DECEMBER 2026 Issue 361

Boronia & The Basin COMMUNITY NEWS

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Editorial: Danny Nolan

A time for Reflection and Thanksgiving

2026 has been a big year for the Boronia & the Basin Community News. We have continued with a committed, stable, and enthusiastic volunteer base that has seen the paper build up great resources for the future and beyond. Advertisers have joined, having faith in the paper and its reach to give them new customers and value for money.

We believe the paper's content keeps our readership informed as well as entertained with local events, histories and stories. Being a monthly paper with strict printing dates, we have relied on social media to keep locals up to date on events in between issues and also to extend our readership base beyond our delivery boundaries.

Since Christmas is a time of reflection and thanksgiving, we at the BBCN would take this chance to thank the committee, our volunteer walkers, our contributors, our new and long-time advertisers, and of course our valued readers. Print media is a shrinking part of the great information age, but we feel confident, thanks to those just mentioned, that we've still got quite a few good years in us.

There will be no paper in January, but keep an eye on our Facebook page, where we will still post any events that may be of interest.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful and safe holiday period.



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the voice of the community
MEMBER 2026

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Knox City Council

The Basin Community House

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 Articles or letters that have no contact details, are abusive in nature, or contain racial or other vilification will not be published.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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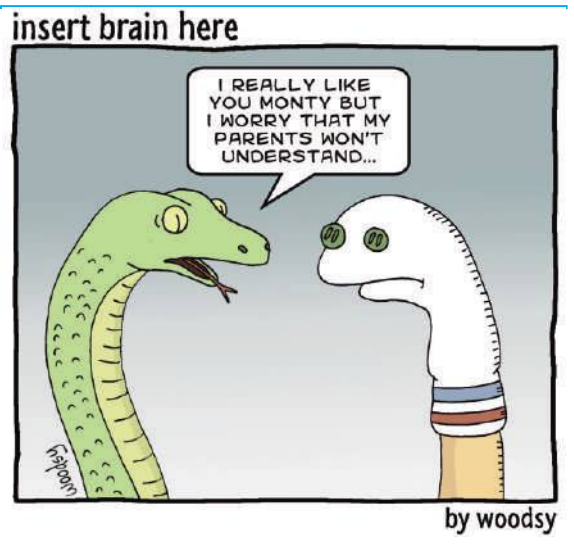
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Scan the QR code, or visit
bbcn.org.au/young-writers/



Page 3 "Bird"

Des Palmer

Satin Flycatcher

(*Myiagra cyanoleuca*)



I have been seeing this bird quite regularly on my tours recently, on the Phillip Island and Brisbane Ranges tours they are a gimme! I'm always asked what my favourite bird is by many people and my reply varies from day to day, but if you asked me that question of late, the answer is this little bird!

Very similar in appearance to the Willie Wagtail (everyone knows the Willie Wagtail) this bird can be described as a Willie Wagtail on steroids, they are constantly on the move. Flying out from branches to catch insects on the wing then returning to a branch to consume said prey, all the while constantly quivering their long tails, normally in an up and down motion, but sometimes sideways. Now this last bit of information I have given you may seem inconsequential, but believe me, it isn't! A bird called the Leaden Flycatcher is almost identical to our mate, but when he alights on a branch he quivers his tail up and down, always! A good method to id them when all you can see is a little black and white bird 50 metres up in the canopy of the forest, and you have an international client sweating bullets on getting as many birds as possible for his life list!

The thing I like the most about these birds though, is the sounds that emanate from their bills! Some of the calls are melodious, some raspy and gruff and some just downright comical, and when they regale you with the full repertoire, you don't know whether to laugh or cry!

And speaking of calls made by Flycatcher's, Arthur and Joy, who, along with several others are responsible for producing this newspaper, recently sent me a video of a bird on their property up at Tallarook which they had not seen there before: the Restless Flycatcher. (We have 3 species of Flycatcher in Victoria: Satin, Leaden and Restless). The calls of this species are also interesting; on the video you could hear it making a very strange sound, a 'grinding, churring,' a noise which actually disturbs the insects it preys upon into movement and voila, dinnertime! It actually is a weird sound; I couldn't imagine how to imitate it, so don't ask me to!

This bird is called the Satin Flycatcher because its glossy dark plumage, in sunshine, has a satiny iridescent sheen to it which is stunning to see; check out Anita's great photo of one we saw on a recent tour at my mate Pete's place at Avalon Beach. We got absolutely crippling views!

The people I meet on these tours tell me stories about crazy bird watchers they know. A recent client from Belgium told me about a chap he knows who is currently on about 6900 species seen and whose ambition is to see 8000 before he dies! When I hear stories like that, I immediately tell my wife Adrienne, see, I'm not as crazy as some! At least I hope I'm not that crazy; it's hard to see yourself. Reassure me when you next bump into me!

Email: birdtoursbydes@gmail.com

Website: AustralianBirdTours.com.au

Image Credit: Anita Macpherson



Meet Knox City Council's new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Congratulations to Cr Meagan Baker, elected on November 19th as Mayor, and to Cr Glen Atwell, elected as Deputy Mayor.

Knox mayors serve a one-year term and can be nominated for reelection for subsequent terms if they wish to continue in the role.



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

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

We are currently looking for a permanent volunteer 'walker' to deliver papers in the areas bordered by, Rathmullen Rd and Dixon Crt / Gertonia Ave. 150 papers

The commitment isn't huge - round about an hour's walk once a month.

Your papers will be delivered to your home on the last Thursday of each month.

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

God's Messenger

Dayanganii Silva

Mum & I were lonely in the world.
In our little hut , happily lived.
We made our living , making a farm.
We could make our living at home.
Months passed, a visitor came to our hut.
He promised us to give a new life.
Built a new home and offered mum a job
Encouraged me to do studies firm.

After few years, I got alone
Master helped me to stand again.
I believed him as the GOD in my world.
Offered my gratitude honestly and best.
He was a bachelor, had few friends.
Sometimes visited to see his friends.
Introduced me as a relative's son.
He made a stage for me to stand.

Happily, Peacefully we both lived.
One cold night ,He took my hands
My tear drops shed on his cheeks.
He too left me looking at my eyes
How I forget him, he is my GOD.
His kindness..,Love and Warmth remained
You are my saviour , gave me the best
I follow your way and make your dreams true

Get Christmas sorted

Red bin for rubbish

Green bin for leftovers

Yellow bin for packaging

Knox City Council

Knox City Council

Knox City Council



Women and children have a right to be safe

Violence is preventable.
Help create change.

knox.vic.gov.au/FamilyViolenceSupport

Knox Carols

Saturday 12 December
Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully

Free event

knox

Knox City Council

0767

COVER STORY: Local Festivities in the Holiday Season

Joy Shelley

The Christmas celebration and holiday season is almost on us. There are lots of events happening for you to enjoy this December. Here's a few things you might like to do which are free.

Walk the Christmas lights trails in your local area.

Beresford road, Boronia is one area where there are always lots of houses with great Christmas lights. You can download a map of where they all are at:
https://www.christmaslightsearch.com.au/melbourne/boronia-3155

The map will be updated as December progresses.

Boronia Mall Christmas Celebration

Saturday 28th November 2026 from 11am - 3pm

A festive day of family fun as Boronia Mall celebrates Christmas with a fantastic afternoon of FREE entertainment, activities and Christmas cheer. There will be a range of activities for the whole family including: Santa photos, A live Magician, FREE Face Painting & Kids Crafts, Nail Art, Roving Characters and a variety of market stalls. You can also grab a bite to eat at the CFA sausage sizzle.

FREE ENTRY - EVERYONE WELCOME.

Boronia Library Easy fun crafts

Dec 1st– Dec 23rd 2026 FREE

Add a handmade touch to your holidays in a joyful afternoon of crafting, creativity and Christmas cheer.

Suitable for all ages and skill levels. All materials are provided with friendly assistance from the library team. Make your own handmade decoration or gift to take home. Just bring your festive spirit.

Boronia Library

Last Minute Christmas Wrapping Social Night: Monday 21 December 2026 at 5:30 PM

EIf you're anything like us, you've left your wrapping until the last minute. And now, you have too many presents to wrap and too little time. Join us at Boronia Library for a Christmas Wrapping Social Event: We provide the wrapping, ribbon, guidance on wrapping methods, social connection, Christmas movies & snacks.

Bring along anything you need wrapped, and we'll make a night of it.Ice-breaker questions & festive cheer provided. Everyone welcome.

BBCN wishes all readers a safe and happy holiday period.

We look forward to engaging with you all again next year.

We would love to hear from you and share your experiences of being a local in our community: Contact@BBCN.org.au

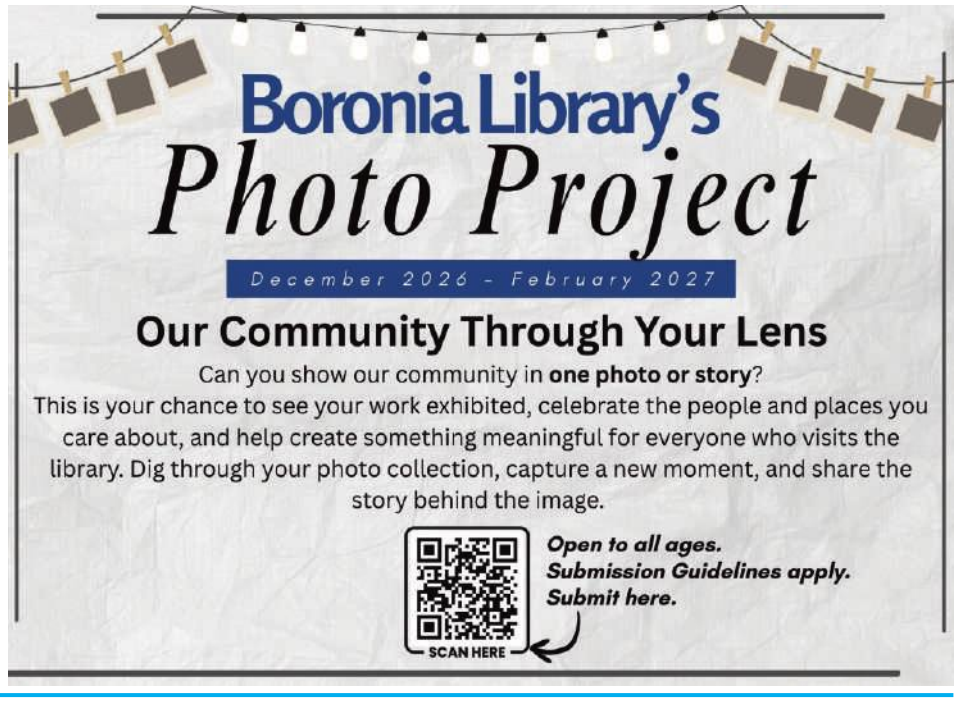
Foothills Community Care - Christmas Lunch

Don't spend Christmas alone this year! Over the past 24 years, we have been hosting our Foothills Christmas Lunch for locals to come together and celebrate, especially for those who would normally spend Christmas alone.

We will be hosting 2 sessions on Christmas Eve, December 24, not on Christmas day.

Session 1: 10.15am- 12.45pm Session 2: 1.30 - 4pm Registration is essential and places are limited.

Each session features our traditional Christmas fare, including a main meal with all the usual Christmas goodies. There will be plenty of entertainment on the day, including face painting, kids activities, a Christmas photo booth, a nativity play and of course a visit from our very own Christmas angel with gifts for all.Preference will be given to local residents of Knox and the Dandenong Ranges as we usually receive many more inquiries than we are able to take for the day. Please note, we are unable to offer transport for any guests.



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

Twilight Christmas Market

Dillbadin Primary School

Friday 4 December

4:30–8:00 pm

25 Tormore Road, Boronia

Knox Carols

Saturday 12th December

Wally Tew Reserve

Ferntree Gully

Fab Nobs Theatre Inc

Harriet Heartfelt and The Hollywood Heist

Jan 9-17 2027

33 Industry Pl, Bayswater

Knox public art trails

7 trails to explore

Self guided interactive maps

Search:

knox.vic.gov.au/publicart

Boronia Progress Hall turns 100



The iconic Progress Hall in Boronia held a ceremony and plaque unveiling to commemorate its 100th anniversary. The crowd was small due to the time of day, but Council and Community groups were well represented, which was very encouraging.

After a short introduction from the Mayor, Bill Ireland gave a talk in which he recalled memories of his time living in Boronia and his association with the Progress Hall.

Though his father came to Boronia 106 years ago, before the building existed, Bill himself had been acquainted with the Hall for all of his 80 years.

In a conversation we had earlier, Bill said he was born on Forest Road and moved only 300 metres up the road to a house where he still lives.

Until the fire station moved in the mid-1990s, Bill, a life member of the Boronia CFA, spent many hours staring across at the hall opposite

Bill remembered watching movies and attending dances. He reminded us of the once major role the hall played in the community. It hosted the community meetings that established the Boronia CFA and the BBCN back in 1993. It hosted protests to install warning lights at the crossing in the 1950s, as well as being used as a polling station and for horticultural shows. It was also the venue where generations of Boronia's children received their vaccinations.

Bill was telling us about how local and early television personality Ian Turpie performed at the hall before he became nationally known on TV. It was during this tale that Jan Birkett tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I interviewed him for the paper back in the early days"

Bill was also present to put out the fire that nearly destroyed the Hall in November 1991. It was deemed an arson attack and the culprits have never been charged. It was the second such attack; the first failing when a fuse didn't ignite the accelerant.

The building was deemed of such cultural significance that Knox Council restored it to its original state in 1992

The plaque was unveiled at the Hall's entrance by Mayor Kennett & Councillor Lockwood to warm applause. This was followed by an afternoon tea and much catching up.

Knox Council representation included Knox Mayor & Chandler Ward Councillor Paige Kennett, Baird Councillor Peter Lockwood & Dinsdale Councillor Robert Williams.

The councillors were accompanied by the Knox Community Strengthening Team: Belinda, Justine & Jenny

Other groups and individuals in attendance were:

Living Local legend Bill Ireland accompanied by his wife.

Infolink members including Anne Bowkett & (BBCN contributor) Everard Himmelreich



Bill Ireland and Paige Kennett

Miriam Cadwallader, Manager of The Basin Community House

Carol Carew from the Studfield & Wantirna Community News

Greg Bain from the Facebook page The Good Old Days

Members from the Boronia CFA & Lions Club

Knox Historical Society President John Wilson

Heidi from YourLibrary, among others that I'm sorry I didn't get to list.

Of course, there was me and founding BBCN legend Jan Birkett.

Danny Nolan, BBCN roving reporter.

The following brief early history of the Progress Hall was researched and supplied by Heidi Bell of YourLibrary.

In 1921, the township of Boronia faced the need for a place to hold many events and dances.

A committee was formed, a name decided – Boronia Progress Hall & much fundraising was done.

In 1924, A.E Chandler donated a block of land on corner of Boronia Rd & Dorset Rd to build the hall upon.

The cost of the building was set at 969 pounds.

By 1925, the community had raised 430 pounds and committee applied for a loan for the balance.

And it was decided to proceed with the project. Local builder George Green was engaged for the work.

In mid 1925, the building commenced.

30th January 1926, Boronia Progress Hall was officially opened.

In 1927, electricity was supplied to Boronia & the hall was one of the first buildings to be connected.

Over the following years, more fundraising was done to pay off the balance of the building loan.

In 1939, the loan was extended so that an extension could be added to the back of the hall.

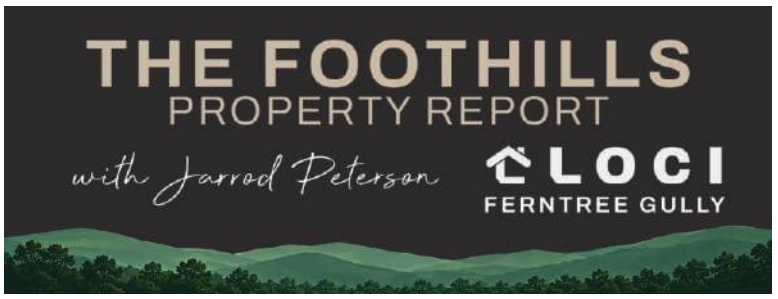
This began in 1940, but was not completed until 1946.

The hall has been, and continues to be used by the wider community for many different events and programs.

It is evident that while the building has been maintained, it has not been modernized except for a modern kitchen, since the 1940's renovations.



Paige Kennett and Peter Lockwood unveil the plaque





Welcome to The Foothills Property Report

As we approach Christmas and the end of another year, it seems a fitting time to introduce a new monthly column dedicated to all things local property.

I'm Jarrod Peterson, and I've spent more than 20 years working in residential and commercial real estate throughout the local area. Having grown up here and built both my career and family in the foothills, I have a genuine appreciation for what makes this part of Melbourne such a special place to call home.

Over the years, I've seen property markets change considerably. Buyer expectations shift, interest rates fluctuate, new trends emerge and, at times, the headlines can make it difficult to know what's really happening in the market. Yet one thing I've consistently found is that understanding your local market is far more valuable than simply following the broader headlines.

That's the purpose of The Foothills Property Report. Each month, I'll be sharing insights, information and practical advice relating to our local property market, with the aim of helping homeowners, buyers, investors and anyone with an interest in property to make better-informed decisions.

Throughout the year ahead, we'll explore a range of topics, including what influences property values, the importance of presentation when selling, understanding buyer behaviour, navigating the selling process, common misconceptions about real estate and the trends shaping our local market. I'll also share observations from the ground, including what we're seeing at inspections, how buyers are responding to properties and what recent sales can tell us about the market.

My intention is to keep things informative, straightforward and relevant to our community, without the jargon or unnecessary hype. While property will always be the focus, I also hope the column appeals to those who simply enjoy keeping up with what's happening in our beautiful part of the world and the community we are fortunate enough to call home.

Whether you're considering buying, selling, investing, renovating, curious about the value of your home or simply interested in what's happening locally, I hope there's something in each month's column that catches your interest and provides a little insight along the way.

For now, I'd like to wish everyone in our local community a very Merry Christmas, a safe and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to the New Year.

I look forward to sharing The Foothills Property Report with you throughout 2027.

Celebrate Miller's Homestead with Us

Saturday 5 December 2026 at 11:00 - 2:00

Miller's Homestead

Free Event

The staff at Miller's Homestead invite our beloved community to join us in celebrating the last 5 years in the story of Miller's Homestead. Over the last five years, Miller's Homestead has flourished as a place of welcome and deep community connection. Together, we have transformed this beautiful historic home into a thriving arts and cultural hub that has fostered creativity and provided vital support to so many.

We have spent five years singing and painting and playing and creating. Now it is time for celebrating! This special event is for anyone who has enjoyed visiting, and would like a chance to say goodbye and celebrate the five years of Your Library at Miller's Homestead.

The event will feature: The Kaleidoscope choir, music jam and singalong, Words Aloud Poets, stories from our community, tasty nibbles, drinks and art and craft for grown ups and little ones alike.



Image credit: Brian White



Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas... Without the Toothache!

Boronia Dentist Team

Christmas is the season for family, laughter, delicious food and plenty of sweet treats! From candy canes and Christmas pudding to chocolates and festive drinks, there's no shortage of temptation. But while you're enjoying the celebrations, don't forget to give your teeth a little Christmas cheer too!

Sweet Treats Without the Toothache

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a few indulgences! The good news is you don't have to skip your favourite treats. Try enjoying sweets with meals rather than constantly snacking throughout the day. This gives your teeth a break from repeated sugar exposure. Remember, sticky toffees and hard lollies can be particularly troublesome for teeth and fillings!

Cheers to a Healthy Smile!

Festive cocktails, soft drinks and wine can be acidic or sugary, which may contribute to enamel erosion and tooth decay. Enjoy a glass of water between drinks to help rinse away sugars and acids. Your teeth will thank you!

Santa's Tooth-Friendly Snack List

Not all Christmas goodies are naughty! Cheese, nuts, fresh vegetables and other low-sugar snacks make excellent additions to your festive platter. Cheese can also help neutralise acids in your mouth.

Don't Put Your Dental Routine on Holiday!

Late nights, Christmas parties and busy mornings can make it tempting to skip brushing. Keep brushing twice daily with fluoride toothpaste and cleaning between your teeth once a day, even when the festivities are in full swing.

A Christmas Wish from Boronia Dentist

From all of us at Boronia Dentist, we wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas filled with happiness, laughter and plenty of smiles!

Enjoy the festive season, look after those pearly whites, and remember — the best Christmas accessory is a healthy, happy smile!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Boronia Dentist

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- Family Friendly
- Pragmatic advice
- Emergency and planned dental care
- New patients welcome

03 9762 5552
info@boroniadentist.com.au
Suite 1, 178 Boronia Road

Baird Ward Councillor by-election

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has confirmed that a by-election for Baird Ward will be held on Saturday 6 February 2027. An extraordinary vacancy has arisen in Baird Ward following the resignation of former Knox City Councillor Peter Lockwood. This will be a postal election managed by the VEC. Postal voting will close at 6 pm on Friday 5 February 2027.

Council encourages Baird Ward residents to visit the VEC website to check that their electoral enrolment details are up to date by 4 pm on Wednesday 25 November 2026. Eligible Baird Ward property owners and occupiers who are not enrolled on the state electoral roll for Knox may also be eligible to enrol and can contact Council to check their eligibility on 9298 8000.

Council invites community members who are interested in representing Baird Ward as a Councillor to consider standing as a candidate in the by-election. This is a great opportunity to take on an influential leadership role in our community and make a positive impact. Suburbs represented in Baird Ward are Bayswater, Boronia and Ferntree Gully. A map of Baird Ward is available on our website.

Candidate nominations close at 12 pm on Tuesday 22 December 2026. Prospective candidates must meet the eligibility requirements and complete mandatory candidate training before nominating.

More information is available for prospective candidates on the VEC website:

https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/

The Internet Laundrette

7 Alpine Street, Ferntree Gully www.laundrette.com.au
(close to Foodworks)
7am to 9pm Every Day 24 hours with entry code

60lb (27kg) wash from $8*
20lb (9kg) wash from $3*
* Night Rate using tokens
FREE soap and softener on some machines

Jumbo Machines ideal for Doonas & Blankets
Dedicated Large Machine for Workwear & Petwear
Drying Only is Welcomed

Internet Kiosk & Wireless Hotspot

0419 367 267 0405 026 849

Help Knox Share the Joy This Christmas

For many local families, Christmas brings worry rather than wonder. With rising living costs stretching household budgets, festive food and presents can feel out of reach. That's where the Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS) Project 2026 comes in – and where you can help.

Now in its 17th year, KCCS unites volunteers, community groups, schools and businesses so people doing it tough across Knox can celebrate Christmas with dignity, warmth and joy.

Last year, KCCS supported more than 900 local people with over 320 food hampers, 245 meat vouchers, 1,780 toys and 256 gift vouchers. But need is climbing fast: in FY26, Knox Infolink provided more than 10,000 additional meals and doubled its material aid compared with FY25. This year, KCCS aims to support 1,000 Knox community members.

How you can help

Drop off a donation: Bring non-perishable festive food or new, unwrapped toys to these collection points by Wednesday 9th December:

- Appleby Real Estate, 20 Station St, Bayswater
- Boronia Library – 7 Pine Cres, Boronia
- Chemist Discount Centre Boronia – Shop/20 Dorset Square, Boronia

Make a tax-deductible donation:

- Visit: www.givenow.com.au/knoxsharethejoy or www.knoxinfolink.org.au/kccs for more information.
- Donations can also be arranged by contacting Knox Infolink on 9761 1325 or emailing kccs@knoxinfolink.org.au

Every contribution, big or small, helps make sure no one in Knox is left out this Christmas.

Meet Vishaan Solanki
Founder of Paramount Podiatry in Boronia

For founder and podiatrist Vishaan Solanki, opening a clinic in Boronia is much more than starting a business. Paramount Podiatry opened its doors in July 2025, and Vishaan has been caring for locals ever since. Vishaan has built his career having grown up working at his father's pharmacy in Bunyip. Before settling in the Boronia area, he spent time working privately in West Gippsland and community health clinics across Melbourne. Further to this Vishaan also worked a couple of years in the United Kingdom, where he gained experience working abroad in England's National Health Service. Having worked across various clinics has given him a broad understanding of how foot problems affect people from all walks of life, and how best to treat them whether a patient needs a quick fix or long-term management.

Healthy feet are something most of us take for granted until they start to hurt. For podiatrist Vishaan Solanki, helping locals stay comfortable and on their feet is more than a job. It's a passion.

Today, Vishaan offers a wide range of treatments for common and painful conditions. Fungal nails can be stubborn, unsightly and embarrassing, and he works with patients to find an effective treatment plan which combines in-clinic care with at-home management, and works with each patient to set realistic expectations to prevent the problem returning. For those dealing with ingrown toenails, he performs procedures that relieve pain and infection, so that everyday activities like walking, working and playing sport become comfortable again.

He also prescribes custom foot orthotics, made specifically for each patient's feet and the way they move. Whether you're managing heel pain, sore arches, or discomfort from long days on your feet, a well-designed orthotic can make a real difference to how you feel, not just in your feet but through your knees, hips and back.

Away from the clinic, Vishaan is a passionate supporter of his beloved North Melbourne, and he's always happy to talk about footy with patients. If you're lucky, you might even get a debate about the weekend's results while he works on your feet. Vishaan also enjoys comedy, movies, trying out new cafés and restaurants.



Vishaan sees patients at Paramount Podiatry and welcomes new clients of all ages. If you've been putting up with sore feet, a troublesome toenail or aches that just won't go away, he encourages you to get in touch rather than wait.

To book a podiatry appointment,

call (03) 9809 3300

Final Message from Cr. Paige Kennett as Knox Mayor

As my year as Mayor of Knox comes to an end, my daughter Belle recently asked, "What's been your favourite thing this year?"

A question that has certainly given me plenty to reflect on. It's been an incredible year of listening, learning, advocating and working to make a difference for our community.

I've attended more than 120 community events, held 12 Meet the Mayor sessions and connected with countless residents, volunteers and community groups. I've also kept residents informed through Eastern FM, ABC Radio and my monthly BBCN articles.

One of my greatest privileges has been presiding over 12 citizenship ceremonies, welcoming more than 1,000 new Australians who chose Knox as home. Advocacy has been a major focus. I've written to the State asking for genuine community consultation on planning reforms, better arterial road maintenance, improvements to rooming house regulations and glass recycling-imposed changes. I've met with State Election candidates across Bayswater, Rowville and Monbulk, ensuring Knox's priorities are heard, while promoting our remarkable manufacturing sector through regional partnerships. Supporting vulnerable residents has also been important, from participating in the Vinnies CEO Winter Sleepout to progressing our Knox Winter Shelter Program. We launched Trees for Tots, gifting a tree to every child born in Knox, a wonderful way to celebrate our smallest Knox residents and shared vision for our green leafy city. Closer to home, I'm proud to have secured Council support and funding for the Mountain Highway footpath, alongside the completed Liverpool Road footpath, Koolunga Gross Pollutant Trap, additional seating and improvements to vegetation. With lots more to come!

Improving council transparency has been another priority, including establishing Council's public advocacy webpage and regular reporting on Council resolutions. I've also invested in my own development through mentoring and professional learning, recognising there's always more to learn.

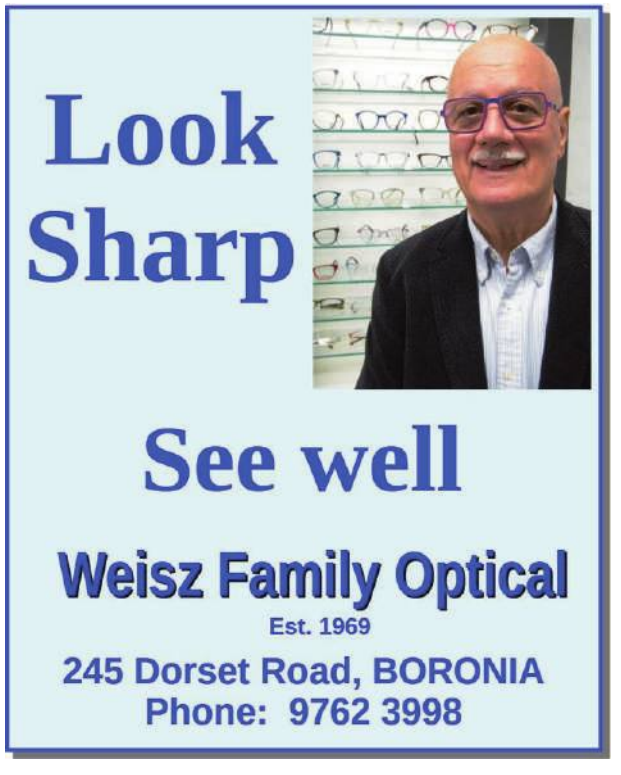
My sincere thanks to residents, volunteers, fellow Councillors and Council staff. Most importantly, thank you to my family for their sacrifices and unwavering support.

So, what was my favourite thing?

Without doubt, the people. The conversations, dedicated volunteers, welcoming new Australians and an incredible community that makes Knox special.

It's been an absolute privilege to serve as your Mayor. My mayoral year may be ending, but my commitment continues as your Chandler Ward Councillor.

Thank you for your support!



KIDS ZONE

Submit YWI entries here:

Free Entry

$50 Prize



Bendigo Bank

BBCN acknowledges and appreciates the ongoing support for the Young Writers Initiative from Bendigo Bank, through their Community Grants. Without this support, the YWI would not be able to provide monetary prizes to our students and schools.

BBCN Young Writers Initiative

Politics of Grievance

Matthew

Year 10, Boronia K-12 College

The politics of grievance has been growing rapidly in Australian (and global) politics in recent times. Its divisive nature poses a danger to our democracy and wider society.

The core of the politics of grievance is to appeal to people's frustrations. The world is in a bad shape, and people are understandably upset. But the problem with this political style is that it offers little substance and few solutions. Rather than policies, it offers little more than blame and division.

Concerningly, it encourages people to victimise their situations, thus allowing them to abdicate their personal responsibilities. Conservative political movements who use the politics of grievance are quite contradictory. Those who advocate for the conservative ideals of personal freedom are suddenly blaming everything on the government, enabling people to feel they should reap personal privileges without facing the consequences of their actions. For example, someone going on an expensive holiday, and then blaming the government for not being able to save for a house deposit.

Even more concerning is when this is used to permit racism, and other forms of discrimination. By blaming minority groups, such as immigrants, it invokes strategies deployed by the fascists of the past. Fascism is a real danger to democracy, a threat that we are seeing play out overseas. Worse, the horrific attack on MP Helen Haines has brought political violence to our state. I think that we can all agree attacks of any type do not have a place in our nation.

So, instead of the politics of grievance, our politicians must instead deploy hope. The belief that problems can be addressed and solved leads to optimism. Optimism subdues fear and pessimism. Overseas, this has had massive successes. The most notable being Zohran Mamdani, the New York Mayor. He led a grassroots campaign that listened to the needs of his constituents, and found actual solutions that people could get around.

There is so much to be joyful of in our country, in “the lucky country.” But, it is important to remember the reasons why we are “the lucky country.” Our sense of a fair go. An egalitarian society. Our amazing public services. And most importantly of all - our strong democracy.

Our democracy is our biggest strength as a nation, and it is something we must protect at all costs. Therefore, we must reject the politics of division, and instead strive for a united nation!

KIDS ZONE

Young Writers Initiative 2026 Annual Awards Announcement

Best Individual Contribution, Primary School:

Audrey, Year 6, Boronia Heights Primary School

Best Individual Contribution, Secondary School:

Kayla, Year 11, Boronia K-12 College

Most Active School Award, Primary:
The Basin Primary School

Most Active School Award, Secondary:
Boronia K-12 College



KIDS ZONE

Do kids really want those expensive toys for Christmas?

Joy Shelley

At a recent get-together, the question of what we should buy the three children under 5 for Christmas came up. We asked the mother of the nearly 5-year-old what he would like. She said, " Just buy him a couple of $2 Hot Wheels cars or a $5 monster truck, and he will be happy." For this little boy, this is absolutely true. He never goes anywhere without a couple of little cars in his hand. He is happiest sending them down the slides in the park to see which ones arrive first. One year we bought him one of those automatic tracks which shoot the car out and through the loops. He used it for a bit, and now he's back to the cars in hand. He has also had remote control cars but is really just as happy bouncing his monster truck all over the yard or up and down the cardboard ramps his grandpa made for him. Over the years, we have had a number of ride-on or ride-in cars, but in the end the $2 cars remain the winner.

I asked the 2.5-year-old what she wanted, and she said, "A twirly dress like this one." Currently, she just loves twirling, and you have to put on your twirly skirts and dresses, which she chooses from your cupboard. Her other favourite pastime is pushing a doll around in a small stroller or putting a few necklaces on and off herself or you. She has a small cash register that she puts coins in and out of.



Earlier this year we bought her a trainer bike; again, it has not seen much use.

In the summer, these two children spend a lot of time playing with buckets of water in our backyard. They fill up the buckets, empty them, fill other buckets, tip them out, and ultimately end up sitting in the water. They fill these buckets with stones or dirt or leaves and again, empty and refill. The dirt and leaves become chai latte for grandma, and the stones become doughnuts for her to eat. Another favourite is using various paintbrushes to paint everything with water.

This is a great game requiring no clean up.

The littlest one is only 10 months old, and her mother recently shared a video of her playing with a large crinkly shopping bag which made a great sound. She said maybe this is what this one wanted for Christmas. She is happiest when you are sitting on the floor singing songs to her with actions.

There are so many simple things that the children enjoy that don't cost a fortune.

The older ones enjoy the build-up to the very magic of Christmas and really do love the simple games and pastimes where they play with you, each other, and their families.

Fun Activity from Alicia Geddes



The Art of Conversation

Alicia's fun activity provides some creative ways to explore what people think by challenging us to think about our preferences. Although the starter question may seem simple, conversations started in this way can bring people to explore each other's perspectives and lead to much deeper exchanges. Such conversations connect us in more meaningful ways and build stronger, trusted relationships.

In the modern world of technology and social media, many people "live" through their phone. Whilst this has many advantages, it also has some disadvantages. The art of conversation is not as strong as it used to be, because deep social engagement is more than just exchanging messages through the phone. Humans are social beings that have learned to rely on a range of communication and connection signals, such as body language, tone, eye contact, facial expressions, etc. These bring added dimensions, richness and meaning to our interactions.

Too often, text alone does not convey the context of a message, and the receiver often does not know how to interpret the real or full meaning without these other elements. A great way to start a fun connecting conversation is to ask a question.

Think about some of your own questions and challenge your family and friends to enjoy a good old-fashioned conversation.

You may be surprised how much you learn about each other, and yourself!

KIDS ZONE

BORONIA K-12 COLLEGE LAUNCHES EXCITING NEW BASKETBALL ACADEMY FOR 2027

Boronia K–12 College (BK12) is excited to announce the launch of its new extra-curricular program for 2027, the Boronia K-12 College Basketball Academy, providing passionate student-athletes with an exciting opportunity to develop their basketball skills, fitness and teamwork.

Designed specifically for students in Years 6 to 9, the Academy will offer a specialised basketball development experience, combining professional coaching, strength and conditioning, excursions and opportunities for competitive play.

The program will cater for two age groups, with Year 6 and 7 students participating in a one-semester program, while the Year 8 and 9 Academy will run throughout the entire year, with students having the opportunity to continue their basketball development in 2028 and beyond.

A specialised program for Years 6 and 7

Students in the Year 6 and 7 Academy will benefit from weekly class sessions, featuring professional coaching from Knox Basketball coaches every fortnight, alongside the Academy Leader. They will also participate in two weekly strength and conditioning sessions, before or after school, utilising the College's brand-new Fitness Centre.

The program will include excursions to the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna and to the Ball360 Centre in Cranbourne, providing students with valuable opportunities to learn and develop their skills in specialist basketball facilities.

An extended development pathway for Years 8 and 9

The Year 8 and 9 Academy will provide an even more comprehensive basketball experience, with professional coaching from Knox Basketball coaches and NBL1 players during every class, alongside the Academy Leader.

Students will participate in strength and conditioning sessions each week, before and after school, and enjoy four excursions to the State Basketball Centre and two visits to the Ball360 Centre throughout the year.

Both programs will provide opportunities for students to represent the College in specialised basketball competitions against other schools, in addition to traditional interschool sport. The College is also introducing the VET subject Certificate III in Fitness from 2028 that will be a great option for Academy students.

The College is also hopeful of organising an international basketball trip in 2028, creating an exciting opportunity for future Academy participants.

New facilities and Academy uniform

The launch of the Basketball Academy coincides with the College's major gymnasium upgrade, scheduled for Term 2, 2027. Our inaugural Academy students will be among the first to enjoy training in the upgraded facility.

Students will also have access to a new BK12 Basketball Academy jersey and shorts. Year 6 and 7 students will be able to borrow the uniform for competitions, with the option to purchase their own, while the complete uniform will be provided to all Year 8 and 9 Academy students as part of their Academy fee.

The BK12 Basketball Academy represents an exciting new opportunity for the College to further develop its sporting pathways, encourage student participation and support young athletes to reach their potential both on and off the court.





As another year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic year for Thompsons Coins & Collectables and, more importantly, to thank the wonderful local community that has made it all possible.

Since opening our doors in Boronia Mall in May 2024, we've been fortunate to meet thousands of people from all walks of life. From experienced coin collectors and investors to those simply curious about an old coin discovered in a drawer, every visitor has played a part in our journey.

One of the absolute highlights of this year was the Boronia Money Expo, held right here at Boronia Mall in August. Bringing together coin dealers from across Australia, the event was a wonderful celebration of numismatics and collecting. The turnout and enthusiasm from the local community exceeded our expectations, and it was fantastic to see so many families, collectors and curious newcomers enjoying the event. Your support demonstrated just how much interest there is in our fascinating hobby.

I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has visited our shop throughout the year. Whether you've purchased a rare coin, sold us an old collection, brought something in for identification or simply stopped by for a chat, your support genuinely means the world to us.

Running a small independent business certainly has its challenges, but being part of such a welcoming and supportive community makes it incredibly rewarding.

As we look towards 2027, we're excited to continue growing, sharing our passion for history and collecting, and hopefully bringing more exciting events to the Boronia Mall.

From all of us at Thompsons Coins & Collectables, thank you for another wonderful year. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

Matthew Thompson

Director, Thompsons Coins & Collectables

Bendigo Bank funding for local community groups

A huge thank you to Bendigo Bank Ringwood, Boronia and Bayswater and the Bendigo Bank Community Foundation for once again giving our BBCN paper two grants to support our local community for 2027. The first grant for Community Clubs supports the cost of printing one full page per edition. The second is for awards for our Young Writers initiative now entering its 4th year. This support has already encouraged many young writers to develop their skills and interests in writing.

Local community groups have been celebrated at Community Bank Ferntree Gully's second Grants Night for 2026, with funding awarded to 26 grassroots organisations who are making a positive impact across Knox. Held twice a year, the latest round continues the Bank's long-standing commitment to backing the volunteers, clubs and community groups who help Knox thrive.

Funding recipients in Boronia, The Basin and Bayswater include Boronia Bowls Club, St Pauls Church Boronia, Ben's Place and Temple Society Australia



Community Bank Ferntree Gully Chair, Etienne Clauw, said the Community Grants program is a reminder of the power of local banking. "By choosing to bank locally, our customers make it possible for us to reinvest profits back into the Knox community where it matters most.

We have reinvested over $6.5 million to date." He added that the Community Bank model has never been more important. "While many suburbs have watched their last bank close, our community-owned branch has stood strong for 25 years and we're not going anywhere. Local ownership means stability, it means commitment, and it means we're here for the long haul."

Colliewobbles; a Life Saving Mission

For local resident Philip Cassap, community spirit has always been important and defined by action, empathy, and stepping up when others need a helping hand. But as Philip will tell you, none of it would be possible without his wife, Debbie. Sharing a deep, unwavering passion for animal welfare, the couple has spent thirteen years turning personal devotion into a sanctuary of hope for both people and pets.

Philip's heart for grassroots action shone brightly in February 2009 following the devastating Black Saturday bushfires, when he helped organise Ride for the Hills 2009 and Road to Recovery in 2010, two massive motorcycling events raising thousands of dollars to support the CFA and SES emergency services in replacing equipment lost in the fires

In 2014, Philip channelled that same compassion into establishing Colliewobbles, a breed-specific social walking group for Rough Collies, Smooth Collies, and Shetland Sheepdogs (Shelties). The success of the group has grown into a community network across parts of Victoria, yet as the social walks expanded, so too did the heartbreaking reality of high-volume breeding, neglect and cruelty raise its head, exposing the darker side of dog breeding. Now we see the reality of economic pressure on households forcing owners to surrender their dogs to pounds, shelters and rescue organisations due to a change in their personal circumstances.



In response to this increasing problem and a profound love for the breed, Philip, with the assistance of his wife Debbie and a deeply devoted committee, established Colliewobbles Rescue & Rehoming Australia (CRRA) in August 2018 as an ACNC-registered charity.

At the core of everything CRRA does is an unshakeable "Dogs First" policy. Every decision made, every dollar raised, and every foster placement centres entirely on the physical, medical, and emotional well-being of the dogs.

While Philip handles much of the public advocacy, Debbie brings over 30 years of extensive experience in animal welfare as CRRA's Health and Welfare Manager—affectionately dubbed "the brains of the outfit" by Philip. Together with the Colliewobbles Rescue committee, whose personal dedication and selfless daily work guide the rescue's mission, they ensure no dog in need is ever left behind.

Crucially, CRRA operates with zero paid staff. The charity relies on the tireless commitment of its unpaid committee, loving foster carers, and passionate Colliewobbles social group members who keep CRRA alive with financial donations, volunteering their time, homes, skills, and hearts to help dogs in need.

At CRRA, our guiding truth is "Dogs lives matter" and with the help of our close-knit team and volunteers, we have transformed the lives of Collies, Shelties and their owners, taking forgotten animals out of dark conditions and bringing them into the warmth of loving, permanent homes.

Colliewobbles social walking group will be holding its 13th Annual Christmas fundraiser at Nortons Park on the 5th of December to raise much-needed funds to support the ongoing work of the dogs in care

If you are the owner of a Rough Collie, Smooth Collie or a Shetland Sheepdog, why not join us at Nortons Park the 5th December and spend some time with like-minded people who love the "Lassie Dogs"

Boronia Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital

181 Boronia Road, Boronia
(cnr Langwith Ave)

Phone: 9762 3177

www.boroniavets.com.au

Serving the community for over 45 years

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

Our commitment is to provide diverse options to the entire community.

The clinic offers extended consulting hours, and our hospital provides round-the-clock care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our existing clients enjoy a 24 hour service.

Martin Luther Homes appoints an Intake Coordinator

The Support at Home team at Martin Luther Homes has welcomed our inaugural Intake Coordinator! Deb commenced with the team in November and will be a pivotal part of the engagement process. Deb is a nurse with extensive experience in community based aged care and has a wealth of knowledge to assist people to navigate the aged care system.

Deb will be making presentations to community groups and engaging with people in the local Boronia and Basin areas, and surrounding suburbs, to provide invaluable advice and guidance in the Support at Home programs. She will be the constant point of contact for all inquiries and will be making home visits to ensure that admission documentation is completed thoroughly and well.

To get in contact with the team, we now have a dedicated inquiry email. Our dedicated email is sahinquiry@martinlutherhomes.com.au so feel free to drop us line if you have any questions about services at Martin Luther Homes.

In addition to 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. 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.

Like Support at Home, 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 all clinical ser vices, including personal care, attracting no participant contributions.

Until our next edition, the MLH team wish you all a very Merry and safe Christmas and a very happy 2027. And remember, the team are contactable on (03) 8736 2588 or at sahinquiry@martinlutherhomes.com.au if you have any questions about our services.

CWA BORONIA NEWS

As the festive season approaches, we invite you to visit our stalls for unique,

homemade gifts and delicious treats. Whether you are looking for the perfect

homemade craft or a sweet treat for the family, we have you covered.

The Boronia Mall Christmas Market

Saturday, November 28th at 11.00 am

Featuring our collection of jams, chutneys, and handcrafted holiday crafts, and

Santa sacks.

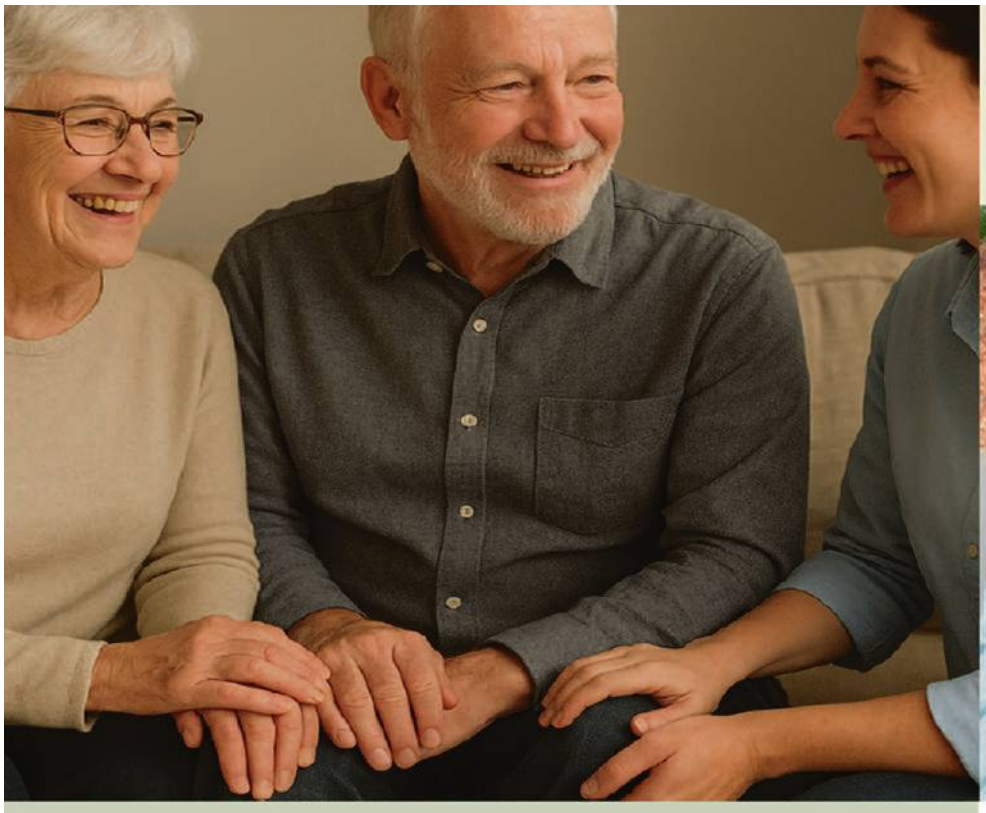
The Bunnings Bayswater Cake Stall

Saturday, December 12th at 9.00 am

A sweet selection of homemade cakes, slices, and biscuits, alongside our

popular jams and chutneys.

We look forward to celebrating the season with our wonderful community.





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.

Research indicates Australian Youth are AI-Ready



Australia has ranked third out of 56 Commonwealth countries in a major new study of youth AI readiness, beating Britain and Canada and identifying a potential A$80.6 billion boost to the economy after ten years.

The Ayre Index, launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, gives Australia a score of 71.0 out of 100. Only Singapore (77.6) and Malta (75.0) rank higher, with Britain fourth on 70.8 and Canada fifth on 70.2. Just 15 Commonwealth countries meet the study's readiness benchmark of 53.

The research by the Ayre Think Tank, founded by Antiguan-Canadian entrepreneur and philanthropist Calvin Ayre, shows Australia could reap enormous economic rewards from the AI revolution. The study drew on 1,128 sources and using scenarios developed by the International Monetary Fund, researchers calculated that AI could make Australia's economy A80.6 billion after 10 years. The figure ranges from A40.9 billion under the most conservative scenario to A$120.3 billion under the most optimistic.

Australia's third-place position reflects strong foundations for young people to benefit from AI. It scores 8.7 out of 10 for meaningful access to technology and 7.5 for digital, data, media and AI capability.

However, Australia's high ranking masks some challenges in education. A 2025 national

assessment found that just 37% of Year 10 students met the required standard for literacy and competency development, down from 46% in 2022. Only around one in ten students also reported receiving substantial teaching about AI-related tasks. The findings highlight the need to ensure young Australians have the skills to take advantage of the technology.

Australia is already taking steps to strengthen these skills. In 2026, Queensland began rolling out a new AI education platform in state schools to help students learn how to use the technology. Victoria has also introduced free specialist AI training to help workers develop new skills and move into AI-related roles.

The initiatives demonstrate how Australia's technological strengths are being used to prepare people for a changing jobs market. For Australia's 5.4 million young people aged 15 to 29, the opportunity is to turn these technological strengths into higher productivity, more successful businesses, better jobs and rising incomes.

Calvin Ayre, founder of the Ayre Think Tank, said: "I've spent my life in businesses where new technology changes everything, and I know you can't stand still. AI is going to change how we work, how we do business and how wealth is created. But this is not a race that only the biggest or richest countries can win. What matters is giving young people the skills and the chance to get ahead – whether to start businesses, find jobs or build something for themselves. Some Commonwealth countries are ahead, others have catching up to do. Nobody can afford to be complacent. That's why we created this Index. It shows countries where they stand, what they're getting right and where they need to do better. Governments now have to decide what they're going to do about it."

The White Paper identifies five priorities: affordable and reliable access to technology; education that develops practical skills; stronger routes from training into employment and enterprise; AI tools suited to local languages and needs; and safeguards that enable young people to question automated decisions.

It calls on governments, educators and development partners to better understand the particular barriers young people face in each country before deciding where investment can make the greatest impact.

Professor C. Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of the University

of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, said: "We need to make sure that the next generation will be able to do more than just consume AI products made elsewhere. Access must come with its own agency and a real equitable stake in how these systems are governed. Young people should be equipped to question these new tools, to improve them and to be supported in building alternatives suited to their own needs. ***Whether that happens, however, will depend on choices made now. This index gives us a clearer view of where those choices are most urgent. We should use it."***

The White Paper, The Ayre Index: The 2026 Commonwealth Youth AI Readiness Index, can be downloaded here:

https://zbek.sharepoint.com/sites/Zebek/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FZebek%2FShared%20Documents%2FZEBEK%20Clients%2FAYRE%20THINK%20TANK%20shared%20folder%2FWhite%20Papers%2FWhite%20Paper%201%2FWhite%20Paper%20for%20media%20distribution&p=true&ga=1

Five years of community impact in Boronia

Knox Infolink has marked its 34th Annual General Meeting with a very special milestone: five years of the Boronia Community Breakfast Program.

Over those five years, more than 32,000 breakfasts have been served and more than 1,300 people welcomed through the doors. But the program has always been about much more than a meal. It is a place to be welcomed by name, share a conversation and, when the time is right, connect with practical support. More than 630 guests have gone on to access additional support through Knox Infolink.

At the heart of this achievement are our extraordinary volunteers. They arrive early to prepare meals, make countless cups of tea and coffee, sit and talk, listen without judgement, collect food, run activities and create the warmth that makes breakfast feel like community. Quite simply, this program could not happen without them.

Most importantly, we honour our guests. People come through our doors carrying experiences of financial hardship, homelessness, mental health challenges and other personal crises. They also bring courage, humour, generosity and enormous strength. Our privilege is to walk alongside them, with dignity and respect.

Current Breakfast Program funding is secured only until September 2027. That is why Knox Infolink is asking local businesses and community members to help fund the Boronia Community Breakfast Program. Every contribution, large or small, helps keep this proven grassroots program serving our community.

Our hope is simple: five more years of opening the doors, warming the urn, welcoming people in and ensuring everyone in our community has a place to be seen, supported and connected.

Five years of impact.

Help us secure the next five by giving today at www.knoxinfolink.org.au/donate-now

Advocacy win on glass recycling

The 'Let's be clear on glass' campaign has helped secure significant commitments that would give councils greater flexibility in how glass recycling is delivered.

The campaign brought together 41 Victorian councils calling on the state government to delay the mandatory rollout of glass-only recycling bins and instead expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). Together, the councils advocated for greater flexibility on behalf of their communities.

The Labor Party has committed to making glass-only recycling bins optional if re-elected, allowing councils to choose the glass collection model that best suits their communities, while the Liberal-National Coalition has vowed to scrap the mandate for glass-only bins if elected.

Labor has announced it will expand the CDS to accept glass wine bottles, while the Coalition has committed to reviewing the scheme to identify opportunities for expansion.

Knox Mayor Councillor Paige Kennett said Council was proud to be part of this advocacy campaign alongside 40 other local councils across Victoria.

"By working together, this group of councils has successfully advocated for changes that would give councils and communities greater flexibility in how glass recycling is delivered," she said.

"The campaign is strongly supported by the community, with a 2026 survey of 25,000 respondents finding that 83% opposed an additional glass-only recycling bin and 91% supported expanding the CDS to accept wine and spirit bottles."

Councils identified that the mandate would be costly for ratepayers and lead to more collection trucks on the road, resulting in increased emissions without additional recycling benefits.

In 2024, the councils united to fund independent modelling of the cost of the glass-only recycling service.

The modelling found it would cost a typical council about $4 million to establish the service, without achieving better outcomes than expanding the CDS to include wine and spirit bottles.

The councils proposed that the state government:

extend the timeframe for introducing a glass recycling service until national standardisation of kerbside services and the CDS could be implemented;

expand the CDS to accept wine and spirit bottles;

review the effectiveness of the CDS against existing glass recycling services; and

share the business case prepared for Victoria's kerbside glass recycling.

If implemented, these commitments could deliver significant benefits for communities. Making the glass-only service optional could avoid an estimated $150 million in council set-up costs, as well as ongoing operating costs for an additional kerbside collection service, estimated at about $27 per household each year.

While these commitments represent an important step forward, councils will continue working together and with the state government to advocate for practical, cost-effective recycling solutions for communities and the environment.

BORONIA BOWLS CLUB – VOLUNTEERS' NIGHT

Boronia Bowls Club was delighted to host a Volunteers' Night, proudly sponsored by Ferntree Gully Bendigo Community Bank. Overseeing the evening were Sam Calogero, Branch Manager, and Etienne Clauw, Bank Chair.

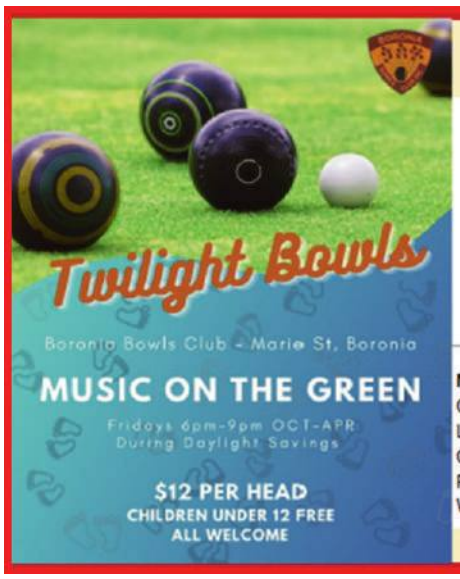
With perfect weather, the evening provided an exciting and intense challenge between our local SES and CFA teams. After some great competition, the winners were Ferntree Gully CFA, with The Basin CFA finishing a very close second.

Congratulations to everyone who took part! We look forward to hosting this fantastic event again next year.

A big thank you and well done to all the CFA and SES volunteers who attended. Your dedication and commitment to our local community are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for everything you do!





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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Community Bank Ferntree Gully
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Glengollan Village Ferntree Gully
Powerhouse Consulting
Bottle Stop Boronia

CLUB SUPPORTERS

Mary Doyle Federal MP Aston

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

Funding for Local Charitable Organisations

Boronia and The Basin residents will benefit from the funding awarded to a diverse range of local projects. These include:

The Basin Music Festival Association. To support the three-day live music event showcasing local artists and bringing together the community to enjoy music, celebrate local culture and strengthen community connections.

The Orchard Church of Christ "Christmas Together". Project to provide free Christmas performances and a community meal, bringing local people together to celebrate, connect and reduce social isolation

Knox Environment Society Inc. "Pest Proof Space". Project to install additional benches throughout the KES nursery to improve the safe handling and movement of plants.

Knox Community Gardens Society Inc. Project to refurbish and replace edges of veggie plots, improving safety and accessibility for members.

Knox Boronia Churches Cricket Club Miller Park Community Shade Grant. The project will purchase portable shade marquees to provide sun protection for players, officials, spectators and families at Miller Park.

The Basin Community House Inc. "Safe Homes, Safe Community. Tag It. Test It. Trust". A community-based Test and Tag service providing electrical safety checks in residents' homes.

EACH Food Pathways - "Cook, Learn, Certify!" Food Pathways – Cook, Learn, Certify! is a practical food skills program for young people aged 15–19.

Take Care Mental Health Care Packs for Headspace Clients – Building Wellbeing, Resilience and Growth Mindset for Life's Challenges The project will provide mental health care packs to young people aged 12–25 accessing Headspace Knox.

The Basin Community House Inc. "40 Years of Community Connection": The project will document and celebrate The Basin Community House's 40-year history through community stories, interviews, photographs and historical records.

Feed One Feed All Inc Food Recovery Partnership Project. The project is a partnership between Feed One Feed All and Outer East Foodshare to build relationships with Knox food businesses and producers and increase donations of surplus food.

Knox Infolink Inc. Knox Community Christmas Support - building a sustainable, Knox-wide approach to 'Share the Joy'! The Knox Community Christmas Support Project provides festive food hampers, fresh food and gifts to approximately 1,000 individuals and families experiencing financial and social hardship.

EACH L2P Volunteer Mentors to complete youth mental health first aid training. The project will provide Youth Mental Health First Aid training for L2P volunteers who mentor young people.

Share Space Inc "The Study Space." The Study Space is a free weekly homework and study support program for Knox school students, delivered by trained community volunteers.

Knox Repair Cafe Inc. Knox Repair Cafe Community Capacity & Sustainability Expansion Project. The project will expand KRC's volunteer-led repair and sustainability program, delivering 35 free repair sessions across four mobile locations in Knox.

The Onemda Association Inc. Inclusive Learning Pathways at The Basin Neighbourhood House. Provision of supported community learning opportunities for people with intellectual disability

Tabulam and Templer Homes for the Aged "TTHA Weihnachtsmarkt (German Christmas Market)" - Connecting Residents, Carers & Community, TTHA Weihnachtsmarkt is an expanded cultural festival bringing the Knox community together through German Christmas traditions, creative activities and intergenerational experiences.

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 second and fourth Sundays of each month.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MADE WELCOME

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

Sun December 13th (third Sunday in Advent) – Communion service at Boronia Road

Sun December 13th @ 5 pm – KIDS' CHURCH for all Primary School children, their siblings and parents – a time of telling the Christmas Story, singing, doing some craft activities and sharing in a simple kid-friendly meal. Call Sue for more information - 0402 079 432

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

Sat December 19th at 3 pm – 4.30 pm, a Carol Service led by our choir @ Boronia Road.

Sun December 20th (Fourth Sunday in Advent) at 10 am – a Service of Lessons & Carols @ Boronia Road

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

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

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 followed by a BYO morning tea when the carers get the opportunity to get to know each other. Leaders of this program are always on hand to offer support and encouragement. Please call Sue on 0402 079 432 for more information.

Last session this year will be Fri Dec 4th, and the first session in 2027 will be on Friday February 5th.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF is available each Tuesday and Friday morning from 10 am till 12 noon – PLEASE NOTE – we will close at 12noon on Friday 18th December and re-open at 10 am on Tuesday, 12th January 2027. EVERYONE can be assured of non-judgmental and friendly support.

OUR CRAFT GROUP MEETS EACH FRIDAY...from 11.30 am at the church. The last day for 2026 is 18th December and the first day for 2027 is January 8th.

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

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

www.facebook.com/BoroniaRdUnitingChurch
Website: https://boroniaroad.ucavictas.org.au

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

Strummers Story by Rob Fairbairn



Finding My Way
Part 4 1976 (Finding my Tribe)

The winter of 1976 was my season of dead endings. Just back from overseas, I was alone, unemployed and determined not to return to teaching. I had ambitions of breaking into the music industry, but apart from one embarrassing entry in a talent contest, I had no performing experience. My guitar skills were rudimentary, but I could sing, if you liked bad Neil Young impersonations. As for songwriting, in five years I'd only written four songs, one of which a former guitar teacher had judged to be the product of someone with a mental illness. But I loved music and was prepared to start at the bottom. So, I applied for a job as a music distributor only to find it involved delivering LPs to supermarkets. I then had the idea of becoming a radio DJ, but the media coach I'd arranged to see didn't turn up to the appointment. And I entered my dismal ditties in song contests. You can guess the rest….

On the upside, when spring finally arrived, Jude and I were back together and living in Armadale. Her only way of escaping from her school in Warragul was to resign. She then rejoined the Education Department and found a job teaching art in Glen Waverley. Not to be outdone and swallowing my pride, I too rejoined the Department and saw out the year 'in excess' at Brandon Park Primary. My dream of becoming Australia's answer to James Taylor would have to wait.

My next bright idea, however, turned out to be the right one. At Ellinbank we had been visited by teachers who gave music lessons. These teachers, I learned, were trained, mentored and resourced by a division of the Education Department known as Music Branch. Could I, with my love of music and a teaching diploma, become a music teacher? I made enquiries and discovered that Music Branch was actually seeking new recruits. Part of their recruitment drive was to run weeklong residential camps where teachers could learn music teaching skills to take into classrooms. I asked my principal for permission to attend the next camp; she agreed, I applied and was accepted.

A mixture of experienced and novice teachers and musicians, we gathered at Erskine House in Lorne for a crash course in music education. We were introduced to the ideas of prominent music educators, taught basic music theory and shown the secrets of curriculum and lesson planning. We also participated in practical sessions involving singing, listening, moving and playing, as well as many informal jam sessions. Underpinning the whole week was a shared passion for music and a belief in its unique ability to enrich the lives of children and school communities. And spongelike, I soaked it all up. I had found my tribe, all of us united in a mission to transform the lives of Victoria's schoolchildren, one song at a time.

After that revelatory week in Lorne, I could actually see a place for me in the education system and made steps to help me realise that vision. I took guitar lessons and went to night school to study music history and theory. And back at school, my principal agreed to let me conduct some music classes.

On the home front, life couldn't have been better. After a year away, we had reconnected with our families and friends and were making the most of our proximity to the city; going to shows, movies and restaurants. Jude was making new friends at her school, and my application to join Music Branch had been accepted. For the first time in my short career, I was looking forward to the new year

To be continued…



Knox Carols by Candellight

Christmas is just around the corner, and Knox Carols is back for another year of music, entertainment and festive fun.

Join us at Wally Tew Reserve in Ferntree Gully on Saturday 12 December, from 4:30 pm to 9.30 pm for a free evening that brings our community together to celebrate the festive season.

There will be plenty to enjoy throughout the evening, including live performances from talented local performers, kids' activities, delicious food trucks and a special visit from Santa. Then settle in and sing along to your favourite Christmas carols under the stars, followed by a fireworks finale at 9:30 pm.

Knox Carols is free and unticketed, so there's no need to book.

Simply gather your family and friends, pack your picnic rug and come along to enjoy the festivities.

The event is drug-, alcohol-, and smoke-free. Please leave pets at home, with assistance dogs welcome.



Event details (Free)

Saturday 12 December

Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully

Gates open 4:30 pm

Pre-show from 5 pm

Main show from 7 pm

Fireworks finale at 9:30 pm

Save the date and get ready to celebrate Christmas with your local community.

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 9.45am, Traditional service (6th Dec., 13th Dec., 20th Dec.)
- Sunday 10:30 am, Relaxed and informal service
- Christmas Day (25th Dec.) 9 am worship

Christmas Pantomime (Bayswater campus - 643 Mountain Hwy)

Each year The Orchard presents a fun Christmas pantomime that delves into the story of Christmas from a different pop culture perspective. Woven into the play are Christmas songs, lots of laughs and dancing!

This year we are proudly presenting the epic story " The Swamp's First Christmas – Not a Fairytale" Christmas play on Saturday, Dec 19th & Thursday, 24th at 5:30 pm.

We will also have a performance that will be sensory-friendly! You can expect soft sound, dimmer lights and no surprises. This performance will be on Sunday, Dec 20th at 3 pm.

This event is free, and we'd love for you to come and join in the fun! There will be a BBQ and snacks for sale after each performance.

What a fantastic way to begin your Christmas celebrations!

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

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

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

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

Description: 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.

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. After the meal, there is the opportunity to share in a Worship/Chat time from 6:15 pm in The Hub Café.

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

The Orchard Op Shop has plenty to choose from to save you money and also to support our community programs.

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

Or visit our website: www.orchardchurch.org.au

KNOX ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY

Feeling low?

Are the cost of living and rising interest rates getting you down?

Then perhaps a walk in nature might lift your spirits a little.

There's nothing quite like a walk in nature on a warm, sunny day where you can enjoy the sound of birds calling, insects buzzing, and frogs croaking. You can also spot plants in flower and try to identify what they are.

Studies have shown that humans need to be in nature. It's necessary for our physical health and our mental well-being.

The problem these days is that there are fewer and fewer places to enjoy nature, as open bushland is disappearing for the development of infrastructure and housing and the parks and reserves are being squeezed out.

Victoria has the worst record of all Australian states when it comes to land clearing for farming and development and for the percentage of land reserved for national parks. Grasslands are not protected for their floristic biodiversity, and logging continues in forested areas, despite being stopped over 2 years ago.

So it is up to us to do what the government won't do – and we can do it in our own gardens. We can grow locally indigenous plants and turn at least one area in our gardens into a place that small birds and invertebrates, lizards and frogs would like to visit or live in.



Grey Parrot Pea

How do we do this?

Start with a large corner area and turn it over to complex vegetation in the form of multiple layers of plants.

Why is complex vegetation important in the home garden?

Layers are very important in designing for habitat complexity. And the midstorey, which is often absent from garden design, may be the most important of these layers. If a canopy tree is not practical in a home garden, choose taller shrubs, such as wattles, instead.

If you would like to invite small birds into your garden, you need complex vegetation. Small birds prefer habitat that offers a mix of plants from all layers for foraging, nesting and shelter from the elements and predators.

Birds of all sizes will share a bushland area by partitioning the resources into niches. Some operate in the canopy, others work amongst the lower level and use the midstorey for nesting or roosting. This is what you are trying to copy in your home garden.

Invertebrates prefer complex vegetation too. They will visit your garden for pollination, feeding and reproduction. Many small birds enjoy the diversity of invertebrates as food sources.

Put some prickly foliage plants, such as Bursaria, Tea Tree or Kunzea, into your midstorey. These offer shelter from predators and a place for insects to feed and pollinate, while Pomaderris and Olearia will provide colourful interest in the garden. Other layers to add to a garden are the small shrubs, ground covers, grasses and creepers.

Noisy Miners and the introduced Common Mynah relish the open designs of many gardens. All these bully birds require a tree to forage or roost in and open grassy areas. These become ideal spaces for territorial behaviour, and the Noisy Miner, in particular, is very good at defending this space from any small bird that might enter.

The way to deal with bully birds is to choose plants for habitat complexity, and the more complex mix of species, the better.

Reptiles and frogs also prefer habitat complexity. They like places for basking, shelter, reproduction and water. And large lizards are very good at dining out on snails.



Matted Bush Pea

Plants growing up to 1 metre high can fill the lower storey. Grasses are a very important food source for seed-eating birds such as Crimson Rosellas. Plant grasses next to thick shrubs for an optimal environment. Species such as Poa, Wallaby and Kangaroo Grass are important to both birds and insects. The small birds you might see in the garden could be Superb Fairy-Wrens, Silvereyes, Pardalotes, Grey Fantails, New Holland Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills and White-plumed Honeyeaters.

3 pea species also provide interest in the garden: the ground-covering Matted Bush Pea (likes well-drained soils in full sun or semi-shade), the taller Rusty Bush Pea (grows up to 1m high in well-drained, moist soil in semi-shade) and the medium-sized Grey Parrot Pea (up to 1.5 m, requiring dry soil and semi-shade).

Governments seem uninterested in increasing the area of national parks and natural bushland, so bring the natural bush into your own garden and enjoy nature at home. Talk to the helpful volunteers at Knox Environment Society Nursery about choices for your garden.

Rusty Bush Pea



Going to the local theatre. An unintended adventure

Danny Nolan

I took my first big leap since COVID to attend some community theatre recently. My wife and I saw a show advertised for the 1812 Theatre that interested us both: A Who-dunnit by Agatha Christie, A Murder Is Announced.

I bought my tickets online. It was a very easy process, and I had booked seats for the Friday the 13th night performance. In the classics, this is what is known as foreshadowing.

On the night we entered, the lovely lady at the door greeted us with a smile and a programme. I asked if she needed to see our tickets. They were on my phone. She replied, "I trust you, plus we'll know if you're not supposed to be here" (More foreshadowing.)

The premises has a beautiful foyer with an Art Deco vibe. The theatre itself is currently raising funds to upgrade the building facade to include a huge illuminated marquee. This will give the building a classic 1930s theatre aesthetic to match the theatre interior. This will also be a perfect companion piece to the Art Deco Royal Hotel opposite. A classic combination that can only draw more people to the area.

In the foyer, just before 8 o'clock, a claxon rang out, and everyone started to file in to take their seats. The theatre is compact and seats 154 comfortably, but the surprise was the stage. It was as deep as it was wide, and the whole audience could fit in it. The set was on display before us and was a beautifully crafted mid-century English sitting room. It looked perfect.

We took our seats and were getting comfy when a couple stood next to us, looking at their phones and then at us. Apparently, we were sitting in their allocated seats.

" That can't be right", I muttered and showed my tickets on my phone to the attendant who had noticed the confusion. "Look," I said " here's my ticket: F1 & F2, same row, same seats". Then I expanded the screen with my fingers and read the date: Thursday the 12th. D'oh!

After much apologising and feeling like a lost boomer, the lovely attendant, the same lady who greeted us on arrival, said: "Worry not". We were lucky that not all tickets for this session had been sold, and she found us two seats up higher. In fact, I thought better than our previous ones. Pure professionalism. I decided I would return just for that service alone.

Settling into our new seats, the show was running a few minutes behind (I was hoping it wasn't because of us), then the lights came down, and the actors took the stage. Somehow the voices didn't seem to carry, and the stage seemed a bit dull, lighting-wise. This went on for about five minutes when a lady entered onto the stage and said there were some technical issues and they would need to reboot the performance. Prophetically, just a moment before one of the actors' lines, as she looked up from a paper she was reading, was ***"My, look, it's Friday the 13th, how ominous"***. It looked like Friday the 13th was giving everyone a good whack, not just us tonight. The audience all saw the funny side and were quite unperturbed by it. One wag quipped that someone must have said "Macbeth" backstage.

After a short delay of about five minutes, the show began again from the very beginning, with a well-lit set and voices booming.

Without going into too much detail, it was a fine performance. My wife, a keen Agatha Christie fan, recalled the story but couldn't remember the end. I was oblivious to it, so it was fresh, with just enough clues to solve it yourself if you were quick or clever. I found it entertaining. The detective, played by Stuart Daddo-Langlois and Miss Marple, played by Patricia McCracken, were highlights in my opinion. Both gave exceptional, realistic performances.

All up, we had an enjoyable evening despite all the unintended and self-inflicted hiccups, and the night made me reconsider taking so long to go back to community theatre.

Weighing up the positives, it was inexpensive, comfy, close to home and very entertaining. We grabbed a flyer to check out future productions.

And I am definitely looking forward to the new marquee and facade.

Fundraising for the 1812 Theatre New Façade

Peter Kemp



The 1812 Theatre will restore the presence of its Ferntree Gully façade with a spectacular 1930s period-inspired marquee. For generations, The 1812 Theatre hasbrought people together through live performance. Each year, our volunteer-powered organisation presents at least six high-quality productions and creates opportunities for performers, directors, designers, technicians, front-of-house teams and young people to take part in theatre close to home. Yet our building does not currently announce that creative life with the visibility and sense of occasion it deserves.

We will restore the façade's presence by installing an approximately eight metre-wide illuminated marquee above the main entrance. Its Art Deco-inspired design will recall the glamour and civic presence of 20th-century theatre. It will sit in visual conversation with the Royall Hotel directly opposite. Featuring The 1812 Theatre's name in lights and a changeable "Now Playing Panel", it will make arriving at the theatre feel special before audiences even step inside.

This is more than a façade upgrade. Strong street presence will help new audiences discover the theatre, make the entrance easier to identify after dark and give visitors and artists a visible symbol of pride in what they create together. It will strengthen the theatre's ability to promote more Australian and community-made performances, grow attendance and remain suitable for future generations.

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

We're asking our community to get behind our "Restore The 1812 = Put Theatre in Lights" campaign through the Australian Cultural Fund.

Every donation, large or small, will help us get closer to our $ 200,000 goal.

Donations of $2 or more through the Australian Cultural Fund are tax-deductible.

Can't donate right now? You can still make a difference by sharing our campaign with friends, family and fellow theatre lovers.

With your support, we can make sure the 1812 Theatre continues to shine as a vibrant part in our community.

Thank you for helping us put the theatre in the spotlight!

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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 Wednesday, 27th January 2027, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay on.

Our group's annual holiday to the NSW Riverina area during October was a huge success (see photo).

Our November special event was our Cup Day Luncheon at The Boronia Hotel. Festivities included sweeps and door prizes. Six separate sweeps were run and there were quite a few happy punters collecting after the big race. Win or lose, all who attended had a brilliant time!

Our hard-working Committee members have already organised events for early 2027, including a trip to the Mornington Peninsula during February 2027.

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.



OUTER EASTERN TREFOIL GUILD

On Sunday 8th November, three of our members attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Arboretum. Di made the wreath which was laid by Thelma while Margaret and Irene sat and enjoyed the sunshine. Di was busy at Knox selling Poppies, so was unable to attend.

Five of our members enjoyed a round of Mini Golf at Morack Mini Golf Course on November 9th after our business meeting. Before our mini golf efforts, we adjourned to the lounge area to be presented with Badges and Certificates for Years of Service which added up to 310 years for 8 people, and ranged from 15 to 45 years of service per person. The Victorian Trefoil Guild Advisor, Robyn Steward, presented these before we all enjoyed lunch in the Café.

We will be visiting the Dolphin Red Hill Trefoil Guild for their Annual Luncheon at Rosebud which is always an enjoyable day. Will it be warm enough for a paddle afterwards? Hope so.

In December we are meeting at Knox Tavern for our Christmas Lunch and inviting two previous members along to join with us to celebrate at our last meeting for this year.

Our AGM will be on 8th February and for this we are meeting at the Upwey Community Hall.

We are looking for some younger members – you can join from about age 30 up. If you have the second Monday free we would love it if you could join us. You can come for three visits free before you make your decision. GIVE IT A GO!

PHONE: IRENE 0415 247 631 or MARGARET 0427 549 468

We would love to hear from YOU.

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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A MESSAGE OF HOPE
God has given a message of Hope for all people and an invitation to His future Kingdom.
For further information write to
Yarra Valley Christadelphians
PO Box 516 YARRA GLEN 3775
Email: yvc.vic@gmail.com

Celebrating Jan's retirement



For 31 years, Beaver Swim School has been teaching children around Boronia how to swim, and a large part of that team is Jan Dean. Now, after 28 years, Jan is retiring, leaving a large legacy behind her.

Jan has not just taught children to swim. She has always gone out of her way to support the community. One example of this is the defibrillator at that little yellow and blue building at 262 Boronia Road, purchased and donated to the school by Jan.

Over 28 years, Jan has taught children to swim, then gone on to teach their children. She has been a guide to many of the current teachers, in some cases first supporting them as students and then mentoring them as they began their teaching careers.

On Saturday 21st of November, Beaver Swim School celebrated Jan and all that she has done in and for this community, sharing memories and saying a heartfelt 'thank you, Jan'.

LOCI
REAL ESTATE

A little Christmas message

from LOCI Ferntree Gully

As another year draws to a close, we would like to wish our clients, friends and the wider community a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support, trust and referrals throughout 2026. It's a privilege to help so many local families, homeowners and businesses with their real estate journeys.

From all of us at LOCI Ferntree Gully, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing what 2027 brings.

Thinking of selling in 2027?

The best time to prepare is now.

January can present a fantastic opportunity to get your property in front of buyers looking to make a fresh start in the New Year.

With many buyers returning from the Christmas break, renewed plans and property searches often bring fresh attention to the market.

But a successful sale doesn't start when your property goes online. It starts with the right preparation, the right pricing strategy and a marketing plan designed to maximise your result.

Thinking about making a move in January or early 2027? Let's start the conversation now.

At LOCI Ferntree Gully, we take care of the entire process, from the initial appraisal and preparation through to negotiation and settlement.



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