the same joke.

Just on wildlife photography, I think I mentioned last year the guy who was a Brazilian photographer who was disqualified from the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition in 2017. He'd submitted beautiful night-time photos of a giant anteater attacking a termite mound covered in bioluminescent beetle larvae. Beautiful shots,and widely acclaimed until someone caught that he'd swiped a Taxidermy - stuffed - anteater from the local natural history museum and driven it around to take photos of it. And all in the name of conservation!

That's not the way to do nature photography, Madelyn's IS.

It's a clever, gentle, somehow KIND photo that warms the heart.

Congratulations Madelyn.

After I finished this piece, I was notified that my story on the Miesel house in the old Mystic Lake estate got an honourable mention in the History category. Which, coincidentally, Madelyn also helped with.



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Expressions of Interest are open for Council's community transport bus hire service. Safe, affordable travel for schools, sporting clubs, community organisations and more. Enquiries: 9298 7373.

Submit your EOI: communitytransport@knox.vic.gov.au



Supporting dads in Knox

Share your experiences and ideas by Tuesday 8 December to help Council design meaningful support, connection and learning opportunities for dads in Knox.

knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay



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COVER STORY: A New Dawn for Boronia

Pat Kelly



While it's always sunny in Boronia – it was particularly sunny on Saturday, 17 October, when our community turned out in force, in perfect weather, to celebrate the new Boronia Station Precinct's completion.

The day kicked off with a moving welcome to country by Uncle Willy Xiberras, accompanied by John Terrick on the yidiak (a form of the traditional didgeridoo), and before long, hundreds of locals were making the trek down (and many off the train!) to the celebrations.

Joined by my colleagues at your paper, Danny Nolan and Rob Fairbairn, there was lots on offer – from circus performances, mini-golf, free food and even the Singing Tradies serenading us with modified versions of classic hits. There was free face painting for the kids too, with more than one Spider-Man appearing across the morning – though despite determined cajoling, our local MP, Jackson Taylor, couldn't be convinced to get one himself.

And it wouldn't be a true community event if the Boronia Rotary wasn't on the snags – it was great to catch up with Ray and his team, who were doing a roaring trade. Yes, I may have bought one or two (or ten) – but when every dollar goes back into supporting Rotary, why not!

After a tricky period during construction, Two Cats Espresso Bar was doing a roaring trade. It was great to chat with owner Kalyani, who said she's going from strength to strength, and loving seeing locals sipping her coffee and eating an almond croissant in the new landscaped plaza right next to Two Cats.

And what of the actual upgrades to the station – what were we there to celebrate? Well – standing across from the new pedestrian crossing and looking down that new landscaped plaza, right through to the upgraded station, with its new toilets, waiting room, canopies and concourse, seeing our friends and neighbours sitting, laughing and chatting, it's hard not to be proud of the outcome.

Through the disruptions to travel, difficulty navigating our way through the works, the detours and even sometimes the noise, the consensus on the day was that it was worth the temporary pain.

It's hard not to think that, with the upgraded station precinct and a brand new heart of our suburb to be proud of, alongside new things happening each and every day in our patch, the brightest days for Boronia lay firmly in its future.



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

BBCN Volunteers Thank You Lunch

December 4th

12 noon to 2 pm

Millers Homestead

Boronia

All Welcome

Great Southern Bio Blitz

Friday, Nov 27, 2026 - Monday, Nov 30, 2026

Join people from around the world to capture photographs of your local wild plants and animals. Upload free to iNaturalist app or website.

Biodiversity@knox.vic.gov.au

License to Thrill: The Music of James Bond.

Starring Rachael Grace Musical direction by John Thorn

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Knox Community Arts Centre

790 Mountain Hwy, Bayswater

Click, Capture, Create

Photography skills beginner's program - Ages 14 to 17

Thursdays 12 November, 19 November, 26 November, 3 December.

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Ferntree Gully Library,
Free: Registrations essential.



I'm Julie Buxton, Labor's candidate for Bayswater at the 2026 Victorian state election. I've lived in Melbourne's eastern suburbs all my life. It's where I've raised my family, run a business and put down roots in the community I love.

As a mum to two boys, I want our children to grow up with great schools, accessible healthcare, secure jobs and safe neighbourhoods. I've run my own bookkeeping and business management business and worked in the public service. I understand the pressures facing families and local businesses, and how government can work with communities to get things done.

I'm not a career politician. I've spent my life working, raising a family and volunteering. I'm running because I believe good representation starts with listening and fighting for practical results. Over the past eight years, we've seen significant investment in Knox's schools, healthcare, emergency services, roads, sporting clubs and community organisations. But there's more to do.

If elected, I'll be a strong local voice in a re-elected Labor Government, backing 10 free public dental clinics across Victoria, more police and PSOs on our streets, and the right to work from home where the job can be done effectively. I'll bring my experience in business and government, my understanding of our community and a commitment to making sure local people are heard in Parliament.

I won't take your support for granted. I'll work hard to earn your trust and keep it.

Farewell from Jackson Taylor

For eight years, it has been the honour of a lifetime to serve our community as the Member for Bayswater. Thank you for trusting me to represent you, for working with me to make our community an even better place, and for the kindness so many of you have shown me along the way.

Last year, I made the deeply personal decision not to seek re-election so I could spend more time with my wife, Natasha, and our two young boys, George and Thomas. It is the right decision for our family, and I leave with immense gratitude for the opportunity you have given me.

Looking back, I'm incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. Upgrades to every public school I have represented, better sporting facilities, new facilities at the Angliss Hospital and the transformation of Boronia Station are improvements our community fought hard for. New open space along Blind Creek and safer local intersections will also make a lasting difference. The Boronia breakfast program is something particularly close to my heart. It has given people a decent meal, friendship and help connecting with housing and other support. It is a reminder that the value of what we do is measured in the difference it makes to people's lives.

What I will remember most are the conversations, the friendships and the generosity of people willing to work together to do something decent. I have always tried to



listen, work hard and represent everyone, regardless of how they voted. Even when we disagreed, I hope you felt heard.

To our local volunteers, schools, clubs, businesses and community organisations, thank you for your support, your persistence and everything you do for our community. I've loved getting to know so many of you and working alongside people who give so much of themselves to help others. We are lucky to have a community that cares, where people are willing to put their hand up and get things done. Every achievement belongs to the many people who helped make it happen. Thank you for sharing your ideas, speaking up for what was needed and sticking with me to see things through. I hope you share my pride in what we have achieved together.

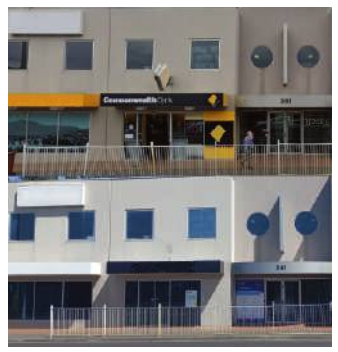
I wish my friend and Labor candidate for the seat of Bayswater, Julie Buxton, all the very best as she seeks to become our next Member for Bayswater. Having worked alongside Julie, I know how much she cares about our community. She would make a wonderful member if given the chance.

Above all, thank you to our community. Serving you has been the greatest professional privilege of my life. I wish you and your families all the very best for the years ahead.

Go well. Jackson Taylor

Which Bank?

Danny Nolan



The Commonwealth Bank quietly closed its doors, including all of its ATM's on Friday 9th October, leaving Boronia after four locations and over five decades. The bank, which was originally on Boronia Road, moved into the State Bank premises near the Metro Cinema when it merged with that bank in 1991. It then moved across the way to a new building with access from Boronia Road and Dorset Square in the late 1990s. Completing its journey to Dorset Road in the mids 2000s on the site where Maguires/Rothenburger garage once stood.

The closure took many by surprise but is an ongoing strategy by the bank due to over 95% of customer transactions having moved online or to mobile apps. Falling foot traffic (some say attributed to lack of services provided) and the cost of maintaining property leases, security, and staff for underutilised suburban or regional sites has led banks to consolidate services into nearby hubs. In Boronia's case, places like Eastland and Knox shopping centres.

The closure was quick, and all trace that the bank was there, including the distinctive colour scheme, had been stripped by the following Monday.

The Blackberry Baron

Danny Nolan



It's well documented that the name "The Basin" was originally coined by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller during a botany exploration of the area in 1853. It was named for the depression that you can see from the roundabout looking towards the old Salvation Army Boys Home. There seems to be a pre-ordained system involving flora-related naming structure when it comes to our local suburbs. The Basin was named by a botanist, while Boronia was named after a flower named by a botanist as a tribute to another botanist.

Mr. von Mueller was quite the overachiever. He was a German immigrant who was a chemist. He had a passion for exploring and botany and continued to expand his knowledge of the land he had adopted. In 1853, he was appointed government botanist for Victoria, and was the reason why he was in the Dandenongs, naming future suburbs. Von Mueller was a keen explorer with an inquiring mind and also supported many expeditions by others, notably Bourke & Wills. He became a member of many societies, culminating in his acceptance into the prestigious Royal Society in England. In his distinguished career, he became director of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, obtained a medical degree, was awarded a knighthood and, in 1871, was given a title for services in science by King Karl of Württemberg in Germany. This made his full title Baron Sir Ferdinand Jacob Heinrich von Mueller.

He was also a keen and practising member of the Victorian Acclimatisation Society. You might be wondering what this group were responsible for? Well, for example, it was one member, Thomas Austin of Barwon Park, who introduced rabbits. He released 13 wild rabbits on his farm in 1859, and we now have an estimated 150 million. Another, Charles Macarthur of Launceston, introduced the English carp - all in the interest of making Australia a bit more like the "old country." Von Mueller was also keen on the idea, especially in his chosen field. He introduced blackberries from 1858, cultivating them at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and scattering their seeds in the bush, thinking they would provide food for settlers. He also did this with melons, cabbage & pumpkins. But you'd have to agree the blackberries win on the invasive plant premiership table for being the most evasive and destructive to the point where it is virtually ineradicable and is the curse of farmers and household gardeners everywhere.

So, if someone asks who named The Basin and you can't remember von Mueller with his endless titles and names - just say it's the guy responsible for the blackberries everywhere.

"Been There, Done That ... and Have a Story to Prove It"

Alistair Smith - Travel writer

Bayswater resident Alistair Smith has just launched his new book, "Been There, Done That ... and Have a Story to Prove It", which readers of the Community News can purchase at a special discount price. Drawing on decades of experience as a three time Australian travel writer of the year he shares stories about guides who get lost, brushes with death, weird travel companions, rip-offs and scams, jet lag, lost luggage, clashes at border crossings, pickpockets, disgusting toilets, riots and bombs.

"I've spent most of my career writing 'inspirational' travel stories about destinations people might dream of visiting, but that's not how people normally talk about their travel experiences," he explained. "If you ask someone about their trip to China, and they're more likely to tell you how they couldn't get out of bed because of a bout of gastro and missed the Terracotta Warriors than rave about the Great Wall. Or how their taxi ran out of petrol in a grotty back street on the way to the Taj Mahal. "I've been there and done that myself, so that's what this book is all about ... the things people really want to hear about when you talk travel."

"Been There, Done That" retails for $29.45, but readers of Community News can purchase it for $25 if they buy online at www.WeAreRealWriters.com and quote NEWS as the promo code. Or contact Alistair direct at writeon@bigpond.net.au.

At Boronia Heights Pharmacy, we love Christmas, and we love the community that we are a part of.

For 20 years now, we have thrown a party every year to thank our customers and local community for their support. This year we will be holding our Christmas Party on Sunday 29th November, 10 am to 2 pm. As always, there will be drinks and nibbles, kids' entertainment, regular raffles and Santa will be there as well. All our staff, a number of whom have worked at the pharmacy for many years, will be here and love having the opportunity to chat and celebrate with our customers, both new and those they've served for a long time.

It really is one of our favourite days of the year, so come down and join us for a fun-filled day and celebrate our lovely community. Alf, Mark and the whole team look forward to welcoming you.



Crafting Kindness at Elm St Mission



At Elm St Mission in Bayswater, creativity and community go hand in hand — and volunteer Linda is a wonderful example of how some imagination can bring a lot of joy. Linda loves crafting, and she generously shares her creative talents with the Elm St Mission community. Recently, she handmade a range of fun birthday cards for their participants. Birthdays are always celebrated at Elm St Mission. They are special days and the volunteers make sure everyone feels cared for. Having a handmade card to mark someone's birthday makes the occasion even more meaningful.

For Linda, crafting is about more than making beautiful objects. It is a way of connecting with people, contributing to the community and showing others that they matter. Linda uses creativity as a way of 'being with' people who enjoy the company without the pressure of constant talking. "Elm St is such an inclusive space in the community," said Linda. "The music sessions are great, and I love that anyone can feel safe and appreciated when doing a solo performance!" Her thoughtful creations are a reminder that volunteering doesn't require grand gestures. Sometimes, it is simply about using a skill you have to make someone else's day a little brighter. Sitting and making, and showing interest in others, is priceless.

"The colourful weaving Linda made is an example of what can be created while chatting with participants and other volunteers in the café," said Ethne Pfeiffer, Program Coordinator. "We are grateful to Linda for sharing her creativity, kindness and time with everyone at Elm St Mission. She knows that giving someone the gift of our attention is one of the greatest gifts of all. "And the crafting certainly brightens our space and gives people something new to enjoy"

Elm St Mission is a community-based program providing a safe and welcoming place, supporting mental wellbeing and social connection.

Programs include:

- Open Door (Mondays, 10 am - 2 pm: Art, craft, armchair exercise; Wednesdays, 10 am - 2 pm: Music, singing, movement, mindfulness; Fridays, 10 am - 2 pm: Music, singing, storytelling, bingo)
- Care4Carers (Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 pm: For women carers) – morning tea provided
- 50s+ Friends (Thursdays, 1 - 2.30 pm: Social group for men and women) – afternoon tea provided

All programs are free. Lunch is provided Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (12 - 12.30 pm) during school terms.

Contact details:

Phone: 0428 330 873 Email: info@elmstmission.org.au

Web: elmstmission.org.au Facebook: ElmStMission

Address: Elm St Mission, 654 Mountain Highway, Bayswater

Desiderata

Peter Lim

Where freedom is
there I'll seek
whether in the deep sea
or the highest peak.
Where there's love
I'll give and accept
be among the dearest
to celebrate.

Where there's beauty
such moments I'll not forget
to keep them in memory
after each take.
Where there's laughter
there I'll be first
to sing and dance
or to recite my verse.

Where the meadow invites
in each fair season
for miles I'll travel
to give reign to my passion.
Where peace embraces
our very earth
all hands I'll hold
in sincerity and mirth.

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Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn



Finding My Way
Part 3 1975-6

I had always enjoyed my morning drive down among the rolling hills of the Strzeleckis but as our 'plane ascended towards Heathrow Airport, I had to admit that the colours of West Gippsland were pale and drab compared with the patchwork carpet of vivid greens that was rolling out below us. It was May 1975, and I was excited to be returning to the land I had left as a boy and looking forward to reuniting with relatives I hadn't seen in years. Had I been told, fifteen months before that I would be making this journey, I wouldn't have believed it, let alone that I would be sharing this experience with my new wife.

Jude had taken twelve months' leave and I had resigned. It was an easy decision; my second year at Ellinbank had been challenging, and after three years of teaching I still wasn't convinced that it was the career for me. We saw out the first term at our respective schools, Jude at Warragul Primary and me at Warragul North where I had been placed as a 'spare' pending my resignation.

We planned to be away for a year. After three years of being ruled by term dates and timetables, we were free to go and do as we pleased, making it up as we went along. After a short stay with my mum's sister in suburban Surrey we made our way north to a tiny fishing village in the Scottish borders to be welcomed by my paternal grandparents. Using Burnmouth as our base we travelled to the continent, first using our Eurail Pass and journeying from France to Norway, visiting all the major cities in between and staying in youth hostels. The second time we drove to Greece and back, sleeping in the small station wagon we had purchased in London. We also spent a month in Ireland, two weeks in America for a cousin's wedding and explored much of England and Scotland. And we still found time to enjoy the company of Jude's and my relatives, north and south of the border.

It was a memorable and eventful year marked by unexpected kindnesses (the Belgian girls we met in Bruges showed us around Ghent then arranged for us to stay with parents in Brussels), incredible coincidences, (hitchhiking on an island off the coast of Norway we were picked up by the uncle of a neighbour of my parents in Mooroolbark), fortuitous meetings (on the ferry between Patras and Brindisi we met a Tasmanian glass blower. We travelled around Italy together and have stayed friends ever since), incidents and accidents (being woken up by the gendarmerie in a forest outside Paris and a collision with a taxi in Athens) and happy reunions each time we returned to Burnmouth. But after twelve months of almost incessant touring, with the end of Jude's leave looming and funds that were diminishing, we decided it was time to go home.

Once we were back in Australia, we could no longer enjoy the carefree life we had lived for the past year. Jude returned to the regulated ranks of the teaching class and I joined the army of the unemployed. During the week, Jude stayed with our friends in Warragul while I stubbornly remained in Melbourne, determined not to fall back into the trap of teaching. For a year we had been inseparable, and now we only saw each other on weekends and holidays, and we missed each other terribly. I rented a small flat in Armadale and was alone again. With only my tape deck, music and guitar for company, I sat and waited for inspiration.

To be continued...

The Railway Children at The Basin Theatre

26 November - 6 December 2026
Jason Triggs

The Railway Children is a family-friendly production for audiences of all generations to enjoy together. Adapted for the stage and directed by Jason Triggs, this production brings Edith Nesbit's much-loved novel to life.

A railway platform, an unexpected friendship and three children determined to put things right. Set in England in 1905, The Railway Children follows Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis as they move to the countryside with their mother after their father is taken away. New friendships and railway adventures bring humour, danger and hope as they search for a way to reunite their family. "There's a lot of adventure in this story, but what drew me to it was the family at its centre," says director and adapter Jason Triggs. "The children don't always get things right, but they care about people and they're willing to do something when someone needs help. Our cast has brought such warmth and humour to those moments, and I'm looking forward to sharing that with an audience." Preparations have included a promotional photoshoot aboard Puffing Billy with the three young leads.





KIDS ZONE

Submit YWI entries here:

Free Entry

$50 Prize



BBCN Young Writers Initiative

The Amazing Cork Hat!

Miller, Year 5, The Basin Primary School

A cork hat is used to deter flies away from your face.

The cork hat is an Australian invention focused on swatting flies so they don't hit your face.

It is a hat with corks hanging from the sides and those are the swats that repel the flies away from you.

The cork hat was made by no specific inventor. Instead it was invented by Australian settlers in the 18 - 19th century.

It swats a bunch of flies to keep them away from your face!

When you are doing work in the outback it will swat flies for you so you don't have them annoying you. It gives your hands free to work rather than stopping to swat them.

It is mainly used by Australians but travelers do buy it because they think it is the hat to have in Australia.

This is why the cork hat is an amazing Australian invention.

King Joe

George, Year 1, Boronia Heights Primary School

Once upon a time there was a boy named Joe. He lived with his mother in a brick house in England. One day the King (the King's name was King Lockwood) was getting too old to be King so he called a announcement that he is going to have a contest. The announcement said "dear citizens of England I am going to have a contest. Who ever wins the contest will take over my throne! I will give each child a golden egg! The egg will hatch and then on 29/9 you will bring back your amazing creature!".

Joe was so excited but there was only one problem. King Lockwood didn't know how to bring the eggs! But then one of the workers had a idea. "What if we put them in a helicopter". "But we don't have any helicopters" replied the King. "Your right, we don't. But we do have a helicopter factory". "Oh I should of known!".

On the 27/9 Joe's egg hatched it was a cheetah that could run on water! "Mum look what I got!" said Joe. His mother gasped "what should we call it?" said his mum. "Maybe Chester?".

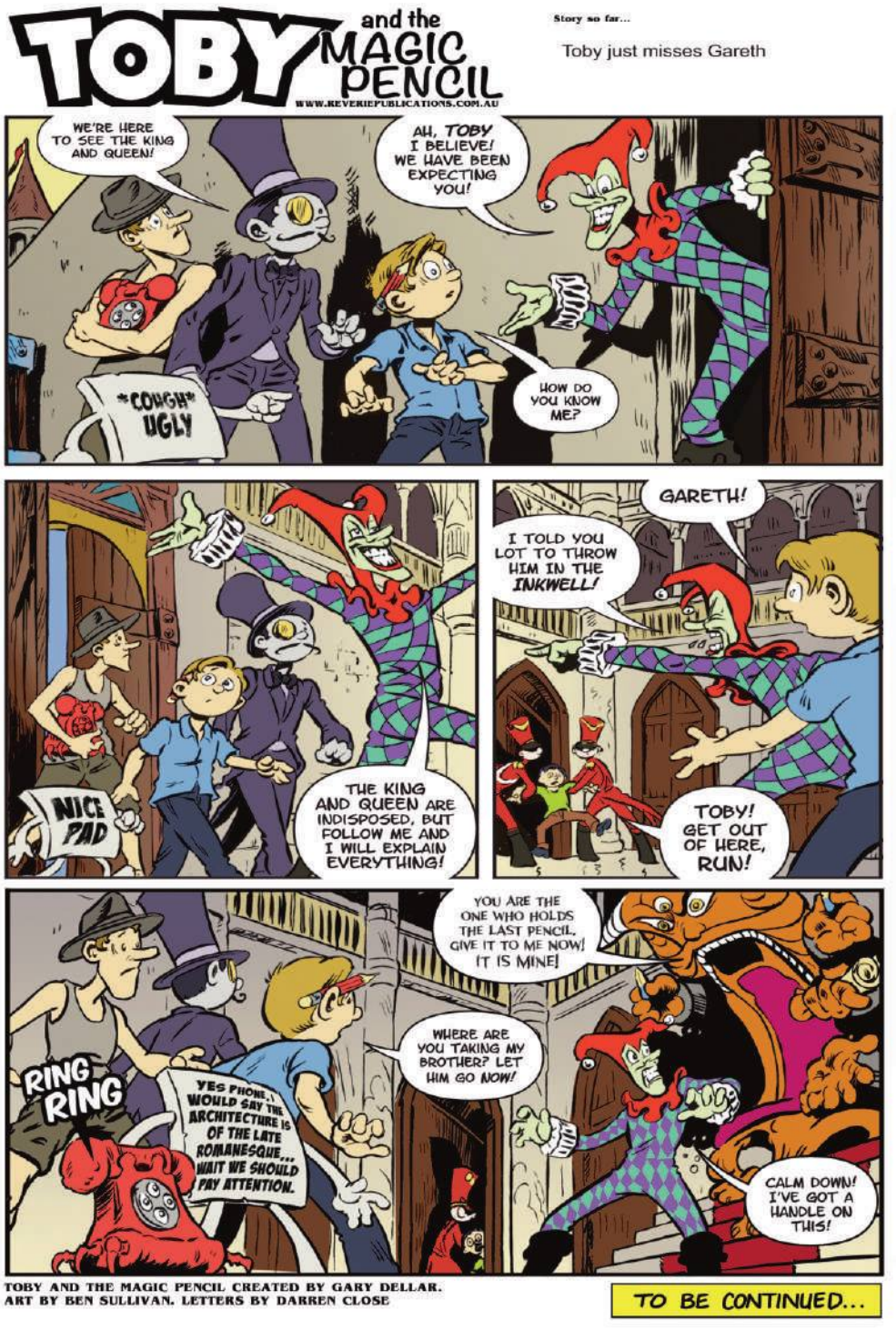
Two days later, now it is the 29/9 "can we go yet, can we go yet, can we go yet?" said Joe. "And the winner is Joe Oliver!" said the King. "You may take over my throne!"

Joe was finally the King. And lived happily ever after with his mum and pet cheetah Chester in the magnificent, gigantic brick castle that is surrounded buy a swamp full salt water crocodiles to keep his rivals and enemies out.

This month we have two Young Writers Initiative Awards (left). One from The Basin Primary School and the other from from Boronia Heights Primary School. ***Enjoy!***



Hazel receives the September Young Writers Initiative Award for her Spring Poem.



KIDS ZONE

How to handle the constant struggles between your toddlers

Joy Shelley

I remember asking my children " Why do you two always have to fight over things?"

The older one answered. " Didn't you and Uncle Phil fight?" and I replied, " Yes but I don't like you fighting." 30 years later, I have grandchildren who also squabble over lots of things and I don't like them fighting either. Overall they are very good together and generally play well. Until, for whatever reason, they don't. So what can we do to deal with these constant battles of toddler wills?

Studies have shown that sibling toddlers and preschoolers typically clash about 3 to 5 times an hour. At this age, they don't have the ability to regulate their feelings or frustrations very well and often don't have the language to communicate this to you. They also see the world entirely from their point of view and react immediately rather than stopping to think first.

There are some simple strategies, which are not new, that can help you guide your children through this period whilst maintaining your own sanity.

Don't feel like you must step in to stop every fight

Small struggles help tots learn to stand up for themselves. Plus, you'll eventually want your child to learn to work out their differences with others on their own. As long as the fight is a squabble and not a full-on brawl let the kids struggle a little before intervening. When you do step in, show that you understand that they're



Image credit: https://allprodad.com

upset and that you really care. Then, briefly leave to give them a minute to attempt to work it out. If the spat starts spinning out of control with physical fighting or yelling and screaming, you need to step in.

Sharing by taking turns

One of the strategies to deal with squabbling over a toy or your attention is to teach them that we all take turns to do things. Even if this is a toy that belongs to them, you can still suggest that they let their sibling take a turn. Often the other sibling only wants it for a short time anyway. This also applies to vying for your attention. If this is common practice in your house, even your 2 year old can understand it (most of the time).

Stepping in and taking charge

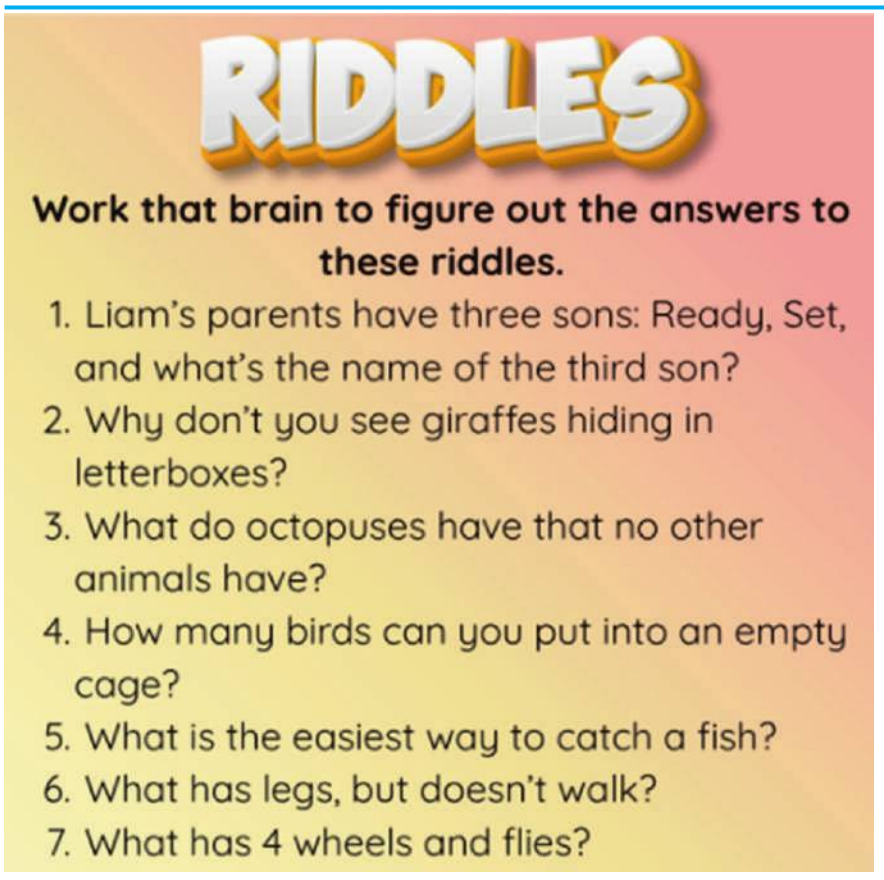
When two siblings are fighting, it might be clear which child started it but if you can't quite figure out who the primary culprit is, it's often best to discipline both. That may seem unfair, but it works because it teaches children that they both have a responsibility for carrying on with fighting, even if one person started it.

When dealing with fighting, there are two consequences that work well: giving a penalty and time-outs. Giving a penalty relating to the issue is a consequence that works well. If two toddlers are fighting over a ball, you take the ball away.

Time-outs are a parenting classic. Here's how to use them effectively:

Give one last warning to get your toddler's attention. If your toddler ignores it, put on a serious face and calmly count to three to give your child a chance to calm down without a time-out. If the fighting continues, put your child in your time-out place. Set a timer, that way they can see or when the time is up. We used to use an egg timer so that they could see it running out! The general consensus is that you can do up to one minute of time for each year of their age but for 2-year-olds even a minute is enough. It's really creating a precedent and breaking the fight's momentum.

Always encourage good behaviour and cooperation, with words such as "good sharing" They come to accept that everyone shares in your house and they usually move on very quickly after the fights have ended, even if you had to intervene. It is hard on your sanity at the time, but often they turn out to be best of friends in the long run.



New book by a local Young Writer

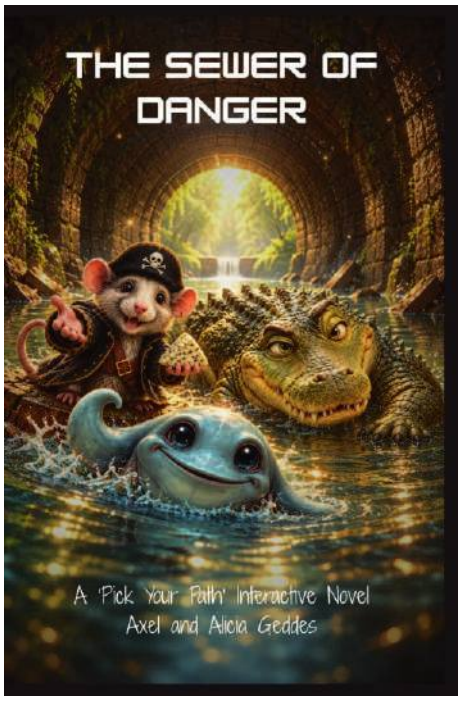
A 'Pick Your Path' story for younger readers, written by a younger BBCN reader and Young Writers Award winner (and his mum)!

In this interactive novel, you make the decisions. But will you choose wisely?

Will you adopt a manta ray? Gain a pet rat named Mack? Or maybe hitch a ride on an alligator?

Answers:

1. Liam.
2. Because they are very good at hiding.
3. Little octopuses.
4. One, after that the cage is not empty.
5. Get someone to throw it to you.
6. A table.
7. A garbage truck.



Activity from Alicia Geddes

KIDS ZONE

Food relief demand soars in Knox as Community Bank Ferntree Gully commits $36,000 to Knox

Knox Infolink has recorded a dramatic increase in food insecurity across the Knox region, delivering 10,000 more meals in FY26 than the previous financial year – a 12.7 per cent increase.

The organisation provided 89,000 meals in FY26, up from 79,000 in FY25, marking the largest year-on-year increase across all its services and highlighting the growing number of local families struggling to meet their basic needs.

The increase in demand was also reflected across Knox Infolink's other key support services. Material aid interventions grew by more than 3,300 to 15,150 items, while food and meat parcels increased by 1,463 to 10,767. Information and referral sessions rose by 813, and formal interviews increased by 237.



Weekly Emergency Relief demand also climbed sharply, with an average of 207 people seeking support each week, compared with 165 the previous year.

Knox Infolink Manager Penny Robinson said the rise in meals delivered was the strongest signal yet of the growing pressure on local households.

"A jump of 10,000 meals in a single year tells us that families are struggling more than ever. Food relief is often the first sign that people are slipping into crisis, and we are seeing that happen more frequently and more intensely."

In response to the escalating need, Community Bank Ferntree Gully has committed $36,000 over three years to Knox Infolink, continuing a partnership that has supported the organisation for several years.

Community Bank Ferntree Gully Chair Etienne Clauw said the scale of need highlighted just how important Knox Infolink's work is.

"We've been at the heart of Knox for more than 25 years, and we've seen first-hand the difference local organisations like Knox Infolink make in our community. When you see a 10,000 meal increase in one year, you understand just how vital their work is. Our three-year commitment will help ensure Knox Infolink can continue meeting this rising need with dignity and care."

Knox Infolink and Community Bank Ferntree Gully have worked together for several years to strengthen the local safety net. Their partnership has supported emergency relief, community connection programs and outreach services that help people stabilise before reaching crisis point.





Families Invited to Boronia K–12 College School Fete

Boronia K–12 College is getting ready for an afternoon of family fun, community connection and celebration, with the School Fete taking place on Friday 27 November from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Families, friends and members of the local community are invited to come along and enjoy an afternoon packed with activities, entertainment, food and festive fun.

There will be plenty happening throughout the afternoon, including exciting rides such as the Atomic Drop Slide and Giant Tea Cups, face painting, an animal farm and a range of food options from food trucks. The College's Foot of the Hills Café will also be open as part of the festivities, providing another opportunity to support the College's student-led café initiative.

With Christmas just around the corner, visitors can also browse the Christmas-themed market stalls, making it a great opportunity to pick up some unique gifts and treats while supporting local stallholders and the school community.

The Fete is a wonderful opportunity for the College to bring families and the wider Boronia community together for a relaxed afternoon of fun and connection.

MARKET STALL HOLDERS WANTED
The College is also seeking market stall holders who would like to be involved in the event. Local businesses, makers and community groups are encouraged to register their interest by emailing ***boronia.k12@education.vic.gov.au***



Cuboree – the ultimate Cub experience! 28th September – October 2nd

Nicole Klep,
District Leader of Cub Scouts.

Four nights, five days under canvas with 3,500+ Cubs aged 8-11 years old, and what do you get – an awesome adventure and a bucket load of fun! That's what 128 Cubs from the Knox District experienced at Gilwell Park Adventure Centre, Gembrook. This was the 12th Cuboree and the theme was 'It Starts With Us'. They were supported by 1,500 adults to make this amazing camp happen. It is the largest camp under canvas for this age group in the Southern Hemisphere.

A Cuboree Unit is made up of up to 36 Cubs, 5 Cub Leaders, 1 Unit Akela (L.I.C) and 3 Catering Staff (usually parents). They camp in tents, eat and do all the activities together. Each campsite is entered by a gateway designed by each unit, which relates to the Cuboree theme. The theme for our sub-camp that we were assigned to was 'Merlin's Magic'. Our 4 Cuboree units did a superb job on their gateways! Our Cuboree Units also had bright coloured hats for each of our Cub units, worn all through Cuboree, which helped identify them from the other 100+ Cuboree Units and 3,500+ Cubs and over 600 Joeys (aged 5-8 years old) who visited on Wednesday.



With fun-filled days and night-time entertainment on offer, you can imagine there were plenty of hungry stomachs to fill. A few interesting statistics from the catering side of Cuboree for you … 12 tonnes of fruit and vegetables, 6,615 litres of milk, 450 litres of juice and 101,000 slices of bread were consumed. Over 9 days (as adults were setting up before and after the event), 126,066 meals were provided.

The activity bases included: Cherry Lane, Nature in Action, The Great Cub Quest, Dragons, Lost in the Amazon, Spy Lab and the Big Scout Adventure. To give you a taste of an activity for the 'Spy Lab' base, you got to become a secret agent! The aim was to crack the code, navigate laser mazes and solve puzzles to complete secret missions.

All the Cubs had an absolutely brilliant time and went home exhausted with some magnificent stories to tell! They survived heavy rain, lots of mud, and discovered how resilient they were. They loved the blanket badges they collected and the Cuboree t-shirt and scarf. I am not so sure that their families loved the mud and wet gear they brought home!

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

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Message from Cr. Paige Kennett

This past month I have spoken to residents about parking concerns, trees, improvements and potholes. I have personally put the call out to residents to tell me where they see a pothole on a council-managed road (this excludes arterial roads like Forest Rd, Boronia Rd, Ferntree Gully Rd, etc., which are State-managed roads). This is important because council manage and repair our Knox road network based on a Road Management Plan. I want to know if this plan really is delivering what we, as residents, want. Over the two weeks, I will be measuring and reporting back on what gets reported, what gets fixed, and what's left to do. You can follow along on my Facebook page. If you see a pothole, you can report it on council's website.

There's plenty happening in our neighbourhood, including work progressing on a new gross pollutant trap and integrated stormwater management project between Forest Road and Koolunga Reserve in Ferntree Gully. The project will help reduce flooding, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and create new habitat areas, while also improving landscape amenity and community connections. The shared path on Liverpool Road continues on from Stage 1, with construction progressing over the next 3 months. Over $1.1 million dollars has been allocated to the long-discussed next stage of the Mountain Highway footpath, which has been funded by Council. This footpath represents over 10 years of local voices speaking up for this missing pedestrian link. Thank you for your support in bringing this project to fruition. There's an upcoming community consultation for The Basin Triangle improvements, which will include seeking your feedback on renewal of some playground items. And speaking of playgrounds, there will be a new slide at the Alchester Village playground!

Congratulations to Michael and Meredith from The Basin Backyard for being finalists at the Knox Business Awards! We are so proud to have The Basin Backyard in our backyard!

I am here to help, so I encourage you to contact me.

Update from The Gully Market

Ian, President, Gully Market – and the Gully Market family



The Gully market is proud to announce that in June we donated $2,500 to Angliss Hospital, which purchased a recliner chair/ bed for their maternity ward, in case a family member had to stay overnight. In September, we donated $2,500 to PCFA Specialist Prostate Cancer Care Nurses program. These nurses are worth their weight in gold to prostate cancer sufferers and their families. Also remember, early detection saves lives; late detection may be too late.

Finally, we will be donating $2,000 to the Upper Gully CFA in October. The CFA is an amazing volunteer organisation that too many take for granted. They need donations to keep providing the services that they perform, as they receive limited government funding. If you are considering being a CFA volunteer, contact the CFA in your area, as they all can do with new personnel.

The extensions to the Upper Gully station are finally underway, but they will need a top up of funding going forward. So please, if able, donate. Every dollar counts. The fire brigade will be present on our donation day with truck and crew and an info stand. This will take place on 31 October. Check out the Gully Market social media for further updates.

Also, check out the websites for all these fabulous organisations, and if able, please donate.

Finally, I would ask the public to support this small community minded market, so that we can continue to support organisations such as this. And a big thank you to the stallholders, whose fees fund these donations.

PARAMOUNT podiatry
Dr. Vishaan Solanki
B. HSci. M.Pod

BAMBUS PHYSIOTHERAPY
Stefan Cecavac
BSpt (ExercSC), MPhysio

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Aroma Of Wellness
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Massage and Aromatherapy

A compressed history of the Boronia Railway Crossing and Station

Danny Nolan



August 4th saw the reopening of the new and improved ***Boronia Railway Station*** with easier access and more appealing surroundings. It is the last stage of the continuing improvement to the precinct. One that, in the past, saw the original station as a haven for vandals and undesirables, and the adjoining rail crossing being one of the most dangerous in the country. The late 1990s saw vast improvements in safety and comfort with the station revamp and the crossing being resituated under the Boronia-Dorset Road intersection.

These new improvements are another welcome addition to making Boronia a better and safer place to travel.

A compressed history of Boronia station and rail crossing.

In the beginning:

1884: A bill is passed in the Victorian Parliament to increase the rail network. The Ferntree Gully branch line is part of this planning, but not a high priority.

1884- 1890: Preplanning included two crossings. One where Dorset meets Chandler Road. Then, running southeast through what is now The Mall & Dorset Square, the second is where Boronia & Floriston Roads meet before realigning with the current course beside Underwood Road.

Both were classed as minor roads (tracks) back then and were barely a concern. How things have changed with progress. Was this a missed opportunity to avoid the chaos to come?

As constructed, the LL (Boronia) Road crossing was provided with a standard set of crossing gates and a gatekeeper's cottage. These were abolished in 1984, a cost-cutting measure that had tragic consequences in the future.

1885: Works begin on the Ferntree Gully line.

3 December 1889: The line opens.

Feb 1915: Petitions are started for a station between Bayswater and Ferntree Gully.

June 1915: Boronia became the official name of the area and the proposed station.

May 1917: LL Road was changed to Boronia Road.

19 June 1920: Boronia Station officially opened.

18 November 1924: The crossing had its first recorded collision when a mailman's truck was hit by a decelerating train. He was slightly injured; the truck a write-off.

1925: The Ferntree Gully line is electrified.

26 April 1926: Ten people were killed & eleven injured when a bus was hit by a city-bound train.

September 1930: A man fell off the running board of his friend's car when driving over the crossing, dying from the fall.

October 1934: The Station safe is taken from the office and blown to pieces on the platform by over-enthusiastic thieves.

March 1940: A man escaped injury when he drove his truck into a train at the crossing.

September 1942: A cow was killed when it wandered across the crossing.

29 October 1944: Five people are killed when the car they are travelling in is hit by a train. Once again, city-bound.

March 1949: Two people escaped injury after driving their car in front of a train.

November 1950: After an Inquiry into a death at the crossing earlier that year, the State Coroner finds the Boronia rail crossings not dangerous.

February 1951: Flashing lights for the crossing are rejected for the second time.

August 1951: A bus with the Lilydale Football team aboard is struck by a train; luckily, no injuries.

October 1951: Two women were injured when their car collided with a train.

30 May 1952: Nine people were killed and nineteen injured when a city-bound train hit a bus that was unable to stop in time.

September 1952: Warning lights are finally installed at the crossing.

February 1957: The line was partly duplicated between Bayswater and Lower Ferntree Gully (now Ferntree Gully).

April 1961: A man disobeying the warning lights drives his vehicle in front of a city-bound train and is killed.

July 1964: Boom gates are rejected for the crossing.

February 1966: A man dies when he drives his van into an oncoming city-bound train.

April 1968: An elderly lady is hit & killed by a car navigating the crossing.

27 October 1971: The long-awaited boom gates are finally installed.

25 May 1972: After years of chronic vandalism and crime-related activity around the station, it was destroyed by fire.

August 1978: Two elderly people from the nearby old age hostel were hit by a train, it is assumed they were caught at the crossing due to bad road conditions and the tracks impeding their movement.

August 1981: Boronia Station is awarded the most vandalised on the network.

April 1983: Once again, a lady is struck & killed by a car; the driver and pedestrian were confused by the crossing traffic lights.

August 1984: Boronia Station, after years of temporary buildings and repairs, has been marked for an upgrade and rebuild.

July 1985: The new, revamped station is opened.

November 1989: Due to impatience or reckless driving, two girls are killed at the crossing by vehicles. No train was involved.

Early 1990s: The Boronia Crossing was still regarded as the worst in the combined Melbourne area.

June 1992: Then opposition leader Jeff Kennett vows to put the rail crossing underground by June 1998 if elected.

September 1996: Works for the crossing removal and station rebuild are green-lit.

November 4 1998: Regular services resume without a crossing between Boronia and Ferntree Gully.

June 2025: Boronia Station upgrade announced.

March 2026: Works begin for a September opening, but were brought in ahead of schedule.

In total, 34 people were killed on the crossing, either directly by trains or by cars in situations attributed to it.

Thanks to Ray Peace and his brilliant book " Boronia & its death trap crossing 1888-1998" for the references. Available from the Knox Historical Society. See also Page 5 cover story.

WAKE UP KOALA!

Dayangani Silva

Koalas' home is a nice paradise.
Koalas dwelt in the Raymond Island
Tall shady Eucalyptus gum trees are seen.
Lake, thicket, beaches create a wonderful scene.

Boats sail on the, blue water lake.
Silver little fishes swim shoals, on the lake.
Blue waves dash happily, noises make.
Mini planes like birds, fly over the lake.

In the thicket Eucalyptus gum trees grown.
On the boughs, Koalas' nests are seen.
Koalas sleep on the gum trees, eat leaves on the twigs.
Koalas you like my teddy bears.

Koalas climb iconic trees, keeping joys on the backs.
Some feed joys keeping in their bags.
You nap sleepers , Gift of the Land.
Let's protect natures gift of the Land.

Big round, fluffy ears, spoon shape nose.
Who gave you the furry brown coats?
You play, Hide and Seek, oh! Dear honey ,
Wink at once and show joey's joy.

Knox Uniting Church
BORONIA ROAD

OUR KNOX UNITING CHURCH minister is REV RUSSELL CROXFORD, and he preaches at our church, 209 Boronia Road, on the 2nd and fourth Sundays each month.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MADE WELCOME

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

OUR MAKERS AND GROWERS MARKET is Saturday, 7th November from 10 am – 2 pm. All stalls will be indoors or under cover. Come along and browse/buy or just enjoy a Devonshire Tea in our Pop-up CAFÉ! Proceeds will go towards buying food for our Emergency Food Pantry. Contact 0421 769 067 or irenesmith2@bigpond.com

NEW 'KIDS' CHURCH' PROGRAM started successfully last month, with the next gathering being on Sunday 8th November @ 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.

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. We are a member of the Knox Emergency Relief Network.

MUSICPLAY4KIDS, FUN GROUP FOR UNDER-SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN CARERS 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 - when the carers have the opportunity to get to know each other. Leaders of this program are always on hand to offer support and encouragement.

Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

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 Website or Facebook page, 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.

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...

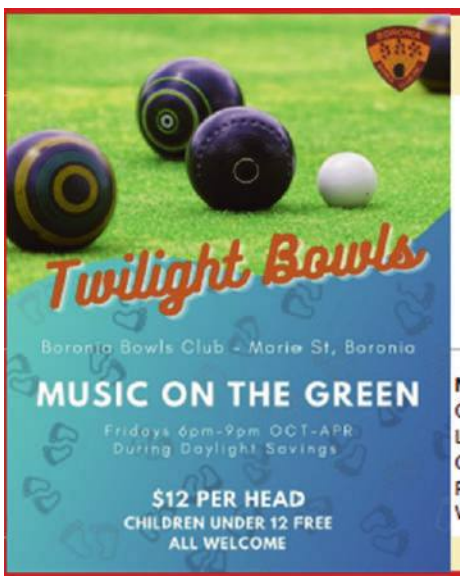
All our appointed leaders, employees and volunteers have completed the required Safe Church Training and have current Working With Children Checks.

view
voice interests and education of women

Boronia VIEW will be meeting Friday 20 November at 11.30 am at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Rd., Kilsyth, with a 2-course lunch costing $30, followed by Janet talking about "The Roaring 20s".

There will be a raffle, book stall and trading table, with all monies raised going to the 10 Smith Family children that the club sponsors for their educational needs through the Learning for Life program. The club is looking for new members, so ladies of all ages and backgrounds, come along and you will be warmly welcomed. There are small groups within the club and the occasional outing.

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602



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

Just turn up or phone the Club on 9761 1996

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Local Community and Club News

THE FERNTREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY

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GALLERY NOVEMBER EXHIBITION

"INTERIORS"

8th NOV – 20th DEC

Our members exhibition displaying their interpretation of all sorts of interiors,

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FTG Arts Society Special Display

Shirley Dougan

I'm the secretary of the FTG Arts Society, and I want to let you know about a special display we have coming up in November/December.

It's a display of dollhouse-sized shops with a street. All in roughly 1/12th scale, and a lot of it is made by me, as I prefer to make rather than buy. The display will consist of the shops lined up on one side with all the fronts removed so that visitors can see inside, and then the shop fronts displayed on the other side with a streetscape and various things along the street - lights, a mail van, a photo booth and other interesting things.

The shops will be lit up by miniature lights, which will make it quite magical.

The proprietors of the shops are based upon my ancestors- who, it should be noted, were not shopkeepers; not one of them! Instead, it's my personal fantasy about which of my ancestors would have liked to own a particular shop or building - eg, my great-grandmother, I'm sure, would have loved to have had a sweet shop, and my gr-gr-gr grandfather Jonathan Westall, who was a stone mason, would have liked to have built a tower to look at the stars.

There will be a couple of interactive puzzles to solve as well.

It's on display from November 8th to December 20th, with some evening openings in December. It's free to enter, and we hope that lots of people will come.

Something to be added to your Christmas lights trail.

Official opening 7.30 Sun 29th of Nov

Come and join us for this special event

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)

• Sunday 9.45 am, Traditional service

• Sunday 10:30 am, Relaxed service with children's program

Note – Combined service, 10:30 am on 1st Nov and 29th Nov.

Play Group (Bayswater campus)

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

Parents/grandparents/carers with infants or pre-school children

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

• Fridays fortnightly, 10 am-11:45 am

We are a community of mums with a heart to champion women in their motherhood journey. All mums welcome.

Coffee Pot Play Cafe (Bayswater campus)

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

The Coffee Pot is a free-entry café with an internal and external play area. Great for parents, carers, and grandparents to bring young children to play, while you enjoy coffee and food off our menu.

Community Meal (Boronia campus)

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

Seven people from our church drank water only during September – no soft drink, juice, alcohol or coffee – and we raised nearly $10,500 for the installation of clean water supplies in villages in Zimbabwe and Vanuatu. What an effort to give people something (clean water) that we take for granted!

The Orchard Op Shop (Shop 51, Mountain Gate Shopping Centre)

A thriving place to pick up some bargains. Come and grab some summer clothes and a good book to read!

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



Location: *51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater*

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.

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

Our next General Meeting will be held at 10.30 am on Tuesday the 24th of November 2026, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay on.

At this, our final meeting for 2026, we will be entertained by The Pleasant Pluckers, who have become something of an institution at our November meetings over the past few years.

During September, we attended a lunch at The Knox Italian Community Club in Rowville (image right). The event included entertainment and dancing and was a great success. Highly recommended by all who participated. (Photo attached).

Our next special event was our Cup Day Luncheon at The Boronia Hotel. Festivities included sweeps and door prizes.

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.



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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Switzerland

A Review

Peter Kemp

THE 1812 THEATRE

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A young man travels from New York to Switzerland to try to persuade acclaimed thriller writer Patricia Highsmith to write one final instalment of her Tom Ripley series, with his efforts gradually turning more sinister...

The 1812 held the play in The Bakery at 1812, as it is a two-hander.

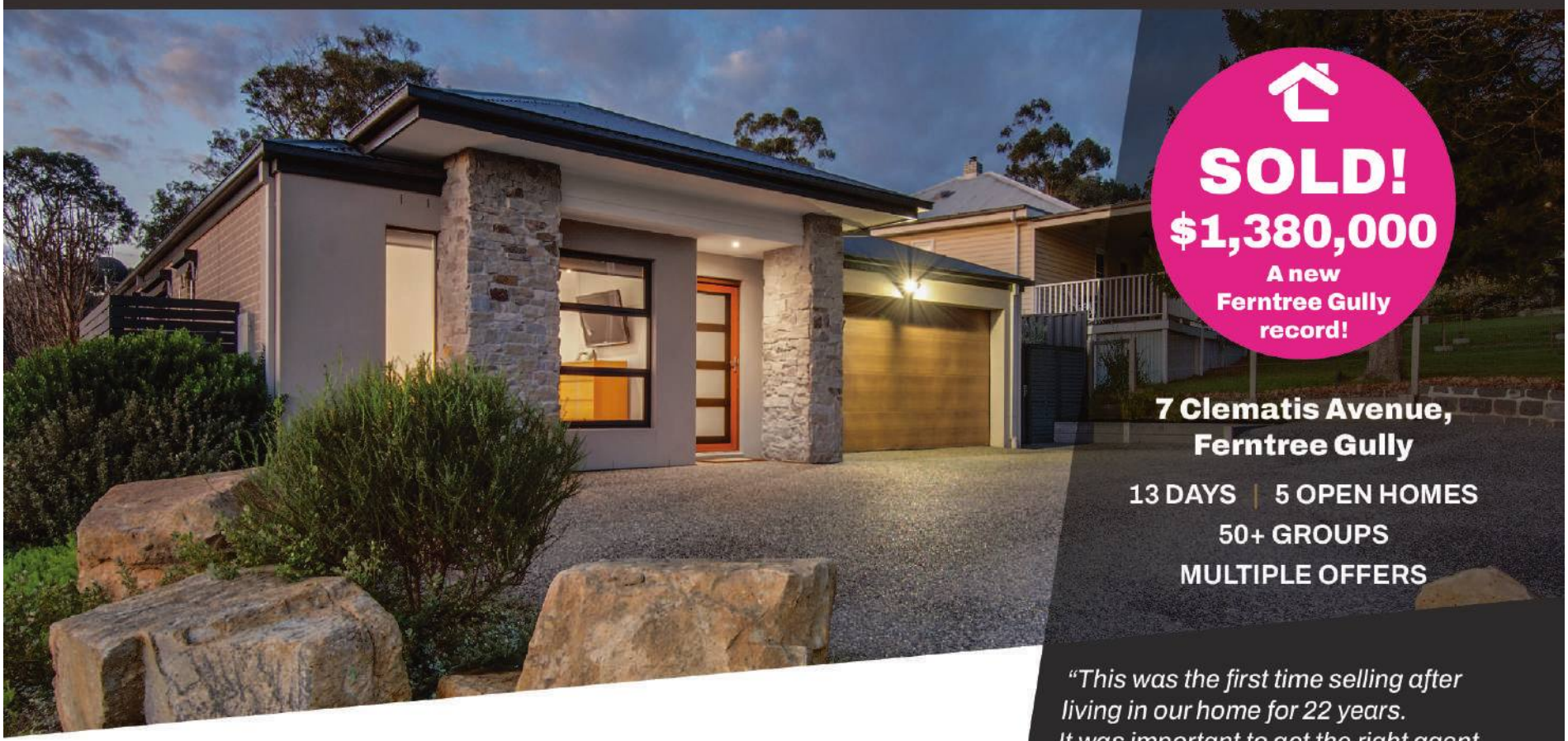
The players were as Patricia Highsmith was Audrey-Maeve Barker her agent grom A/America was Edward Ridgeway played by Mark / Channing. he set was well done with a two-seater couch and matching chair centre stage; on audience right there was a desk where Patricia did her writing; on audience left there was a bookshelf on which she kept books and souvenirs of guns used in her stories.

Centre rear was an opening of a movie of snails, as the writer was a keen viewer of snails; then it changed to a view of the Swiss Alps – but as the show grew darker, the window view grew smaller.

Audrey-Maeve Barker gave a good acting performance, but her voice was not very clear and the audience missed some of the fine nuances which contributed to the plot. Mark Channing also a good actor but again was not to clear voice wise and instead of facing the audience when he spoke but spoke away from the audience.

There was a surprising twist at the end. Overall, not a bad production, but the two actors had quiet voices, which left the audience wondering what was happening.

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