

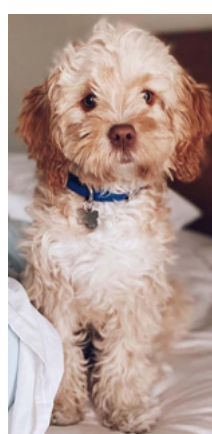
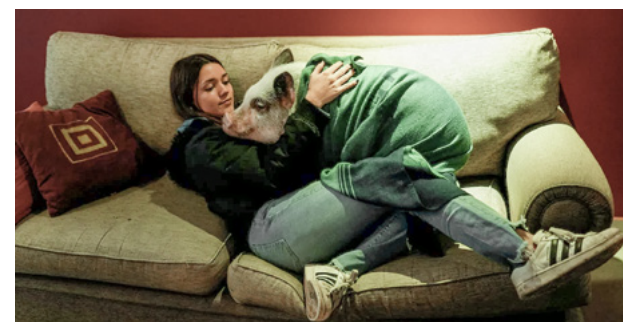


Strange times indeed!

We continue to live in interesting times. Around the world, people are struggling to deal with the COVID pandemic, and some interesting stories are emerging about how people are learning to cope with isolation and restrictions on the ability to socialise in safe ways. Some are turning to unusual pets for comfort. In Argentina, a 15-year-old's birthday present was a pet pig which turned out to be a loyal and loving companion. Less common, a Buenos

Aires apartment is home to 28 pocket-sized marsupials commonly known as sugar gliders who make guest appearances on Zoom sessions. The following story is about a more traditional pet, Ollie, and we are sure there are many homes across our readership area where new puppies are bringing much pleasure and comfort as we creatively manage our lockdowns

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-27/quirky-pets-covid-19/100494856>



Ollie – they don't come cuter than Ollie

– Robyn Simmons

We were a family who couldn't have a puppy for a good part of my children's lives due to our transient lifestyle. Having lived overseas for eight years we tried hamsters, fish and even a pet corn snake – but we always wanted a puppy. After settling back home in Kew East with three teenagers for a few years, then battling through lockdowns, it became apparent

the time was right to bring some extra joy into the family.

My daughter in her final year of VCE was becoming increasingly anxious with her study load, my middle son

craved social interaction and physical activity, and my youngest son was all consumed with computer games. We needed a solution – it was Ollie, our beloved Cavoodle.

Ollie gives us all something to look forward to, like a new baby. He's a ray of sunshine on our rainy days. He is by far the most excited when you walk in the door. He relieves stress during study breaks for my daughter, he lays on her with his warm, furry body and her stress melts away. My eldest son takes him for walks with his girlfriend to meet up for social time with friends at the local dog park, a win-win for his physical and social needs. My youngest son takes Ollie out for exercise on local trails and gets much needed airtime from his screen. He has also taken on the responsibilities for feeding and cleaning up after Ollie. Ollie gives him someone to love, a fabulous

way to release oxytocin and feel good in this socially isolated environment.

Ollie makes us all happy, he's a great stress reliever, makes a great companion and no-one feels lonely when Ollie is around. My son said just the other day, "I love how he doesn't talk, he just sits and listens". Ollie's playful, friendly little personality improves the mental health of the whole family. There is no better start to my day than waking up to Ollie's licks, his sniffy sounds and waggy tail – it's my favourite part of the morning.

As a Pilates instructor, I teach classes through a couple of community centres and one centre has enjoyed Ollie's presence in person as my special guest assistant. He greets each participant and offers everyone some love and attention. He entertains us all with his antics in class and during Zoom sessions. Life is definitely better with Ollie.

Beyond the next election

At *Eastsider News* we are not tempted to take the lazy option for exercising our democratic responsibilities by indulging in cynicism and distrust of our politicians. We see healthy scepticism and informed alertness as a much more positive and productive activity for any citizen interested in how our society evolves and is managed.

Eastsider News wants to look beyond the next Federal election day, whenever it is, and we want to ensure voters make an informed choice about who will represent them over the next three years. We invite our readers to tell us what they think are the issues that need to be tackled by an incoming Federal Government. We want electors in Kooyong, Chisholm and beyond to tell us what you would ask the candidates, our representatives, about their ideas and plans if they are elected. What is their vision for our community? What values will they embrace and pursue in government? This dialogue needs to transcend the confines of party politics and to encourage the creative and exciting possibilities of broad citizen engagement.

The two/three-year election cycle has a predictable pattern of activity, with one eye always on getting and keeping power. It encourages short termism and is demonstrably not fit for purpose in addressing complex and longer-term issues such as climate change, COVID recovery, international commerce, international relations, or growing social and economic inequalities. These complex issues demand transparency in advocacy and lobbying rather than the secrecy and spin that is hidden in loosely used phrases such as 'national security', 'commercial-in-confidence' and 'national cabinet'. They also demand clearly expressed value-based responses and a move away from old prescriptions towards more innovative policy.

Effective governance requires robust but progressive institutional arrangements and a skilled and committed public service that understands their primary responsibility is to the Parliament, our elected representatives, not the ephemeral or ideological whims of the minister of the day. Frank, fearless, and transparent advice from senior public servants is a fundamental requirement, not a quaint added extra.

The 24/7 news cycle is a two-edged sword

We have come to accept the 24/7 news cycle and our very narrow media landscape as a way of life, but it is a two-edged sword. It encourages and rewards superficial sound bites and slogans, but it could also more usefully allow a broader group of citizens to engage in an informed debate and contest of ideas.

A good example is The ABC Radio National 'Future Tense' program which takes a critical look at our shape-shifting world and how we're learning to adapt: the new technologies, new approaches, and new responses arising from rapid change. A recent podcast discusses our inability to think long-term and the sheer number of threats we face. In times of crisis, human beings find it harder to think beyond their immediate difficulties, but fortunately this is not inevitable, not least of all because it can simply exacerbate the problems following the crisis. (Listen to the podcast at <https://tinyurl.com/t2c2rrc>).

There are numerous examples where longer-term thinking is being facilitated by processes alongside the short termism of party politics. In Wales, they have a Future Generations Commissioner (see <https://tinyurl.com/e8j9zpc>). Citizen assembly initiatives are occurring in Hungary, India, Canada, Israel and other places.

In Australia, citizen juries and citizen assemblies have also provided creative opportunities to make valuable contributions to future thinking beyond the 24/7 soundbites, short political cycles, and the frustration of drawn-out and partially heeded Royal Commissions. The assemblies have been useful at local, regional, state, and national level. Some successful local examples were in City of Greater Bendigo, City of Melbourne, and Shire of Yarra Ranges. Initiatives in deliberative democracy stand in stark contrast to the farce of Question Time in Parliament.

What are your issues, what are your ideas?

The task of understanding and managing our challenges is inherently complex and the plethora of issues can seem overwhelming. *Eastsider News* is confident that our readers can take on these challenges and creatively contribute to an informed debate about what needs to be done beyond the next election. The issues are myriad: COVID and the economy, women's safety, Indigenous recognition and disadvantage, climate change, aged care, and truth, integrity and accountability in government frequently come to mind. And there will be other important challenges. Look at the submission guidelines on page 16, and then get those fingers tapping with your issues and ideas. Think constructively, write concisely, and submit your contribution by 25 November at the latest.

IN THIS EDITION

Now into its second year, the response from readers to and contributors of *Eastsider News* continues to grow. This is very much appreciated but brings with it the challenge of not being able to include all submissions in the current edition! We are looking at ways of better utilising the website www.eastsidernews.org.au to include information that cannot fit into the 16-page format and being able to include information which changes after the two-monthly upload, because we live in very dynamic circumstances and do not have the luxury of keeping everything as up to date as the 24/7 commercial media cycle. So don't stop submitting.

We suggest you scan the whole edition online to see what interests you most, and then go back and read

articles in detail. When you open the website, enlarge the text and images to a readable size by simply double clicking. Now look inside...

- Celebrating Super Gran
- Council updates
- Preparing for a Federal election
- Recipes, and a few laughs
- Personal stories, history, and reminiscences
- Letters to the Editors
- Maximillian von Schnauzer on a long leash
- Sport, community groups, and services

...and much more.

Submissions for the ninth edition of *Eastsider News* are due no later than 25 November, to be online early December. See the guidelines for submissions on page 16.

STOP PRESS

On 27 September, after months of intensive research and debate and extensive advocacy from citizens and ratepayers, Boroondara Council passed two defining motions into policy. The decisions have been welcomed as a reflection of the strong interest of its citizens and ratepayers in urgent and effective climate change action. The decision to declare a climate emergency was passed with seven councillors supporting and four opposing. The Climate Action Plan was adopted unanimously. For details see page 12 and <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/>



Crushing

Julia Jacklin (Liberation)

– Mike Daly

I arrived at Julia Jacklin's music a bit later than most. It happened during the closing credits of "Mr Inbetween", a darkly humorous TV series about a Sydney hitman who juggles nefarious assignments with family responsibilities. Starring Scott Ryan and Brooke Satchwell, and created by Ryan and Nash Edgerton, "Mr Inbetween" has attracted a cult following both here and in the USA. Its soundtrack boasts an intriguing assembly of songs – which is where Julia Jacklin comes in.

I was drawn to Jacklin's haunting vocals during the closing credits of a recent episode, did a spot of online searching and tracked down her album, "Crushing". Appropriately enough the soundtrack song in question is "When The Family Flies In".

Her lyrics are remarkably candid, confronting the pressures of intimate relationships with a refreshing honesty while the stripped-down instrumental backing

(guitar, bass, drums and piano) brings to mind the hypnotic sound of Canada's Cowboy Junkies. The standout song, "Don't Know How To Keep Loving You", lulls you into a trance-like state while the lyrics tell a totally different story, of a relationship that has run its course.

In "Head Alone", she tackles an increasingly relevant subject in contemporary society: the struggle between physical longing and personal boundaries ("I don't want to be touched all the time, I raised my body up to be mine" and "You can love somebody without using your hands").

The Melbourne-based singer has local concert dates scheduled next autumn, after an extensive US tour. Barring further pandemic intrusions, she'll be performing around Victoria next March, with two concerts at the Melbourne Recital Centre in April.

<https://liberationrecords.com.au/artists/julia-jacklin/>

Super Gran

– Corinne Fenton

'Look, Sam, look, I saw Grandma fly!
I looked out the window at the starry night sky,
And sure enough there was Gran looking proper,
Flying above us in a bright yellow 'chopper.'

She was all dressed up in her Sunday best,
'Come along!' she called, 'for the first flight test.'
So Emma and I jumped quickly inside,
We wouldn't miss out on this groovy ride!

'Now do up your belts, and settle right in
And hold on tight,' Gran said, with a grin.
We were off in a flash, home was soon out of sight
As we flew over the city and into the night.

We zoomed and we raced, we hung upside down,
And pretty soon we'd flown all over town.
Gran flew up higher, she did loops in the air,
She did circles and swoops, with incredible flair.

We soared through the clouds where only birds fly
We zoomed like a rocket across the night sky.
We flew past the planets and twinkling stars,
For a moment I thought we might touch down on Mars!

But we'd flown up so high, that the air was too thin,
For a few scary moments, we went into a spin
We started to shudder, we started to shake
Then Grandma hit the emergency brake.

'Hold on to your hats, while we get out of this jam!'
Will she save us? Our Super Gran?
Red lights were flashing – was this the end?
Would we EVER see home again?

Then slowly and surely, we were back on track
And we knew it was over, we had to head back.
Back to our window where the flight first began...
There's no-one in the world, like our 'Super Gran!'



From the Editors

The recently released report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gives a stark warning on the existential threat that the climate crisis poses for all life on earth unless we take immediate and decisive action. Described by the UN Secretary General António Guterres as "a code red for humanity", the scientists use the report to warn that our one chance to stabilise rising temperatures and avoid catastrophe depends on the world making deep and immediate cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

At its 27 September meeting, the City of Boroondara unanimously adopted its Climate Action Plan to guide its response to the impact of climate change and joined more than 30 Victorian Councils – including Stonnington, Glen Eira and Manningham – by adopting a Climate Emergency Declaration.

We welcome these two actions by Boroondara as a demonstration of its willingness to lead the local

community in responding to the climate change threat. We congratulate the councillors who are their elected representatives, and council officers for the work they have undertaken to bring these resolutions about. These actions provide the strategic tools for establishing Council priorities and for guiding its engagement with the local community in adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change.

We encourage Boroondara to build on these initiatives by raising the allocation of financial and staffing resources for existing and new climate related programs. A strong Climate Action Plan cannot be adequately funded within existing budget allocations. Additional funding at this stage will give the Council a much stronger set of tools to manage the impact of climate change in the longer term and place a lesser burden on future budgets.

We also ask that the Council establish new and better channels of communication so it can engage the community in responding to this threat. New mechanisms based on deliberative engagement techniques will

allow residents of all ages, abilities and origin, the local business community and those who visit Boroondara for work or play to participate in these conversations. Arrangements such as advisory groups or citizens assemblies will also harness the expertise and enthusiasm that already exists within this municipality.

Leadership on climate action policy is still, however, sadly lacking at the Federal level of government. This has become glaringly obvious in recent years as the impacts of climate change are manifested in extended and intensified bushfire seasons, extreme flood events, massive loss of biodiversity, and changing patterns of rainfall and heatwaves. Our reputation as a good global citizen is already tattered. To go to COP26 (Conference of the Parties 26) in Glasgow in November without a net zero target for 2050, pushing dodgy claims about our achievements and touting an action program based on yet-to-be developed and untested technology would leave that reputation on the floor in shreds.

We are encouraged by the policies and actions of the Victorian Government and local councils, but the massive policy failure by Federal Government is a huge betrayal of its responsibilities to current and future generations of Australians. We cannot let this lack of principled decision-making, integrity, imagination and courage go unheeded. To have any likelihood of grabbing this one chance to stabilise rising temperatures and avoid catastrophe, we must stand up and demand better from our Federal political representatives.

Acknowledgement of Country

Independent Community News Group Incorporated acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters of the Eastsider News focus area, and pays respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Credits and contacts

The informal group who initiated the idea which has evolved into Independent Community News Group Incorporated and Eastsider News were Michael Hassett, Allan Havelock, Joy Mettam, Anne Young, John Malvestuto, and Bill Chandler. From this small beginning, an evolving and increasing network of more than 60 other people are taking an interest in being involved in its ongoing development. Others are welcome. The current compilers and editors are: Allan Havelock, Joy Mettam, Anne Young, John Malvestuto, Mike Daly, and Bill Chandler.

The primary contact point for Independent Community News Group Incorporated and Eastsider News is info@eastsidernews.org.au



Disclaimers

Eastsider News is a means by which people in Whitehorse, Boroondara and adjacent areas can share information and opinions. A spread of interests and views that reflects the diversity of people in the area is encouraged, but views expressed in Eastsider News by individual writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, Independent Community News Group Incorporated, or any other organisation.

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While Councils provide a wide range of services, from waste collection to art programs and road maintenance to playgrounds, Whitehorse Mayor Cr Andrew Munroe says a key role of Council is advocacy. He explains that Council is kept busy advocating for local amenity and local interests on big issues with other tiers of government, especially on legislation currently before the Victorian Parliament on the Suburban Rail Loop and the decriminalisation of sex work.



Cr Andrew Munroe, Mayor of Whitehorse City Council

This is my third term as Mayor and 13th year as a Councillor. I've talked a lot this year about Council's COVID response, including our significant relief and recovery package. With my fellow Councillors, I promote Council services, explain major projects, and invite community engagement on many topics. At the same time, residents may not be aware of the considerable advocacy work Councillors undertake on behalf of residents and local businesses, often behind the scenes. We advocate in various different ways.

Advocating ahead of elections

Councils are acutely aware that Federal elections are coming soon, and Victorian elections are due in November 2022. (See the article on page 11 for more details). We talk with local MPs seeking re-election and new candidates running for election, to brief them on local priorities and opportunities to work with us if elected. We have an eye to re-drawn electoral boundaries and how this may change who our local MPs are or the extent to which their electorates overlap with Whitehorse boundaries. Cr Davenport and I travelled to the Australian Local Government Association conference earlier this year. The event provides a unique opportunity for councils to engage directly with the Federal government. It is our opportunity to tell our elected representatives what matters to our community and to influence policy and decision making.

Advocating for funding

We actively pursue grants or funding partnerships, especially in budget cycles. Some big projects require

funding from outside sources, such as the long overdue redevelopment of Box Hill City Oval. It's a premier facility that's been home to several elite cricketers and footballers. It draws big crowds, and many local parents have enjoyed watching their Auskickers play at half time during a VFL match. Many locals tell us they value historic elements of the old pavilions and the historic hedge. The reality is this facility needs around \$15 million investment to remain a significant local sports venue into the future. The change rooms and toilet facilities are grossly inadequate for the growing numbers of women and girls who play sports at City Oval. It is not accessible for wheelchair users and the broadcast facilities need to be brought up to contemporary standards.

City Oval is important for premier sport, community sport, and local recreational users. We're working with the clubs and community to put together a partnership deal with Cricket Australia, the AFL, and the Victorian and Federal Governments as they start to put together their next budgets. Council also advocates for and secures many smaller grants. Every bit of funding from other sources helps us stretch rates revenue further.

Legislation: Suburban Rail Loop and decriminalisation of sex work

If passed into law, the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) Bill will help the government efficiently pursue the first section of the SRL, between Cheltenham and Box Hill. In Whitehorse, there are proposed stations at Burwood and Box Hill. Council supports major infrastructure projects and the State Government's plan for project designs that contribute to vibrant, liveable precincts around the stations. However, the proposed Bill effectively replaces Council with the State Government's SRL Authority as the planning authority for around a quarter of our municipality, or three quarters of the old City of Box Hill. Whitehorse City Council has worked to achieve great strategic planning outcomes for the Box Hill major activity

centre, balancing developments to create neighbourhood amenity and a vibrant local economy to create a second CBD. The proposed law sweeps aside nuanced local understanding and impacts an area well beyond the station footprints.

Council, through the Municipal Association of Victoria, is also asking the State Government to look more closely at a proposed law to de-criminalise and de-regulate sex work. We understand the effect will be that sex work will only be regulated under applicable planning controls. It may be that sole traders providing sexual services in their home can operate quite freely within the very light restrictions on home-based businesses. Sex workers may operate from home with similar flexibility as home-based accountants in residential neighbourhoods, but the impact on neighbourhood amenity might be quite different in the eyes of the community. We're not sure that the State Government has taken this into account with the proposed laws.

Residents of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills will be aware that Boroondara and Whitehorse Councils are working alongside residents and businesses, and in direct meetings with the Level Crossing Removal Project teams every week, to pursue better design outcomes in the removal of two local level crossings, at Mont Albert Road and Union Road.

State governments look at the big picture but may not take account of the local consequences of their policies. There have been a couple of disappointing instances lately of Victorian Government agencies briefing Council late, with very short consultation periods and not much genuine engagement before Bills are drafted. We know our local community well, and we will advocate for local interests with persistence and tenacity. Don't hesitate to contact Councillors to let us know your local concerns about State or Federal matters.

Cr Munroe can be contacted at andrew.munroe@whitehorse.vic.gov.au or phone 0429 138 140

Vale Charlie Watts

The enigmatic Rolling Stones drummer, Charlie Watts, died recently at 80. Watts trained as a graphic artist but soon joined Alexis Korner's Blues Incorporated. His first love was big band jazz, especially the high-energy drum wizardry of Buddy Rich. Yet Watts was the quiet Stone, always impeccably dressed, almost the antithesis of a rock musician.

On a recent Netflix documentary about drummers, "Count Me In", his admirers include contemporaries from hard rock and heavy metal groups, as well as



jazz players. They all highlighted his 'less is more' approach, often skipping a beat to accentuate the rhythm. One of the best stories, often repeated, was when Mick Jagger referred to Watts as "my drummer". Watts' response was a swift punch to Mick and the growled retort: "I'm not your (bleep) drummer, you're my (bleep) singer."

Charlie will be missed.

Mike Daly is a local resident and a widely experienced and well-known journalist with a keen ear and eye on the music scene. He can be contacted at mikedaly35@gmail.com

We can't save all the trees – but many are worth fighting for!

– Yvonne Bower

One of the appeals of living in Surrey Hills and Mont Albert is the magnificent tree-lined streets and mature trees that grace our neighbourhood. Perhaps we are all a little guilty of taking these trees for granted as we see them, walk past them and sit under them every day.

We know approximately 550 trees will be cut down when the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) removes the level crossings at Union and Mont Albert Roads. Trees along the 1.3km rail corridor will be removed, affecting Sunbury Crescent, Beresford Street, Lorne Parade, Churchill Street, Lorne Parade Reserve, and other locations. But do they all need to be removed?

The LXRP have told us that 52,000 new trees, shrubs, plants and grasses will be planted as replacements. Experience from other projects has taught us that the majority of these will be saplings and cannot possibly replace the mature canopy trees in our neighbourhood. The artists' impressions you may have seen in the brochures are misleading, showing trees well advanced into the future.

We know we can't save all of the trees, but we believe many are worth fighting for. The Surrey Hills Progress Association is advocating for tree retention in four areas:

- **Lorne Parade Reserve:** This was established as public open space in 1907 and will now house a train station. There are nine large trees within the reserve that are magnificent examples of canopy trees that can be

retained. The three mature oak trees on the Windsor Crescent nature strip can and must be retained. Estimated to be around 100 years of age, they are a much-loved feature of Windsor Crescent.

- **Sunbury Crescent, Beresford Street, and Lorne Parade:** These tree-lined residential streets are an important part of the character of our neighbourhood. Is it really necessary to remove all these trees?
- **Churchill Street, Mont Albert:** This street contains a long stretch of beautiful, established trees sitting within a heritage streetscape. Many of these trees lie well away from the railway line. Is it really necessary to remove all these trees too?
- **Individual and small groups of other mature trees:** Examples include mature oaks, eucalypts, and a palm tree in the Surrey Hills station carpark. Trees are also at risk in streets potentially impacted by heavy machinery within the project.

An example of this is the magnificent pine tree at the Beatty Street playground in Mont Albert with a low bluestone wall at its base. It is at risk of being cut down as the park may be used to store heavy machinery and may also be used to access the railway line. But with some care this tree could easily be spared.

We know we can't save all the trees, but many are worth fighting for! Please email the Surrey Hills Progress Association if you would like to assist in this challenge. shpa3127@gmail.com

Yvonne Bowyer is the Acting Secretary of Surrey Hills Progress Association.



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Irish Lads vs US Air Force

– Malcolm Cameron

(In memory, one of many, many stories from Jim O'Brien who passed away in August 2021.)

“Jim, do you want a bicycle?” asked Freddie Russel while he and 18-year-old Jim O’Brien were working in the Manchester rail yards that summer of 1949. Bicycles were still scarce in Britain as all the Raleigh bicycle factories had been converted into ammunition factories during the war.

Freddie was always “in the know”. This time he knew the US Air Force was to auction a thousand or so bicycles that weekend at the Warrington US Air Force base between Manchester and Liverpool.

These were beautiful USA-made Hercules, Rudge and Phillips bicycles, unavailable in the UK, complete with 3-speed gears, 26” or 28” wheels, plus the novelty of

lights powered by a dynamo built into the wheel with a generator and battery in the saddle. Plus a bag under the saddle for wet weather gear as it never stopped raining in Warrington. Actually, the rain was probably the reason the US military had hardly used the bicycles. In comparison, a basic Raleigh bicycle cost £5 before the war and any features were on-costs.

Back in Ireland new bicycles were simply unavailable and it was difficult to keep a pre-war Raleigh bicycle going as tyres and tubes were also unavailable. In fact, everything was rationed – clothes, tea, tobacco, sugar, meat, chocolate – everything. All Jim’s ration coupons went to his landlady, but he had some cash to buy a bicycle.

“Interested?” an official-looking old chap asked as soon as Jim and Freddie cleared the security of the Air Force base after the train trip from Manchester. The bicycles were lined up in four rows on a concrete slab within a security fence and, unusually, the weather was fine. The plan was to ride the bicycles home although Jim and Freddie were unsure of the road. “If ya interested do not bid over £5” the old chap continued. Jim and Freddie understood that was a local order.

As planned, the first 10 bicycles were auctioned and as planned all bids were below £5. And all bicycles were put aside as not meeting the reserve. This was repeated for the full thousand or so bicycles. No bicycles were sold but the word in the crowd was that the auction would be repeated, this time selling bicycles in bulk lots. The demobilized USA military would not take the bicycles back to the USA, would they? So why pay too much?

Then the quietness of the afternoon was disrupted. The officer left his auctioneer’s box. The security fence was opened and a US tank appeared. Jim and Freddie had seen plenty of these tanks moving to and from the US base on rail wagons. This time the tank moved slowly forward to the first row of bicycles. It continued, crushing the first row of bicycles, then reversed back along the row. Then the tank repeated this procedure for the other three rows.

US Air Force 1: Local lads 0. Jim and Freddie returned home by train. Freddie’s only comment was “If we bought a bicycle, it would have been raining”.

Jim O’Brien, who lived in Camberwell, arrived in Australia in January 1953.



Smoked Rainbow Trout

– Elizabeth Chong



You will want to keep some of this in the refrigerator for those many times when you want a special snack! Those of us who live alone develop some rather unusual times for eating, and there seem to be many occasions when it’s just too late for cooking, but just right for a light tasty meal of a few cracker biscuits, some cheese, and this beautiful smoked trout. Hence the larger than usual recipe. The process of smoking meats in China is primarily for flavour rather than for cooking.

Ingredients:

2 fresh rainbow trout
2½ cups peanut oil (for frying)
1 tbs Chinese Oolong or Jasmine black tea
1 tbs of sugar

The marinade

Mix together:
2 tbs of minced ginger
3 tbs of shaohsing wine (Chinese rice wine)


3 tbs of dark soy sauce
2 tbs chopped spring onions
2 tsp sugar
2 tsp salt
¼ tsp white pepper
Serves two to four

Cooking

Heat the oil in the wok until just smoking. Gently slide in the fish and deep fry for five minutes. If the oil doesn’t quite cover the fish, occasionally spoon the hot oil over the fish while it cooks. When cooked, remove the fish, and drain on a paper towel. Wipe out the wok and place the tea leaves and sugar into the bottom of the wok. Sprinkle with water. Cover with the lid and turn on to a low heat. When the tea leaves begin to smoke, place the fish on a wire steaming rack in the wok. Cover with the lid and smoke for 15 minutes over a low heat then serve. (Note: for this recipe I like to line the wok with foil before I smoke the tea leaves. This helps to protect my wok and when the fish is smoking with the lid on the wok, the foil helps to keep all the smoke inside it.

Preparation:

Wash and dry the fish well. Place the fish into the marinade and allow to stand for two hours. Turn the fish occasionally.



Oat Cookies

– Madeleine McGregor

I am in Year 8. This oat cookie recipe is a family favourite. A quick and easy treat that is a guaranteed success!

Ingredients:

125 grams of butter, at room temperature
135 grams of brown sugar
1 tsp of vanilla essence
1 egg
½ tsp of bicarbonate soda
110 grams of plain flour, sifted
110 grams of rolled oats
140 grams of chocolate chips

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees. Line a baking tray with baking paper.



Using electric beaters, cream the butter, brown sugar, and vanilla essence together until the mixture is pale and creamy. Add the egg and beat until combined. Next, use a wooden spoon and mix in the sifted flour and bicarbonate of soda. Mix in the rolled oats and chocolate chips.

Roll 1-2 tablespoons of mixture into a ball. Put the ball onto the prepared baking tray and flatten slightly. Repeat with the rest of the mixture. Make sure to leave around 10mm of space between them to allow for spreading. Bake for around 15 minutes or until golden. Leave the cookies on the tray for around three minutes. Then, transfer onto a wire rack to cool. Once cooled, enjoy!




Have a laugh

– Peter Peter



While working at a living-history farm, staff members were demonstrating cheese making to a group of prep students who were visiting on an excursion. They explained how to set the milk, add the rennet, strain off the whey, and press the curds. At the end of the talk, one of the staff members asked if the visitors had any questions. One bright student piped up, “since you know so much about curds and way, what’s a tuffet?”

One of our senior citizens was telling their friend that they wanted to get their body into better shape. They said they had received doctor’s permission to start exercising at a fitness club. “So, I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors – I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour”. “Well, the friend replies, sounds like quite a workout. “Yes, but by the time I got my leotard on, the class was already over.”



Quizling Questions

David Astle, radio and TV star, writer, wordsmith, and cryptic crossword maker is expert at intriguing, teasing, and frustrating his audiences with his inventive mastery of words. David has very generously agreed that in each edition of Eastsider News we can include two of the Quizlings from his book, ‘Puzzled’. Test your braincells out with these. As always, the Editors are tempted to publish the answers in the next edition, in December, but we relent again, and you will find them on page 16 of this edition.

1. What singer answers this charade: fair+fashionable+lumber+tarn?

2. If B+bird = dog (that is, B+EAGLE = BEAGLE), can you figure out the zoology below? No mixing is needed.

- W+reptile = insect
- F+mammal = mammal
- F+bird = bird
- B+mammal = fish
- T+seabird = seabird

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My favourite walks

– Maximillian von Schnauzer

Hi, my four-legged friends. I'm back with another walk. We're still in lockdown but the extender leash is on – 10kms. Fresh areas to explore. Whoopee!! Mum and Dad were getting desperate. Out the front – “turn left? turn right? No. We did that yesterday.” They'd even resorted to asking me where I wanted to go! So enjoy the warmer weather and exploring the new smells.

Speaking of smells and sniffing... the other day I absolutely refused to move until I had thoroughly sniffed an area. I just knew that my mate, Zimba, had been there! By chance, Mum found out that he had, indeed, been there a few hours earlier. She couldn't believe that I would know that. But of course, sniffing is social media for dogs. We don't need Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. We have our noses. Much more reliable and no trolling!



A few walks ago I wrote about the ignominy of being clipped. If my Mum even so much as picks up the trimming scissors I'm out the doggie door. A kind(?) reader suggested desensitising me to the scissors by pairing them with food. My treats are now delivered skewered on the pointy end of the scissors. Still eating the treats? Yes! Desensitised? No!

Today's walk is along the Anniversary Trail starting at Hartwell Station and returning by Back Creek Reserve. Hartwell Station was moved from the mining town of



Walhalla in 1938. (Dad, the historian, got in early with that one.) See the links below for more information.

We're going to follow the Anniversary trail towards Burwood Station. On the leash to start with, but things get better. Carefully cross Toorak Road, continuing on the trail until you reach the Golden Child Cafe. Snack time. Oh yes, and coffee time. Have you noticed that lockdown means it's often slim pickings when it comes to snacks? What, and where, are the two-leggeds eating?)

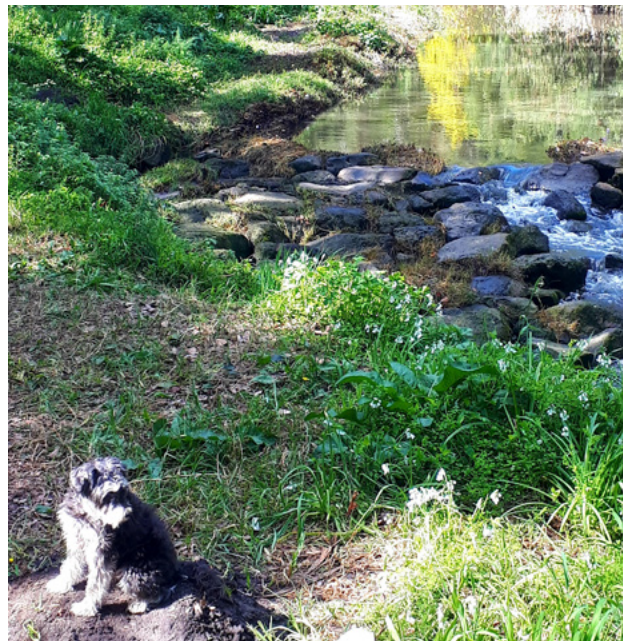
Once refreshed, continue on the Anniversary trail, following the white fence on your left. When the white fence ends, turn right into the park. Follow the diagonal path, keeping left of the kindergarten and you are now off-leash. It's a beautiful leafy area with lots to explore under the trees.



Follow the trail across Summerhill Road, wonderfully still off-leash, and past the Hill'n'Dale BMX park. When you reach Ferndale Park's cricket nets, at the oval, take the path to the right, around to the Scout Hall.

In the corner of the Scout Hall car park head into the Back Creek Reserve. There's a seat here, where the two-leggeds might like to sit for a minute or 10. Mum says it's a 9,000 step walk so they may need it. Of course, it's more like 90,000 steps for us.

As you proceed along the Back Creek trail, you'll perhaps be thinking “so where's this creek?” But when you cross Ruskin Road, you reach a fork in the path. If you take the high ‘road’ head up the slope to Ruskin Rd on your left. If you take the low ‘road’ you'll finally see the creek and a pretty cascade. And maybe some ducks (No chasing. They always win anyway!) If you took this scenic route,



double back after coming up the rise and head uphill to Ruskin Road, now on your right.

Continue along Ruskin Road as it curves around to Toorak Road. Turn right into Toorak Road following it back up to the railway bridge. Then it's left, onto the Anniversary Trail and return to Hartwell. Well done.

Do let me know if you enjoy this walk, and please say hello if you see me around. I'm black and silver with a red collar.

Max.

(**Stop press:** My ego has taken a beating. Boroondara dog registrations report Max as the third most common dog name. Perhaps I'll stick with Maximillian).



Paw Notes for two-leggeds:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartwell_railway_station

<https://victorianplaces.com.au/hartwell>

<https://portphillippioneersgroup.org.au/pppg5bz.htm>

<https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-council/history-and-demographics/local-history/local-history-trails/outer-circle-railway-anniversary-trail>

The Walhalla station photo is from the State Library Collection



Productivity tips for lockdown

Madeleine McGregor

During the extended lockdown, many people have lost motivation and their productivity during home schooling or at work has dropped. Here are some tips to get back on track.

1. **Wake up early.** It can be easy to hit snooze or stay up all night watching Netflix and wake at 1pm. However, waking up early sets you up for a day of productivity. This is because by waking up early, you have already accomplished one thing for the day. This starts a productivity streak for the day! These extra morning hours also allow you to relax into your day, feeling calm and rejuvenated.
2. **Write a daily 'To-do' list.** Organising your daily tasks makes everything feel easier to accomplish. It allows you to focus on the things you must get done, instead of trying to remember what these tasks were! It also helps you prioritise your day, meaning you can accomplish the things that count.
3. **Stick to a schedule.** Getting yourself into a routine is one of the best ways to aid your productivity. A routine reduces the amount of time spent procrastinating, as you know when you need to do things throughout the day.

4. **Go outside frequently.** Going outside has been proven to improve your productivity, concentration and short-term memory. Going outside also boosts creativity and mood and gives you a break from technology.
5. **Exercise regularly.** There are countless mental, physical and emotional benefits to exercising. These include reduced stress, improved performance and less fatigue. All of these also lead to better time management and, in turn, more productivity.
6. **Make time for yourself.** During lockdown, relaxing and making time for yourself are extra difficult. Spending at least 30 minutes a day on things you like to do (that are not on screens) has several advantages. It allows you to sleep better, be less tired and be more productive.
7. **Read.** Reading is an essential part of productivity, whether your book of choice is fiction or non-fiction. This activity improves concentration, reduces stress, and improves knowledge.
8. **Have an organised workspace.** Having a neat desk instantly reduces distractions and calms you down. Cleanliness also gives you a boost of motivation.

I hope you find these tips useful in increasing your productivity. Also, remember to be kind to yourself because lockdown is challenging, and you are doing a great job!

Madeleine McGregor is in Year 8 and lives in Mont Albert. She has previously written for the school newsletter, a school anthology, won a Write A Book In A Day competition at her school, won school debating, and loves writing.



The Honourable
Bruce Atkinson

Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region



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Sue and Bob's GREAT ESCAPE

– Susan Watts



I'm back in my kitchen in Ann Arbor, Michigan looking out at the trees bursting with that vivid spring green that brings such joy and relief after a harsh Mid-Western winter. We didn't earn its joy – we arrived last night from

Melbourne via Sydney after the worst travel experience in the lives of two rather well-travelled septuagenarians.

Let me fill you in. You see we don't quite fit into the neat categories those clever folks (I've called them some less-flattering names lately) in Home Affairs worked out when they planned their 'Exemption to Travel' process.

I am an Australian citizen who has lived in the USA for 30 years and have American citizenship. My husband is a US citizen, with permanent residency in Australia. We have a son and his family in Melbourne, and a daughter and her family in Chicago. We adore all of them and are active, involved grandparents of five grandchildren spread across two continents. Five years ago we cooked up a great retirement plan: December to May in Melbourne, May to Thanksgiving in Ann Arbor. It worked beautifully until COVID-19. After our whole gang gathered at the Quarantine Station Resort at North Head in Sydney to welcome in New Year 2020 (yes, how ironic is that), we settled back for five months of family time in Melbourne.

Then COVID-19 and the lockdowns hit. Our flight home on 5 May was cancelled, the one on 20 July didn't happen and everyone agreed we should stay on in Melbourne and white-knuckle this thing out. We helped with home schooling and a potentially cruel and isolating time was actually sweet and filled with lovely memories of being part of a very special time.

However, we had to return to our home and life in the USA. "Wait for the vaccine", they all said, and we did. After we were vaccinated, we booked a flight on 26 May on United Airlines. "Get an exemption", they said, and we applied. Technically if you are a permanent resident of another country, you don't need to apply. However, if you had spent more than 18 of the last 24 months in Australia, you are no longer regarded as a permanent resident of another country. Catch 22, trapped like a fly in a spider-web. We made three 'Exemption to Travel' applications, all were refused. There was no appeals process, no explanation, and no ability to communicate. My husband studied the relevant regulations on the government website where it was stated that the Border Force had the ability to make the decision whether we could leave based on our travel history, which clearly showed we had lived and worked in the USA for 30 years and our home was in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

We arrived at Sydney airport at 7am, checked in at United, and they directed us to the Border Force desk. We headed through the departures sign to their desk. Apparently, they have been rendered powerless, as our officer said, you will need to reapply for an exemption, Canberra has all the power here. The border agent then

talked to Home Affairs and said, "I have some good news and some bad news". He gave us the particular wording we needed to put on a Statutory Declaration, handed us the sheet to get notarised, and said "reapply, and attach this and all the necessary documents".

We had two hours. We needed a police officer to sign the form, so I dashed all over the vast arrival area, and outside, none to be found. Finally, our United desk man took me to a caged area, where he went in and eventually came out with a police officer who signed the form. I dashed back to Bob and we proceeded to fill in the Exemption form. The airport wi-fi was down so it was impossible to use our computer. I was shaking and nearly in tears at the Sisyphian task they were demanding of two old codgers who just happen to be smart and technically capable.

We used our phone, and the hot spot crashed twice, and we lost two nearly-finished documents. More shaking by me, steely calm from Bob. We photographed our documents and finally attached them to the completed form and submitted it to Home Affairs at 9.20am. They approved it in five minutes, as they said they would. We raced back to United, at 9.30am, as the desk closed, and dashed through departures to the farthest flung gate in Sydney airport, where the kind man who helped me find the policeman was standing clapping. We had made our Great Escape.

Susan grew up in Surrey Hills and wrote about that time in the first edition of Eastsider News while they were in lockdown last year.

Inspector Sharon Congreve is Victoria
Police Whitehorse Local Area Commander



Whitehorse Neighbourhood Watch

– Chris Summers

From time to time, it is useful to go back to the basics on what Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is and how it operates. NHW is a community-based crime prevention program. It aims to reduce the incidence of preventable crime and provide a safer community.

NHW is a proven Police and community partnership against crime. The program was introduced in Victoria in 1983 to assist the Victoria Police to effectively reduce the crime rate.

The basic reason for Neighbourhood Watch

- There are about 15,000 Police Officers in Victoria, and they can't be everywhere.
- There are over four million adults in Victoria, and we are everywhere.
- NHW works to educate the public to prevent crime and, if they see something suspicious, to report crime.

Three key principles of Neighbourhood Watch

- Secure your own home, car and other belongings to reduce the opportunities for them to be stolen.
- Stay in contact with your neighbours and keep an eye on their home and their welfare.
- If you see something suspicious, ring Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Neighbourhood Watch in Victoria

NHW is run by nearly 5,000 volunteers in Victoria and operates in 41 of the municipalities in the State. If you join Neighbourhood Watch, there are roles for you which would cater for your skills, energy and interests. Some of the things you could do include:

- Directly support the Police in reducing crime in your community.
- Help at community events with distributing brochures to the public on home security and crime prevention.
- Assist with crime prevention activities such as installing theft-resistant screws in car number plates and distributing information brochures in identified crime locations.
- Manage the Neighbourhood Watch program in your area.

Great way to make your part of Whitehorse a better and safer place to live

NHW Whitehorse is a very active group. We are a voluntary group with more than 630 accredited volunteers. We are registered as a charity with ACNC, have been in operation since 1983, and work in conjunction with Victoria Police.

NHW Whitehorse is run by an Executive of seven members. We currently distribute approximately 23,000 newsletters to residences across Whitehorse, and have an electronic 10-page newsletter emailed out mid-month. If you would like to receive this publication, please email whitehorse@nhw.com.au

Pre COVID, we ran two Safe Plate Days each year at Bunnings Box Hill and Vermont South car parks. At these events you can have your number plates secured with anti-theft screws for a gold coin donation. The screws are readily available from Box Hill and Forest Hill Police Stations

Other events we ran pre-COVID include:

- a Community Meeting each year in Blackburn, where we had guest speakers from Victoria Police and other community support agencies
- an In-Schools Program, where Police and NHW Volunteers attended primary schools to teach the students basic safety and how to call Triple Zero (000) if they found Mum asleep on the floor and would not wake up. They are given activity books provided by NHW.
- Mid-week Crime Prevention Field Activities, where volunteers and Police visited police identified 'hot spots' to deliver appropriate brochures to letterboxes.

We have a 15-minute radio broadcast on 3WBC 94.1FM on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9.30am. We attend the City of Whitehorse Spring Festival each October, COVID permitting. We support and sponsor the Whitehorse Community Support Register, a free service run out of Box Hill Police Station. **Phone: 8892 3385.**

We are always looking for new volunteers whose skills will support our crime prevention work. For more information about Whitehorse NHW visit: www.whitehorse3.wixsite.com/whitehorse For specific questions about your NHW email us at: whitehorse@nhw.com.au Please visit us at: www.facebook.com/NHWWWhitehorse

Chris Summers is Secretary NHW Whitehorse

Sport and recreation opportunities for people with vision impairment

Boroondara Council is inviting you to take part in a short survey to help Council improve sport and recreation outcomes for residents with a vision impairment. The council is committed to improving sport and recreation outcomes for residents with a vision impairment. They want to hear from you about your involvement in sport activities to help us encourage and grow sport participation and opportunities across the municipality. In this survey you will be asked:

- how you currently use sport and recreation services in Boroondara
- how important sport involvement and participation is to you
- some questions about yourself to make sure we are capturing feedback from all sections of our community.

For more information, see engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sport-recreation-opportunities-people-vision-impairment Permission from a parent or guardian to complete the survey is required if you are 17 years or under.



Lockdown

Arabella

Here I am in lockdown, I nearly always frown. I've collected all the park sticks, I've seen all the Netflix. My friends are only on screens, I've eaten all the ice-creams. Is there anything else to do?

Baking has been fun, But it's showing on my bum. The puppy looks at me and says, "No, leave me be". Home-schooling is boring, It just goes night then morning. Is there anything else to do?

Arabella lives locally, is aged 9 and in Grade3

Are You a Young Aspiring Journalist?



Imagine you are a journalist at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021 and write your report for us!

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Runner up will be awarded AUD \$50

Winning entries will be published in the ESRAG Oceania Newsletter, on the website and in other Rotary publications.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

what is missing and what needs fixing

– Ryan Smith



Throughout these extended lockdowns, many of us have spent a lot more time in our local communities, paying attention to what is missing and what needs fixing. Many local residents in the Warrandyte Electorate which I represent have raised a range of

local issues over the past 18 months, particularly in the areas of public transport services and the condition of our local roads.

In early September, the notorious “5 Ways” intersection in Warrandyte South had a near fatal accident. This is a very challenging intersection with three roads converging onto the busy Ringwood – Warrandyte Road arterial. I have raised the need for serious investment at this intersection with successive Roads Ministers, as well as presenting a petition to the Parliament with over 1,000 signatures.

Unfortunately, these requests for investment in local road safety have been ignored. I am hoping the young lady who was involved in this accident will be the last wakeup call the government needs to take residents’ concerns seriously. We can only be grateful that a former police officer and an Emergency Department nurse were on hand to lend assistance which may very well have saved this young lady’s life. I will continue to echo the local residents’ sentiments and fight for a major upgrade of this intersection.

The public transport services for the community of Wonga Park consists of a single bus route. Wonga Park residents wanting to visit Warrandyte currently need to take a near two-hour journey via Croydon for what should be a six-minute direct drive. I would like to acknowledge the Department of Transport for listening to the concerns of the community which I previously raised in Parliament and have begun a collaborative dialogue to seek improvements to the bus route. I would encourage any local readers to please complete my survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNYTF9W

The intersection of Mullens Road and Ringwood – Warrandyte Road is another major concern for local

residents. The intersection is in dire need of a pedestrian refuge, whether it be for safe access to bus stops on either side of the road, getting across to the Yarra River walking track or visiting the wonderful Stonehouse Cafe. I would like to commend Manningham Council on their proactive approach to this issue and we will continue to seek State government support for the creation of this much-needed refuge island.

As we begin to turn towards the warmer months, I encourage all residents to ensure that your bushfire preparation is up to date. Bushfire Resilience Inc. has been holding free informative webinars which are available at <https://bushfireresilience.org.au/webinar-recordings-2021/> I would encourage all local residents to watch these webinars to help prepare and protect our local communities for the upcoming fire danger period.

If you have any State government related issues within the electorate of Warrandyte, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly at ryan.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au or call my office on 9841 5166.

Stay safe.

Ryan Smith MP is the State Member for Warrandyte and can be contacted at ryan.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au

Is decriminalisation of sex work a problem for the City of Boroondara?

– Lisa Dallimore and Matthew Roberts

In August 2021 the Andrews Government announced the decriminalisation of sex work in this state, making Victoria only the fourth jurisdiction in the world to do so. This heralds a significant change to the way sex work is regulated here. New South Wales decriminalised sex work in 1995, followed by New Zealand in 2003, and the Northern Territory in 2019. So, when considering the impact of decriminalisation of sex work on the community, there is almost 30 years’ worth of experience to draw on – evidence of what actually happens to amenity in a decriminalised environment. In short, if you’re not a sex worker, you won’t notice the difference.

City of Boroondara, however, recently voted 10 to 1 in opposition to the State government’s decision in a 6 September motion. The motion also called for a wide-

ranging public advocacy campaign in relation to this issue.

Not in our backyard, you might think? But sex work has been taking place within the City of Boroondara for decades. In 2018, prior to the pandemic, we found online ads via Google indicating that at least 18 individual sex workers were working privately from residences within the City of Boroondara. Hundreds more indicated their availability to travel into Boroondara to see their clients in indoor settings.

Councils’ issue with the decriminalisation of sex work is that regulation of the industry now falls to local government, rather than police, along with concerns about the impact on ratepayers’ amenity.

A 2015 study surveyed 18 councils in NSW, most of them in Sydney. The study found only one complaint to local government council regarding amenity impact of

home-based sex work over a three-year period. After investigation, it was decided that no action was required.

Councils fear not being able to determine the location of sex work businesses, however, such fear is premature as the details of changes to planning law are still being fine-tuned. Numerous regulations already apply to all types of home-based businesses, such as planning laws, workplace health and safety laws, liquor licensing, advertising laws and various criminal laws; all suffice to deal with any actual, as opposed to perceived, impact of sex work operators on amenity.

Decriminalising sex work is proven to be the best way to ensure sex workers’ safety as they go about their work. Decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria is a momentously welcome reform for a workforce hitherto reluctant to report wrongdoing on the job to police for fear of being arrested themselves.

Lisa Dallimore, and Matthew Roberts work with Sex Work Law Reform Victoria which is a not-for-profit independent non-partisan volunteer group led by sex workers lobbying for the legal rights of sex workers in Victoria. contact@swlr.vic.gov.au

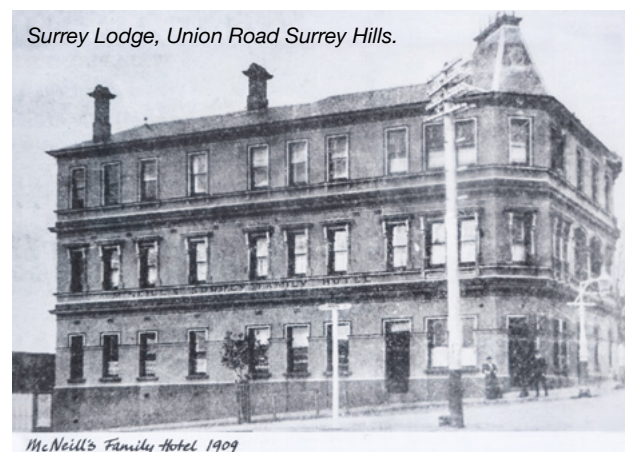
The Dry Area

– Robert Brown

Changes are proposed for the so-called ‘dry area’ in Boroondara that restricts the licensing of venues to serve alcohol. But where did all of this start? Box Hill voted way back in 1920 to stay a dry area with strong support from the local community. Camberwell was one of Melbourne’s most affluent suburbs when it also voted to close its seven hotels in the same year. In 1970, Box Hill Council wanted to keep it that way and resisted other licence applications after the golf club obtained its licence in 1956. Churches continued to apply pressure to retain the ‘dry area’ as the last outpost of sobriety.

At one time, alcohol could not be sold even in restaurants and cafes in the dry zone encompassing Ashburton, Glen Iris, Camberwell, Canterbury, Balwyn, North Balwyn, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Box Hill, Box Hill South, and Box Hill North. The RSL, the golf club and restaurants with a bottle licence were the only places residents could go for an alcoholic drink.

Today it seems that it is ‘dry’ in name only, as dozens of food venues and wine bars have already been granted liquor licences and the number continues to grow.



Palace Hotel in Burke Road, Hawthorn East.

Community groups have argued strongly against them, so there is some tendency for this to divide the community. The divide being most pronounced at Burke Road, Camberwell where the west side operates hotels and bars but the east side remains dry. However, even this barrier has started breaking down. Such bars, restaurants and cafes that are licensed enjoy strong business demand, so the dry status of the area is steadily crumbling.

At one time, residents were required to vote on a restaurant’s bid for a liquor licence. Now at least restaurant licences can be obtained without a community vote, however polls are still required for pub and club licence applications. It seems that over time the dry area has become a non-issue for the local community. The one exception might be that of proposals for new hotels in the area. The State Government has commenced moves to end the era of the dry area, citing lack of community support, and costs associated with polling and other licence compliance enforcement. The total absence of hotels in the historically dry area has had an influence on the amenity and style of these neighbourhoods. Some say it would be an advantage to retain this unique character, but with proponents saying the restriction stifles business it is likely to just be a matter of time before change slowly creeps through the area.

JOHN KENNEDY MP

STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR HAWTHORN



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Glen Waverley nurse Alec Quillope named among top in Australia

Glen Waverley's own Alec Quillope was recently recognised in Australia's leading nursing agency's Inaugural Caring for You Core Values Awards. The virtual event was attended by the Caring for You Board and staff members, carers and the family and friends of the 2021 finalists who gathered online to celebrate the people who lead Australia's healthcare industry.

An award was dedicated to each core value to celebrate six nurses and carers from across Australia who have demonstrated exceptional care, warmth and compassion over the past 12 months. Given the incredible sacrifices made by the Australian nursing community during the past 18 months, it was an honour for the Caring for You Co-CEOs to give back to those who go above and beyond for others. Alec was honoured as the recipient of the 'Supportive' award which recognised her inclusive nature and team player attitude. "I feel incredibly

appreciated, valued and honoured to have won the Supportive Award," Quillope said. "Being granted with this prestigious award is a special acknowledgment of my hard work, not only in caring for the community but for my fellow colleagues."

Alec initially began working for Caring for You in Aged Care facilities during the pandemic around August 2020, working 12-hour shifts in full PPE up to five days a week. Playing a vital role on the frontline for the fight against COVID-19, Alec knew the risks involved but that did not hinder her from offering her service so valiantly. "The demand on nurses these past 18 months has been exhausting, to say the least, but for me it was critical I continued to use my skills as a frontline worker to save lives and prevent the spread of the virus," she said.

In recent months, Alec has extended her service and care to the Victorian community, administering COVID-19 vaccinations initially to high-risk individuals at Frankston Hospital and now at Monash Health's Sandown

Racecourse vaccination centre, where approximately 5000 people pass through daily.

Nominated by her supervising manager at Caring for You, Alec was commended for her continuous efforts to offer help when other nurses struggled to navigate the newly introduced COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) or were simply having a hard time.

Alec embodies the dedication to care displayed by all healthcare workers during this pandemic and has pledged to continue safeguarding the safety of the Glen Waverley community. "I feel so lucky to be working in a community that has made me feel so safe and welcome," Quillope said. "It makes these tiring shifts so worthwhile when I can give back to the people of Glen Waverley and beyond."

Alec was recognised for her selfless support with a beautiful glass trophy and a \$500 cash prize. Congratulations and thanks Alec.



Letters to the Editors

It's fashion versus safety, and fashion is winning

Chris Trueman's article in the August edition of *Eastsider News*, which updated us on the Easy Ride routes in Whitehorse, indicates that this initiative is indeed "heading in the right direction". But what perplexes me about cyclists' safety is that, although they lobby for safer roads and trails, far too many riders just don't take enough responsibility for their own safety. Low visibility black action wear and black helmets are now the norm for so many. They are simply harder to see than those responsible riders who wear high-viz apparel and vests. It's fashion versus safety, and fashion is winning.

I've spoken to several cyclists about this issue and they usually cling to the belief that they are no less visible than those wearing high viz. Using that argument, it seems that the likes of our emergency services personnel, delivery drivers and construction staff working in relatively dangerous environments are wasting their time wearing high viz vests! Surely the use of high viz is part of the employers' duty of care to their staff and it is a proven tool in reducing accidents, and so it should be for cyclists.

Graeme Daniels, Balwyn North



Easy Riding routes in Whitehorse

We have been waiting for a while and now have the beginning of Easy Riding routes in Whitehorse, as outlined in Chris Trueman's article in the August edition of *Eastsider News*. Four routes are marked out on the Council's website. It appears the goal is 10 such routes. If you frequently ride around and start using these routes, you will notice, as I have, that car drivers behave differently on these routes than normally. There definitely seems to be a lot more patience to stay behind the cyclist until they reach a section of the road that is safe to overtake.

Following the instructions as per the Council's website, the cyclist should completely occupy the lane when the shards are painted on the road, as those are spots where the overtaking by a car would be dangerous. The arrows at the points where the route turns are clear, and it is possible to get across the municipality on Easy Ride routes.

Going from home to the chosen route and using it until you get close to your destination where you may well need to leave the route means that most of your riding is in fact where drivers are expecting you. At this stage my favourite route is going from Rooks Road west to Blackburn Lake. It goes through a small nature reserve and crosses Springvale Rd at the push-button lights, all very well marked.

I hope that the remainder of the routes will be marked soon to give more choice to use them in every area of the Municipality. All cyclists could help if they would tell the Council that they appreciate them.

Ria Smit, a local resident



Why children should be taught about climate change in school

There has been much discussion in the media about whether climate change should be included in the Australian school curriculum. Introducing climate change into the school curriculum is not indoctrination; it's just common sense.

There are several reasons why climate change should be taught in schools. Climate change is the most important topic of our time. The World Health Organisation considers climate change to be the "greatest threat to global health in the 21st Century". Ignoring climate change would be negligent. The Australian Psychological Society writes, "Having the opportunity to share and act on their concerns about the climate crisis can boost young people's self-efficacy, hopefulness, and resilience while dismissing their feelings and denying or ignoring the climate crisis can negatively impact their wellbeing." "If Not Us" – the new book by award-winning author and previous school Principal, Mark Smith – attempts to address the emotional needs of teenagers grappling with this topic.



Many Australians have misconceptions about climate change and education can clear those up. 20per cent of Australians think climate change is entirely or mainly caused by natural processes such as solar cycles, or that there is no such thing as climate change – or they don't know. It's vital therefore that young Australians get to learn and talk about it at home and at school. In Tasmania, the Curious Climate Project allows students to submit questions about climate change, which are answered by climate change researchers. The Australian Year 10 Science curriculum includes the greenhouse effect and climate change, but surprisingly there are no references in earlier year levels. In the same way that Indigenous Australians have called for truth-telling about our history in our school curriculum, so too do we need to face up to the realities of climate change and our future. We owe it to young Australians.

Ray Peck, Hawthorn

The old Healesville Freeway reservation

A recent emailed newsletter from State Labour politician Shaun Leane shows the hypocrisy of the Andrews government in relation to the protection of our parkland and the challenges facing humanity in addressing the climate catastrophe and limiting greenhouse gases.

Mr Leane's newsletter referred to the permanent protection of the old Healesville Freeway reservation as parkland which Vic Roads 'graciously' abandoned many years ago. Mr Leane refers to 35 hectares of 'undeveloped' land sitting 'idle' between Forest Hill, Vermont, and Vermont South.



Far from the land sitting idle, it has been used by the community for passive recreation for several years. Residents of these suburbs are fortunate the land was not handed to the North East Link Project or it would almost certainly have been turned into another mega freeway – quite possibly all the way to Healesville.

I note the irony of providing protection for existing parkland originally intended for an unnecessary freeway and destroying trees and parkland in another part of the north-eastern suburbs to build yet another unnecessary freeway – the North East Link.

It is a pity that the same protection of parkland, green space and trees cannot be provided to the residents along the route of NE Link and the Eastern Freeway. Here we have the Andrews government actively destroying parkland and trees including burying Koonung and Banyule Creeks in underground pipes.

How does this comply with the Andrews government's climate change policies where existing carbon sinks are destroyed? What about the destruction of wildlife habitat which will occur? What about all of the other issues which will clearly result from this construction disaster such as increased air and noise pollution, increased climate changing emissions from all of the extra vehicles encouraged to use the freeway, the division of communities and social infrastructure, and massively increased traffic on Eastern Freeway feeder roads such as Blackburn, Springvale, Middleborough, Elgar and Tram Roads, as well as those along the North East Link route?

John Young, Blackburn North

Farewell and thanks Dick Menting

– Damien Hudson



Dick Menting, Boroondara Councillor (2004-2012) and Foundation Chair of Canterbury Surrey Hills Community Finance Limited passed away on 26 August 2021. I have been thinking about Dick a lot over his illness and after his passing. He made

a massive contribution to the vibrancy of the local community and, while a well-known local identify, some he helped would not recognise his name.

I came to know Dick because of his community work through Bendigo Bank Community Banking. He responded to pleas from traders and residents in Canterbury to start their own Community Bank after the last branch abandoned Maling Road. Canterbury Community Bank started with Dick and friends sitting at a humble card table in Maling Road to obtain pledges to buy shares in a future company. We were doing the same in Union Road Surrey Hills as the mainstream banks abandoned local branches. After responding to community needs, together we opened Bendigo Bank Community Bank branches in Union Road Surrey Hills (2003), Maling Road Canterbury (2003), High Street Ashburton (2008) and Whitehorse Road Balwyn (2011).

As well as providing much appreciated local banking services, we've distributed over \$6 million dollars



in community support via sponsorships and grants, provided employment for many and helped support the vibrancy of not just our strip shopping centres but the community as a whole. Not bad for a group equipped with some basic fliers, a card table, and community will.

Some of Dick's legacy is visible: you might pass one of the buses provided by the bank to Alkira, Samarinda, Evergreen, Burke and Beyond, or Belmore School. You might use equipment or facilities we sponsored, see lights and scoreboards at sports grounds, or a simple plaque or sponsorship footer on a community flier or website. Many community, cultural and sporting endeavours have been possible because of the group of volunteers Dick came to lead as Foundation Chair of the Bank. More, it was often how he connected like-minded people which saw positive community outcomes beyond and not directly related to community banking. He seemed to know most locals and have their contact details.

Working in banking and finance, like so many other community workers, he applied his knowledge and drive to strengthen the local community in an ever-widening circle. It is why he served as Maling Ward Councillor 2004 to 2012. He was even trying to help the Mallacoota Community in East Gippsland after bushfires ravaged the town in the last days of 2019.



As we emerge from 19 months of many of us cocooning during COVID-19, I think of legacy, community support and empowerment; and what next? And I think of Dick's community achievements and how with will, simple ideas, tenacious work, and ambitious goals he had made our local communities better places to live in. We all have that potential. You do.

I know what Dick would say, bank with and tell others about Surrey Hills, Canterbury, Ashburton or Balwyn Bendigo Community Banks. It was his constant song. More he would encourage you to bank with other Bendigo Community Banks wherever you live. Community Banking is not just about business, it is about collectively empowering local communities everywhere.

Hans Diederick "Dick" Menting (1947-2021), is survived by his wife Margaret, was proud and loving father of Tim, David and Erica, and father-in-law of Lucy and Meaghan, delighted Opa of Sophie, Oliver, Chloe, Grace and Charlotte. We thank them for sharing Dick with us and thank Dick for making our local community a better place to live. Post COVID, I am sure he would encourage you to do that same, wherever and however you can.

Damien Hudson, friend and Bendigo Community Bank Director



Grandmothers at Planning session, July 2021

Grandmothers for Refugees – Kooyong

– Ann Timoney

About three years ago, I met a lovely woman at the yoga studio we both attended. We got chatting and discovered we held shared views about the plight of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia and elsewhere, and also a desire to do what we could to effect positive change. She introduced me to Grandmothers for Refugees (at the time called Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children), and I subsequently became a member of the Kooyong Group.

Grandmothers for Refugees is a grassroots movement that advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of people seeking asylum. While it has an Executive Committee and a Coordinating Committee, it is organised locally along Federal electorate boundaries and local groups come together with an Electorate Coordinator to determine the activities they will undertake.

There is two-way information flow, from the Executive through the Coordinating Committee to the Local Groups, and also in the other direction. This ensures that local groups have up-to-date knowledge of the broad, movement-wide perspective, and also that the Executive has input from a diverse range of local voices and ideas.

The Kooyong Group meets weekly – in person when we can – to share ideas and stories, plan activities, and take action to support refugees and asylum seekers. We are a passionate group who are appalled and distressed by Australia's practice of locking up – for years, with no end in sight for some innocent people who have come here seeking safety. Our actions are varied and include (COVID restrictions permitting):

- Attending vigils, marches and demonstrations, along with other groups
- Raising public awareness – handing out leaflets
- Lobbying politicians on behalf of detainees, e.g., through letter writing, emails, phone calls, meetings when they can be arranged

- Pre-election tasks such as handing out leaflets with ratings of politicians in terms of their views on asylum seeker policy
- Supporting refugees/asylum seekers held in hotel detention by attending vigils, and singing outside their hotel windows to show care and support.

We are a non-political group and appreciate that Australia has previously welcomed many, many migrants and refugees to our shores – to the benefit of all. What we cannot accept is the cruel and inhumane treatment of asylum seekers and refugees since the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, announced in 2013 that no one who arrived by boat would ever be settled in Australia. This policy has been retained by the Coalition and Labor ever since, and we have witnessed innocent people being locked up in appalling conditions in offshore detention, as well as in onshore detention facilities and APODS (hotels used as "alternative places of detention").



Grandmothers from Cooper, Melbourne, Jaga, Higgins, Chisholm/Kooyong braved the chilly weather to keep vigil at the Park (Prison) Hotel in Carlton, July 2021

We hear repeatedly that people who arrived by boat are "illegal", but we want everyone to know that this is a lie – seeking asylum is not illegal. We are all diminished by inflicting cruelty on people who have fled torture and persecution in their homeland, and locking them up indefinitely. There are so many wonderful stories of immigrants settling here and achieving amazing things, and it is likely that many who are currently detained or on temporary visas could also make a valuable contribution to Australian society...if only we would let them. Apart from all the harm we cause, locking them up is costing taxpayers a fortune.

We believe Australia can be better than this and we will keep advocating for better outcomes. If you'd like to join us, or learn more, there are a few groups in the east of Melbourne who would welcome new members.

Deakin: Grandmothers in this electorate who would like to participate in a forthcoming Zoom meeting with other Grandmothers can forward their details to info@grandmothersforrefugees.org and they will be contacted when the meeting has been arranged.

Chisholm: this electorate is also keen to send a callout to interested Grandmothers and FROGS (Friends of

Grandmothers) and as above, simply send your details to info@grandmothersforrefugees.org and you'll be referred to the relevant person.

Kooyong: we are always happy to welcome newcomers, and once again, please send your details to info@grandmothersforrefugees.org

For more information, you can visit the website at www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Ann Timoney is a member of the Kooyong Grandmothers for Refugees group



Assisting in any State Government issues and proudly serving the communities of

North Warrandyte, Doncaster East,

Warrandyte South, Warranwood,

Park Orchards, Warrandyte,

Wonga Park, Donvale





**Save Kaydon Court Flats,
1 Cooloongatta Road, Middle Camberwell**
– Anne Kemp

Kaydon Court Flats were built between 1955-66 and were designed by well-known and highly regarded Architects MacKay & Potter, (who also designed Hosies Hotel at 1 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne), and the foyer of the Olympic Swimming Pool in Richmond.

Kaydon Court is set in a parkland environment with trees and gardens for all to enjoy and where several of the residents have lived a quiet life, close to shops and transport for over 10 years, some more than 30 years. The original owner, Stanley Gilmour was not looking to make a fast profit and leave. He and his wife lived on the site for close to fifty years, until the early 2000s, tended

the gardens and built a community, providing an affordable rental option in Middle Camberwell.

However, in 2019 the land was purchased by a developer and, within a short time, a planning application was made to demolish all the buildings and gardens, including various significant trees and effectively put people out of their homes, and replace them with two 3-storey buildings plus three double-storey townhouses – with a double basement car park, providing parking for 94 cars in a residential (not a main) street.

The proposal failed to recognise that Kaydon Court Flats are an important part of the Camberwell story – designed pre-Strata Titles Act, post WW2, when people were looking for affordable living with good access to amenities. The land had a series of easements as it was formed from a green stretch of land which formed Back Creek and there were several easements and drainage issues that needed to be addressed, which enabled the spacious gardens, trees and flowers and provided a sense of space and peace for all. There is still a flood



**Demolition of our
heritage continues**

– Boroondara Heritage Advocacy and Protection group

People in Hawthorn are angry about the limitations of heritage protection and lack of support from authorities to protect their heritage streets.

An example is Wattle Road Hawthorn which was rezoned for residential growth and is experiencing demolition of significant period homes to be replaced by inappropriate multi-unit apartments. This historic ‘lane’ is only 9m wide yet is designated for significant demolition and densification. Residents in Wattle Road feel it has been made a “sacrificial” street as adjacent streets are heritage-protected. They are puzzled why this has happened given the narrow nature of the street which doesn’t meet any of council’s performance criteria for local streets. Boroondara Council has just invested more than a million dollars in upgrading and beautifying the street, yet nothing is being done to protect this public investment by protecting the historic houses which contribute to its quality.

Decades of “heritage gap” reports to council provide overwhelming evidence that the street is of great heritage value with at least 40 houses warranting heritage protection. Yet council has only protected four, citing the framework of State heritage regulations, meaning they can’t or won’t protect the rest.

Wattle Road is a precinct of quality architecture spanning 160 years from 1854 when the precinct was known as ‘German Paddock’, a lane serving mainly German settlers’ market gardens. The lane was originally named Weinberg Lane, but renamed Wattle Road after WW1. Two houses of significance built by the Bavarian settlers remain, however the street today has many fine examples of 19th century architecture and remnants of original farmhouses. It attracted architects of note to design these houses of which a great number are still standing, but now under threat.

There are many misunderstandings about heritage listing. Despite being listed, owners are still able to alter the



homes and do extensive extensions. What is protected is the view from the street as councils are keen to protect the “streetscape” and the contribution historic homes make to the street. A key benefit of listing historic homes is that the community gains an understanding of the cultural history of a place and can be confident that this will remain for future generations.



A new heritage gap report has been commissioned for Wattle Road to re-examine the heritage value of a large number of houses and mini-precincts within the street. The results will be presented to the State Government authority for potential approval. While this slow process continues, one noted Victorian house of significance is being demolished and another sold and under threat of demolition. The council and the Minister for Planning should be aware that the community and voters care passionately about this loss of history, social environment, and valued architectural precincts.

A group of residents living along an historic 19th century worker cottage street, Roseberry Street in Hawthorn East, is fighting a similar battle. Over 600 people have signed



plain there, close to where the double basement garage was proposed.

This application has now been withdrawn pending the outcome of the Heritage Overlay application and another related matter in the Supreme Court. However, the new owner/developer has applied for a demolition permit!

The local Residents’ Group, Concerned Residents for 1 Cooloongatta Rd, were compelled to engage a Heritage Expert to confirm thoughts that this was a significant chapter of Camberwell’s history. The report responded that indeed it was significant, and that part should be saved. Boroondara Council in response to this, engaged their own Heritage Expert and their report not only confirmed what we thought but went much further, saying the entire site should be saved. See the report for details <https://tinyurl.com/mrj75ux8>

On 16 August 2021, Boroondara Councillors voted unanimously to support the Heritage Overlay Process and save the remarkable property. We are urgently waiting on the Honourable Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning, to grant Boroondara the authority to progress the Heritage Overlay process to exhibition stage. Time is ticking and we urgently need a response from the Department.

Please support us by writing to Minister: Honourable Richard Wynne: richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au with copies to john.kennedy@parliament.vic.gov.au and georgie.crozier@parliament.vic.gov.au

**Anne Kemp, for Concerned Residents
1 Cooloongatta Road Camberwell**

a petition and written to council to protect the remaining 100-year-old houses.

This surge in community concern has led to the formation of the Boroondara Heritage Advocacy and Protection group which has been convened by local people passionate about heritage protection. They are familiar with heritage regulations and provide mentoring services to local groups seeking to protect period buildings. They intend acting as a voice for better state heritage regulation and greater promotion of heritage appreciation in Boroondara.



Christina Branagan from the group said, “Our goal is to preserve more heritage places and promote appreciation of our treasured, historically important local architecture and heritage neighbourhood character. Many unprotected streets in Camberwell, Hawthorn, Kew, Canterbury, Balwyn, Surrey Hills and Glen Iris are regularly losing heritage grade architecture, both 100+ year-olds and mid-Century at the moment”.

She went on to say, “Heritage experts and academics inform that the early suburbs of our great city are the guardians of much of Melbourne’s heritage and at the moment locals like those in Wattle Road and Roseberry Street are fighting to try and stop the regular demolition of heritage houses and protect these places for future generations. The current State heritage framework isn’t working to properly preserve heritage architecture and streets that Melbourne is famous for.”

If you feel strongly about these streets or the risk to our heritage, consider contacting: Boroondara Mayor Cr Garry Thompson at boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au and Victorian State Planning Minister Hon Richard Wynne at Richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au





Community Gardens

– a way to bring out the inner gardener in all of us

– Callum McNaught

With the dreary winter weather behind us, it's time to get outside whenever possible, and, since spring is in full swing, it may be time for you to consider an avocation outside the home office or backyard shed. This may be ideal for those of you interested in community gardening!

Jane Macneil is President of the Canterbury Community Garden, which is undergoing renovations as part of a new Canterbury Community Hub scheduled to open in late 2022.

Jane believes community gardens are an essential part of any suburb: "It's a great connection to other people, you know we're a group of shared interests. More and more people live on their own and are fairly isolated these days." Since its opening in 2006, Canterbury Community Garden has grown to 36 plots with a variety of land sizes for a diversity of plantings. Plots are highly sought after, however, and there is a substantial waiting list. Community gardens in Boroondara and Whitehorse have taken similar measures, with Nunawading Community Gardens also having a waiting list for plots.

In Jane's view, Canterbury is different from other community gardens in our area because of its easily accessible setting, "We're in a lovely location, we're looking forward to being part of a community of different users and interacting with the various activities that will go on in the Hub,"

Also, its community gardens offer a user-friendly environment that encourages passionate gardeners to maintain and cultivate their own plants. Jane wants the locals to know that the garden is about engaging with locals and teaching them gardening skills from experienced gardeners, "Everyone gives it a go, it is very non-judgmental, there's plenty of good advice and heaps of personal experience; there's always someone who can tell you why something is not growing or the best way to grow something else or gives you an idea for a planting that you wouldn't have done otherwise."

Several community gardens have closed, cut back, or changed the way they operate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jane says it's crucial for our residents, especially those going through the lockdown, to have a connection to their local green spaces, "For people increasingly living in apartments without the opportunity to garden themselves, and people who are older or that are retired and who are looking for an interest, I think it's really important."

Among the many defining aspects of Canterbury's community garden is the need for a strong work ethic. If you are considering applying for a plot, you should be aware that community gardens have rules to abide by, "First and foremost, you need to look after your plot, particularly during the growing season and summer watering is a responsibility, so don't expect to just chuck some seeds down and you'll have wonderful vegetables."

As Jane explains, to maintain the plots, the gardens need dedicated members, "There's soil preparation, there's weed control and there's watering and that's for your own plot. If you do neglect it, you will be asked to vacate."

Another engaging part of being a member of a community garden is the working bees, which are conducted every few months throughout the year to maintain the gardens. If you were to ask Jane, it would mean spending an hour and a half to two hours working over the communal (shared) garden beds and lawns. "They're really good fun, it's where everybody sort of comes together on a Sunday morning. we mow lawns, cut hedges and often there's a talk by one of the more experienced gardeners on composting and that type of thing."



It is also a social event, as Jane encourages members to bring along friends, family, and neighbours to help spread out the work. Not to mention the satisfaction of beautifying the neighbourhood and getting a well-deserved treat afterwards. "We have some morning tea, so that's always a bonus as well!"

Long waiting lists for community gardens and a limited number of them in operation have led to growing support for petitioning the local councils of Whitehorse and Boroondara to create more community gardens and food forests that locals can access.

If you would like to reserve a plot, consider a community garden that is close to your home, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ddsbwk3k> for an updated list of community gardens located in Boroondara. Please note that community garden plots usually incur an annual fee between \$50 and \$60 and, due to long waiting times, may also incur a minor fee for joining a waiting list.

Whether you lack the space at home to garden or simply want to meet new people in an engaging and worthwhile activity, community gardening provides you with an excellent opportunity to learn from the experts while helping to preserve your local environment.

Callum McNaught is a Politics and Journalism student at Deakin University

Supporting Melbourne's east in the lead-up to the Federal election

The Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) is providing a united voice for communities in Melbourne's east in the lead up to the Federal election. "The Eastern Region Group of Councils is a critical partnership for Whitehorse," said Cr Andrew Munroe, Mayor of Whitehorse City Council. "We have many local issues and priorities in common with our neighbouring municipalities."

The ERG has identified emerging priorities for the region that require Federal Government action to ensure local communities, economy, environment, and infrastructure across the east continue to be supported. ERG Chair and Mayor of Maroondah City Council, Cr Kylie Spears said the group was advocating for a range of capital works and projects to support local communities, grow the local economy, and sustain both the built and natural environments.

"The ERG is six local government areas in eastern Melbourne, including Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse, and Yarra Ranges. We work together on common issues of significance to the region. We advocate, plan and cooperate for the benefit of our communities," Cr Spears said. "With a population of almost one million, 20 per cent of metropolitan Melbourne, it is imperative that the Federal Government continue to inject resources into much-needed projects to keep the region thriving," she said. The ERG's priorities for Federal Government action include:

Pathways to employment: The ERG is seeking \$450,000 in project funding to engage key industry sectors to better support and retain local jobs, industry, and businesses in Melbourne's east.

Mental health: Immediate Federal Government funding is needed to expand headspace and outreach services across the region to reduce backlog in demand and long waiting lists, particularly for Monash, Knox and Lilydale headspace services. A new headspace facility is also needed in Manningham. The ERG calls for improvements to make the system easier to navigate and present as a 'single door' service system, and extending the Youth

Mental Health First Aid program to schools across the eastern region.

Housing our communities: Federal Government funding is required to create Youth Foyers to accommodate vulnerable youth; transition housing for young people and their families; and crisis accommodation for women and children fleeing family violence.

Renewables for the region and for business: The ERG is seeking \$25 million in Federal Government funding to build solar farms with battery storage in Knox and Yarra Ranges. Seed funding of \$700,000 will establish a renewable Power Purchase Agreement aggregator for our local businesses.

Trails: Funding is needed to complete priority works identified in the Eastern Region Trails Strategy such as the Box Hill Rail Trail, Main Yarra Trail, Ringwood to Croydon Rail Trail, Waverley Rail Trail, Yarra Valley Trail, and Ferny Creek Trail. ERG councils are ready to deliver these projects and create a world class network of trails.

Rail duplication and capacity uplift: About \$46 million is urgently needed to duplicate 4.4km of rail track between Lilydale and Mooroolbark as services struggle to cater for existing demand.

Reducing congestion on key roads: The ERG is calling for a business case to evaluate options including a trackless tram to connect Caulfield Station and Rowville via Chadstone and Monash University as proposed by Monash Uni and Vicinity Centres. As a region reliant on bus services, the ERG is seeking improvements to the bus network by:

- installing dedicated 24/7 right-of-way priority bus lanes supported by targeted peak hour only bus lanes;
- intersection priority through signal phasing and bus jump lanes;
- bus "stations" along key corridors with high patronage, and more efficient bus stop placement.

See the ERG's Priorities for Federal Government action for more information at www.easternregiongroup.org.au

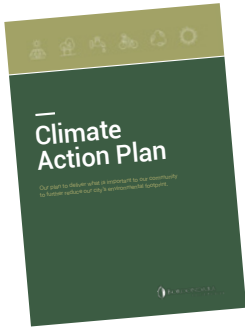
Moving on

We are delighted to report that one of the student journalists who has contributed to *Eastsider News* is graduating this year and has already secured a position with ABC North West Queensland based in Mt Isa. Emily Dobson, from Deakin University, will be relocating from Melbourne to take up this exciting opportunity. Being the smallest bureau in Queensland, her role will include many facets, mainly radio production, but scope for other mediums.

Emily wrote a piece in the first edition of *Eastsider News* about the *Spoonvilles* that were cropping up in our suburbs during last year's lockdown (September 2020 edition, page 9). In edition four (February 2021, page 4) Emily wrote about Leonardo Puglisi, the teenage radio entrepreneur from Hawthorn.

It's been great to have Emily's contributions and our very best wishes go with her for this new life and her career as a journalist.





Boroondara has just passed a Climate Emergency Declaration!

– Lynn Franks and Mick Nolan

On 27 September 2021, at 10.38pm, after substantial debate, Boroondara Councillors passed a Climate Emergency Declaration motion 7-4.

Councillors who voted in favour were Mayor Thompson, Cr Gault, Cr Addis, Cr Hollingsworth, Cr Biggar, Cr Franco, and Cr Gilles. Councillors who opposed the motion were Cr Parke, Cr Watson, Cr Sinfield, and Cr Stavrou.

Lighter Footprints, the Boroondara and Whitehorse Climate Action group, would like to thank the Mayor and Councillors who supported the motion, and the very many community members and groups who worked for years to get to this point. However, a Climate Emergency Declaration, although an important milestone, is only as good as the decisions and actions that follow, helping to move Boroondara towards fast climate action. You can learn more about the worldwide Climate Emergency movement history and timeline at www.cedamia.org/ced-timeline/

Councillors voted unanimously to approve the draft Climate Action Plan

Lighter Footprints would also like to thank all Councillors for supporting the new Climate Action Plan. Having united support as the plan is implemented is key to its success.

How did we get here?

In October 2019 a small group of volunteers who had been involved in the Kooyong Votes Climate campaign began a petition calling on the City of Boroondara to declare a climate emergency and mobilise the required resources to take effective climate action.

A grand total of 3,913 signatures were collected on the petition. All signatures were collected in person within the municipality, with regular petitioning on Saturday mornings at the Camberwell, Glenferrie, and Kew shopping centres.

The petition was presented to a full Council meeting on 25 May 2020. At that meeting the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance, of which Lighter Footprints is a member, made a deputation to Council. Councillor Jane Addis bravely moved a motion that Council declare a climate emergency. The motion was seconded by Councillor Coral Ross. The vote was lost 7-3 with Councillor Hollingsworth being the other supporting Councillor. It was an acrimonious and sometimes brutal meeting which put on display the tensions within Council. A number of us who watched the meeting online were dismayed by the behaviour on show.

With Council elections coming up in October 2020, the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance turned its attention to ensuring our community could make an informed vote. Candidate climate surveys were conducted and candidate scorecards distributed. A number of candidates surveyed said they would support Council declaring a climate emergency. Lighter Footprints ran an online ward based election forum where the candidates' climate views were explored. The election resulted in five new Councillors being elected and a more climate friendly Council to work with.

In late 2019 Boroondara Council had voted to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) which would replace the expiring Our Low Carbon Future Strategy. You can read more about the consultation process and plan at <https://lighterfootprints.org/boroondaras-new-climate-action-plan/>

The Climate Action Plan includes a community emissions reduction target of 60% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2035. This is a major step forward for Boroondara and for which the Council deserves wholehearted congratulations. However, it's not all good news. In the first place, the emergency declaration was somewhat qualified in a way that suggests the Council wants to avoid being pushed to do more than it has already decided is enough.

The Climate Action Plan contains many good things, but it lacks the detail needed to give confidence that the emissions targets will be delivered, and the community targets are described as 'aspirational' only. Perhaps the most important concern is Council's budget for climate action. Only \$400,000 has been specifically allocated for implementation of the CAP actions in 2021-22, a paltry sum in the context of Council's total operating budget of \$255 million. It is particularly telling that the previous year's budget included more than twice as much for development of the CAP and implementation of emissions reductions projects (\$985,000). Foreshadowed expenditure for the next three years (to 2024-25) increases marginally to \$1 million per annum, but this modest improvement only reinforces the impression that Council is not serious about funding effective climate action. We believe that climate funding (excluding transport related expenditure) of at least 2% of the budget would be appropriate ie a minimum of \$5million per annum.

The Council knows the current budget allowance for the climate is inadequate. We need to contact Councillors and tell them they should fund climate action properly. So please call, email or seek a meeting with your Councillor before 25 October to lobby for more money for the CAP.

For more details see <https://tinyurl.com/rvtazs6y>

Mick Nolan and Lynn Franks are Co-convenors of Lighter Footprint Incorporated

Blackburn South Combined Probus Club

– 32 years old and still going strong



Our Probus Club was formed in February 1989 as a men's only club, originally with only 34 members. Our original President was Ron Henderson who still continues on as a Life Member. Over many years the membership grew to 95 members, but with the ageing of the group, the membership started to decline until we reached the stage of either joining with another club or becoming a Combined Club. It was decided that we should bite the bullet and become a Combined Club.

Not everyone was in favour, so a small number of members retired.

Over the ensuing years we have enjoyed many holidays together, travelling both overseas and around Australia. In addition, there have been a great number of Guest Speakers who have covered a wide range of topics.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Whitehorse Horticultural Centre in Jolimont Road Forest Hill. We have our own BBQ facilities where we enjoy a BBQ after most of our meetings free of charge to our members. Unfortunately, the COVID restrictions have stopped our regular meetings, but these will resume again after restrictions are lifted.

If you are interested in joining with us, please contact our Secretary John Hally on 9874 2840 to arrange a visit

Helping the local community to get connected

On Monday 18 October, Get Online Week 2021 kicks off across Australia with hundreds of events to provide support to thousands of people who want to get online confidently and safely. Local organisation, Koonung Cottage Community House, is getting involved in the digital inclusion campaign by hosting a Get Online Week event, to be held online on Friday 22 October at 2pm.

Koonung Cottage is fortunate to have Scott Moran as their guest presenter for this online information session, "Ensuring Digital Privacy". With the current extended lockdown, this event will now run online via Zoom and is aimed to support anyone who wants to learn how to protect their privacy with email, online banking, and general browsing. "We're hosting a Get Online Week event to show our community that everyone can learn how to connect with others online and that this can be done safely," said Koonung Cottage Community House Manager Carolyn Shaw.

Organised by Good Things Foundation Australia, Get Online Week helps Australians improve their digital skills and close the digital divide. Taking place from 18-24 October 2021, hundreds of local events are taking place in person and online where people can learn the essential skills needed for today's digital world.

The theme of Get Online Week this year is 'Get online. Get connected.' Getting online confidently, safely and affordably has never been more important. The pandemic has shown it is now essential for everyone to be able to connect with friends and family, access essential

services, learn and work from home, and keep up with the latest news.

Contact Koonung Cottage Community House to register your attendance on admin@koonungcottage.org.au or phone 9878 6632. There are also fantastic prize giveaways and they look forward to supporting local businesses through this event.

If you are unable to get to this event, you can find digital skills support at a Get Online Week event near you by visiting www.getonlineweek.com or calling Good Things Foundation Australia on 1300 795 897.



U3A Ringwood is a small, friendly community-based club catering for retired or soon to be retired local residents. Being a smaller U3A allows us to provide a more personal and friendlier environment for our members. We offer a broad range of courses, activities and special presentations for our members, such as exercise classes, current affairs, line dancing, wine appreciation, and music, to name just a few. A complete list of our courses is available on our website www.u3aringwood.org.au

All our courses are covered by a single annual payment of \$60 per person. The courses are conducted at our rooms at Parkwood Community Centre and Norwood Reserve, Mullum Road, North Ringwood. Some of our courses are available via Zoom when we are unable to meet face-to-face due to lockdowns. If you are interested, or you require more information, visit our website www.u3aringwood.org.au email info@u3aringwood.org.au or telephone our office 9876 2925 between 9am and midday (office not open Tuesday).

Going it alone! WHAT STATES CAN DO FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

The Hon. **Lily D'Ambrosio**

In conversation with
Simon Holmes à Court

Senior Advisor, Melbourne Climate & Energy College, Melbourne University

moderated by
Victoria McKenzie-McHarg

Strategic Director, Women's Environmental Leadership Australia

Wed, October 20 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Online Register: www.lighterfootprints.org/event/victorian-climate-action/





Boroondara Bushwalkers

The Boroondara Bushwalkers club came into existence at a public meeting at the Kew Community House in 1987, with Austrian-Australian mountaineer, skier, adventurer and Kew outdoor shop owner, Fritz Schaumburg, as its founding president.

From the beginning, the club has been a member of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (now Bushwalking Victoria). The club has been very committed to conservation of our natural environment and takes part in track maintenance in national and state parks and other conservation projects.

The club's membership and its walks program grew quickly. In 2021 the membership stands at some 150 and the walks program provides a varied selection of activities, including hard pack carries, base camps, day walks and purely social activities, such as gallery visits and dinners. Walks are graded from Easy to Very Hard so there's something for everyone, no matter what their fitness level. Two walks of differing grades are offered

on most Sundays, and most weeks there are also some Saturday or weekday walks or other activities.

Club meetings take place at 8pm on the third Wednesday of every month and are held in the Phyllis Hore Room at the Kew Library, or by Zoom when we're in lockdown. Visitors are very welcome at meetings and they're a great way to get a feel for the club, its members and activities. Most meetings begin with reports on the previous month's walks, including many wonderful photos, and a rundown on walks programmed for the following month. This is followed by any other club business, and usually a speaker, sometimes a club member but other times an expert on some relevant subject from outside the club. Lastly there's a light supper which provides an excellent opportunity to socialise. The December meeting each year doubles as a Christmas party, and the January meeting takes the form of an evening picnic/barbecue in the Alexandra Gardens adjacent to the Kew Library.

The club's main publication is the quarterly *Vagabond*, available online, or in hard copy for a small charge.

This includes the President's report, reports on some of the previous month's activities, and most important of all, the program for the next three months. *Vagabond* is supplemented by email bulletins (e-bulletins) with details of the coming month's events including any changes since the previous *Vagabond* and other timely announcements and news.

As well as disrupting much of the club's program, COVID has hastened the move to electronic means of conducting its business. Members can now sign up for walks and other activities online. The club's web site can be found at <https://www.boroondarabushwalkers.org.au/> Here you will find much more detail about the club and its activities and policies.

Visitors are welcome on club walks, but they're asked to pay a \$5 fee and sign an acknowledgement of risk form. It's recommended that prospective members do at least two walks as a visitor, beginning with one that they expect to find easy. There's a joining fee of \$25; the annual subscription is \$45, with a concession rate of \$30. You definitely don't have to live in Boroondara to join our club. You just need to enjoy walking in good company. We look forward very much to meeting you on a walk or at a monthly meeting.

Koonung Bushwalking Club



You are invited to attend the Saturday 27 November Community Movember and Men's Health Charity Walks. It's the perfect time to stay active, stay healthy and strong. By 27 November, hopefully enough restrictions will be lifted so we

can all take part in one of three walks listed below. These walks are specifically graded for all types of bushwalkers and casual walkers who have a love of the great outdoors.

Given that most of us will have had very few opportunities to go bushwalking in previous months, this will be the perfect opportunity for our community, family members and visitors to socially touch base with each other. Enjoy the fresh air, the peacefulness of the bush and the bird song as we walk around the Lysterfield Lake wetlands. Watch the kangaroos hopping along in abundance in the



open bush spaces. Improve your general health and fitness by walking and socialising with likeminded community folk.

All walks are on well-formed tracks. There is no rock scrambling, fence climbing, or creek crossing. The shortest walk of 6km is flat and circumnavigates the Lake. The 12km and 16km medium rated walks have one short but not difficult section of incline. Morning tea (BYO) for both the 12km and 16km. walks will be in a social get-together out on the track.

The walks have a staggered start so that all walks are completed between 12.30 and 1pm. We then hope to have our lunch and a cuppa together at or near the Visitors Centre. NB: All walks and gatherings will of course conform with the current Victorian Government's COVID-19 guidelines. Walk leaders will advise all walk participants of any COVID-19 restrictions and activity variations at the beginning of each walk.

For more details and to enrol contact Elvie McInerney, President, Koonung Bushwalking Club at koonungbwc@yahoo.com.au



Nocturnal activity reduction in Canterbury – can you help?

Canterbury Community Action Group

As residents of Canterbury, we are all able to enjoy access to the open spaces in Canterbury Gardens and admire the results of the hard work by the Boroondara Council parks team, particularly in spring with flowers blooming and deciduous trees coming to life again.

Similarly, we appreciate the gardens at the Canterbury Station where Canterbury Stationers have developed and undertaken ongoing maintenance of the station gardens. Last but not least, the Maling Road precinct, which is maintained and added to by both the BCC parks team and Canterbury Friends community volunteers.

However, much to the surprise and angst of many, there has been since mid-year an increase in undesirable nocturnal activities in Canterbury Gardens at Canterbury Station and parts of the Maling Road precinct. As a result of these activities, we have seen;

- Glass containers deliberately smashed and spread around on hard surfaces
- Recently planted trees stolen from Canterbury Gardens and Theatre Place flower boxes
- Rubbish strewn around the gardens rather than being placed in containers
- A four metre-high Japanese maple tree, planted circa four years ago, deliberately broken off at ground level in Canterbury Gardens.

- Two established camelia trees and other plants removed from Theatre Place and adjacent walkways.
- Damage to lights in Canterbury Gardens and at Theatre Place.
- Plants adjacent to Canterbury Station walkways damaged
- Attempted burning of books stolen from outside Canterbury Bookstore.

While costs for rectification works are a significant matter, an important aspect is the discouragement felt by BCC employees and community volunteers who invest significant time and effort into the establishment of what we enjoy about our community gardens.

The question is, how can the community help to minimize these nocturnal activities?

Please email ideas that can help achieve a reduction in nocturnal activities to secretary@ccag.net.au



St Paul's Lutheran Church recently moved from Station Street Box-Hill to a new location at 1201 Riversdale Road Box-Hill South. We are excited to be able to help our new neighbourhood, so at the beginning of our first lockdown this year, we made up a box of non-perishable food and left it on the steps of our church for community members to access if they

have a need or wish to contribute. We advertise via the Deakin student Facebook page in the hope that we can ease students experiencing financial difficulty.



This box is checked regularly and topped up by a church member who lives in the area, but anyone is welcome to add or take items. We are grateful to be able to help our community make a difference to each other, in this small way.

We have also set up a street library in the letterbox of the house next door. This is so anyone in the community can borrow and also donate books to share! We have all kinds of books, for both adults and children.

Please come by and help yourself or help us help others! For more information visit <https://www.stpaulsboxhill.org.au/> or call us on 9899 0623.



The problems with technology!



The Cyclist

– Matilda Bowra

When I bought a fancy new bike recently, I was keen to recycle my old bike. I discovered WeCycle – a non-profit run by volunteers that restores old bikes and gives them to refugees and asylum seekers. They also sell bikes at minimal cost to people who could not otherwise afford them.



One of the project's founders, Gayle Potts, kindly shared the story of WeCycle, her love of cycling, and some of the unexpected things that have come from the project.

Bike riding has always been a part of my life. I grew up in a small farming community on the South Island of New Zealand. We had a

long driveway and biking, mostly as a means of transport, was something we did as kids from a very young age. I was the second youngest of six, so I usually got hand-me-down bikes.

In my 40s, I was introduced to the wonderful world of cycling. I was gifted a Cannondale Road Bike and joined a group of women going out on early morning rides. I discovered the joy of being in the cycling community and riding being more than just transport.

From road cycling I grew a big network of friends who cycle. In my later 40s, I got into mountain biking and discovered a whole other world of excitement and the joy of feeling like you're 15 years old on the bike again. From that came gravel biking [riding on dirt tracks]. I much prefer being off main roads and out in nature.

Nature is my happy place. It lifts my spirit and gives me a great sense of wellbeing. I've cycle toured in New Zealand and Queensland and spent two months cycling up the coast of Western Australia. I've just completed the 900-kilometre Mawson Trail in South Australia with three other women. I have very adventurous friends. As soon as we finish doing one trip, we're planning the next one.



I am interested in the environment and try to do the right things at home, but I was feeling there was more I could do. I wasn't active in the community. I completed the Community Leaders in Sustainability Program run by the City of Darebin in 2015 as I wanted to make a difference. I met Craig Jackson on the course.

Craig and I gelled. We both grew up with bikes and felt every child should have the opportunity to own and ride a bike. Craig's father was involved with a bicycle rehoming program in Geelong with his local church, so Craig had a grasp of how this project could work and how we could rehome bikes with refugees and asylum seekers.

The two of us teamed up and created WeCycle. We put a call out in the local newsletter saying we wanted bicycles for rehoming. Straightaway people started flooding us with offers. At one stage, Craig had about 20 bikes in his single car garage, and I had bikes in my backyard. Getting bikes was not a problem.

After six months, the project was bigger than the two of us could manage. Darebin Council found us a building ideally located at Batman Park in Northcote.

We put a sign up on the St Georges Road bike path inviting people to come and fix bikes. From there we got a regular stream of volunteers.

It's surprising how many people in the community have bike fixing skills and other people who have no bike skills but want to learn. We team up someone who is experienced with somebody less experienced, and they work together so you have sharing of skills. Some people drop into the bike shed looking for a part, or just wanting a flat tyre repaired. We show them how to fix it, so it's empowering people.

We don't choose who gets a bike. Case workers email us with the name of a client, and we try to match up a suitable bicycle along with a helmet, lock and lights. At the moment, we're trying to catch up with a backlog of about 70 referrals.

We want to know the bikes are making a difference to peoples' lives. One of the highlights is delivering a bike to each member of a family and being invited in to share a cup of tea and hear the story of their journey to Australia. The people we give bikes to tell us they're using them to go to the shops, to their English classes or to visit the library. Children can ride a bike to school. A bike provides affordable transport.

I love that from this project has come great friendships. I value greatly the people I've met through the project. At the bike shed, we share lunch and have a coffee machine but it's very full-on, so we sit down after sessions and spend time together.

We are networking with other bike organisations and now WeCycle is part of this greater community that's fixing and recycling bikes. I feel this sense of pride in the team and what we have created. WeCycle is not me anymore, it's bigger than me and has become its own entity. It has grown to become something enduring.

Interested in volunteering, donating a bike, or learning how to fix your bike? Community-based bike organisations in Melbourne include: WeCycle, Back2Bikes, Bikes For Humanity, and Footscray Bike Shed.

Matilda Bowra is a freelance journalist and a contributor to Eastsider News



An offset alternative

Journeys for Climate Justice formed in 2011 after Kanchana and Jim (and his dog Mimi) met at a pedestrian crossing and discovered their mutual interest in dogs and climate justice. Kanchana was living in Sri Lanka and wanting to improve environmental awareness locally, and Jim had connections to people in Australia wanting to offset their carbon emissions more effectively.

Most carbon offset programs on offer were limited to tree plantations with dubious or unknown long-term climate effects, and Jim felt that JCJ could offer an innovative alternative. (We encourage people to think of offsets as more than just travel miles (a philosophical notion partially underpinned by Scomo not wanting to pay up, and no one else going travelling).



So JCJ was formed to support the development of young green leaders in communities at the forefront of the climate crisis. Ten years on we have a committee comprising of members from Surrey Hills and Doncaster to Geelong and New Delhi, and a general membership spanning Australia and the South Pacific.

JCJ partnered with Sri-Lankan organisation Eco-V and raised funds for its inaugural Yathra (or journey) in 2011, a program where young people embarked on a cycling

trip around Sri Lanka to learn about local and global environmental issues, and be encouraged to become the next green leaders in their communities (some participants returned to facilitate the following year's journey and so forth). The Yathra has continued to run yearly until COVID paused it.

Over the years JCJ has continued to build connections in the Asia Pacific and partnered with many organisations which are working at the forefront of the climate crisis from countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and India as well as Australia. We support grassroots groups in both climate mitigation (such as awareness raising, training and tree-planting) and adaptation (such as supporting the relocation of climate refugees from the Carteret Islands).

This year JCJ celebrates its tenth anniversary, which – COVID guidelines permitting – will take place in person in early November. We are always seeking more members and invite anyone to get involved. For more information see <https://www.journeysforclimatejustice.org.au/> <https://www.facebook.com/journeysforclimatejustice/>



Communicating with confidence

Speaking Made Easy Camberwell Group is part of a women's national organisation that offers members guidance and opportunities to develop communication skills and confidence. The Camberwell Group is small and friendly, and members will support you to achieve your goals. All women from all cultures and backgrounds aged eighteen and over are welcome to join our organisation.

At Speaking Made Easy, women learn communication skills to participate fully in family, social, business, education, and community activities. You learn to

converse effectively one-on-one or in front of an audience. You practise public speaking, make impromptu and prepared speeches and presentations, give effective opinions, and participate in discussions using conversation skills. Feedback is offered in a warm, positive, and constructive manner

Confidence leads to new opportunities. Many women have used their Speaking Made Easy skills to gain new employment, enjoy educational opportunities, join community organisations, and speak at various social and community functions. Joining Camberwell Speaking Made Easy is an opportunity to connect with like-minded women, have fun and make friends. Visitors are welcome to attend three meetings before joining.

The Camberwell Group meets at 2pm on the fourth Thursday of every month. Meetings have been held on Zoom this year, and the group will return to face-to-face meetings at Camberwell Library when restrictions permit. To visit Camberwell Speaking Made Easy, phone Membership Officer Jo Cameron on 0459 186 670 or email vic.membership@speakingmadeeasy.com.au For further details about Speaking Made Easy, visit the websites: <https://speakingmadeeasy.com.au>

<https://speakingmadeeasy.com.au/category/success-stories/>

Camberwell Bowls Club seeks new members



Camberwell Bowls Club is seeking new members, so please consider joining. We are a welcoming bowls club located in the heart of Camberwell. Our club is about Community and People. It is a venue where the community can meet, socialise and play a great sport. It is a place where bowlers who want to excel can compete but also a club where social players can enjoy a quiet game with friends.

Please call David Payton 0421 199 635 for more information



Teacher Presence

– Parker McKenzie

Teachers want to make a difference in the lives of the children they teach, and they are often met with generosity through gifts

from the parents at the end of the school year. Andrea McKellar created the charity because she thought that this generosity could be channelled into helping those who are in need. “I’m so grateful for the job I have, and I am grateful for the gifts people give me. I appreciate the sentiment that a gift represents,” Andrea said.

However, I always thought that I don’t need another candle or mug, and the money could be redirected to help others, and that is where Teacher Presence was born.” She says she’s had the idea for a while, but it took inspiration from a chance interview on the radio to make

her idea a reality. “I was listening to a radio station, 3AW, and they were interviewing a gentleman named Mark Balla who is the founder of Operation Toilets,” she said. “I came home, and he was just so inspirational about how he is trying to raise money for these girls in India who don’t go to school because they have no toilets, and I thought that is just heartbreaking.”

She reached out to Balla, with the idea for parents and students to make a donation to a charity aligned with Teacher Presence instead of buying their educator a present at the end of the year. The result was a huge hit in her classroom. Now the charity has over 20 teachers and educators signed up to raise money for aligned charities like Operation Toilets, The Berry Street School, and Eat Up. Last year the charity raised over \$4,500.

“Last year there were about 22 onboard. This year we are hoping to expand it,” Andrea said. Interested teachers can sign up through their website, and Andrea says the charity’s ultimate aim is to make a difference in

peoples’ lives. “The teacher signs up, chooses a charity they would like to support and sends a pre-prepared letter to the families of their students. Then families go to the website, make a donation and it’s that easy,” she said. “We, as educators, don’t teach to get a present at the end of the year, and it is always a choice to give a present. If they choose to give one, then maybe they can go on the journey of helping someone less fortunate through Teacher Presence. Teacher Presence doesn’t take any donated money, all of it goes straight to the charities themselves.”

Andrea hopes that her charity can use the money raised to make a difference for those in less fortunate situations, through the gift of parents’ generosity.

You can learn more about Teacher Presence at <https://www.teacherpresence.org/>

Parker McKenzie is a Journalism student at Deakin University, and a contributor to Eastsider News

Can the Kew Gateball team go one better in 2021?

The Australian Gateball Championship is held every two years, rotating through the eastern states. Teams from Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia vie for the title. It’s not just Aussies, though, as international teams also make the trip, with representatives from China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Indonesia having competed in recent years. The teams from China, in particular, are typically very strong and push the Australian teams to further improve their skills and mastery of what is a very tactical game.

Victoria hosted the championship the last time it was held, in 2019. The Kew Croquet Club team reached the final that year, losing to Shen Yang (China), a team they



had beaten in a group stage match – so they know it can be done. Hence the desire from the Kew players to go one better this time around. This year’s championship was to be held on the Gold Coast in September, but COVID-19 has caused a postponement. The championship will now be held in April, 2022.

The team’s endeavours right now are very much geared towards their lofty aim of winning the Australian title, but the players’ real focus is on enjoying the game they love and bringing new players ‘into the fold’.



“OK, but what on Earth is gateball?”, I hear you ask. Well, you’ll just have to come along and find out. Join the team and have a go yourself. Come and Try days are being held at Kew Croquet Club on 10 and 24 October, from 1:30-3:30pm.

Camberwell Dragons

Over the past 25 years, Camberwell District Basketball Association (aka Camberwell Dragons), has grown from a small family club into a Basketball Association with a record 43 teams competing in the recent 2021 Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL). From VJBL, Dragons provide a direct path for senior players into the elite BIG V and Youth League State Competitions where the Dragons field teams in the Division One Men, Division One Women, Youth League One Men and Youth League One Women competitions.

The Dragons provide an opportunity for all athletes and officials to develop and compete at the highest levels. Recently appointed Basketball Director, Ross Wignell (ex-Victorian State Head Coach), leads the basketball programs enabling players to practice and build their skill level with our coaches, as well as to contribute to a strong sense of team and sporting community.

While the 2021 season was unfortunately interrupted due to COVID lockdowns, the Dragons had an amazingly successful year:

- a record 43 teams were entered in the VJBL competition (an increase of six from last season), with five teams qualifying for the Victorian Championships and a further eight teams qualifying for VJL1 or VJL2 (the next two grades immediately below the Victorian Championship);
- highly successful Eltham and Adelaide tournaments, with almost 30 of the 43 VJBL teams making the journey to Adelaide over the Easter weekend;
- both the girls and boys U12.1 teams qualifying for the National Classic, the first time this has been achieved in the history of the Dragons;
- in VJBL, six teams finished top of the ladder in their pool with 19 teams finishing in the top four; and
- in the BIG V, the Senior Men’s team and the Youth League Men’s teams qualified for the finals in their



respective competitions, with the Youth League team topping the ladder in the Division 1 competition.

Ross Wignall commented: “We are particularly pleased, though, with the improvement in the final positions of many of our teams, which really demonstrates the depth that we are building across the Dragons.”

The focus of the Dragons on building pathways for its players was highlighted this season with VJBL players Sam Veitch (B18.1 and Youth League Men) and James Coleman (B16.1) selected by Basketball Victoria for the 2021 State Development Program (SDP), and Matt Power (B21.1 and Youth League Men) selected in the Victorian U20 – Navy Blue team which competed in the Australian Junior Championships in Queensland back in May. All players have been at Camberwell Dragons since their junior days.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Association, and the Dragons were delighted to have Prue Ainsworth, Rachel Bett, and Mark Jeffers awarded Bronze Service Awards by Basketball Victoria in recognition of their service to Victorian basketball for more than 15 years.

If you are looking for a representative association with a strong family culture that generates strong players, strong teams, strong pathways, and strong connections – join Dragons today and never look back! Registration for tryouts for next season are now open. Head to the

Dragons website for everything you need to know about tryouts and more www.camberwelldragons.com or email Linda at operations@camberwelldragons.com

Go Dragons! #Feeltheheat

Whitehorse Cr Denise Massoud elected VLGA President



The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) is pleased to announce that Whitehorse Cr Denise Massoud has been elected as the new President for a two-year term. Louise Hill remains as Vice President with Andrew Sloman elected Treasurer.

Cr Massoud has been a Whitehorse City Councillor since 2012. She brings with her a wealth of experience in the

local government sector, the community, and education. A graduate and current member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Cr Massoud has held several not-for-profit Board positions and is a member of the Executive Committee for Australian Local Government Women’s Association Victoria and supports other women in their development as community leaders.

The VLGA board is committed to excellence in its role as the governing body of the VLGA – setting long term strategy and policy for the benefit of its members and the local government sector – as well as providing risk and governance oversight for the organisation.

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Voluntary Assisted Dying: good news is no news

– Julian Gardner

When the latest report on Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) was tabled in Parliament in September it evidenced the safe and compassionate operation of the VAD law. Despite extensive media coverage leading up to the making of the law, the media did not report this. One is left to wonder whether this is because there were no scandals, no evidence of coercion or elder abuse, no misuse of medication and no cases of professional misconduct. In other words, nothing “news-worthy”.

Many opponents to VAD made dire predictions of the risks. This latest report from the VAD Review Board, which monitors the safe and lawful operation of the law, contains no evidence of any such dire outcomes. Instead, the law is operating as intended to provide those suffering and close to death one more option for medical treatment. The compassionate goal of the VAD law to reduce suffering is being achieved.

Eastsider News can share the news that mainstream media ignored. In the six months to 30 June 101 Victorians died using VAD – a number constant with the previous six months. In the first two years of operation, 597 people have passed the rigorous assessment process and obtained a permit to dispense the necessary medication. Of those, 282 took the medication themselves, 49 had it administered by a doctor (this is permitted only when a person is unable to administer or swallow it by themselves), and 157 (32 percent) died without

taking the medication. Of those some may have died from their illness while others found comfort and relief from suffering simply by knowing they had a choice.

While the safe operation of VAD in Victoria is good news, some problems remain. These include the obstacle of the Commonwealth Criminal Code, which prevents the use of telephones or telehealth for providing information about VAD. This restraint presents a barrier to access to compassionate care. Eligibility assessment requires two doctors, one who must be a specialist in the relevant medical condition. Other than oncologists, there are too few specialists especially neurologists (specialising in conditions such as motor neuron disease) who have completed the necessary VAD training. This can cause some ill people to travel to gain access. Finally, and regrettably, the many safeguards in the law make, for some, the process too long.

On the positive side there is a high level of satisfaction with the Care Navigator Service which helps people through the complex requirements, and with the Statewide Pharmacy Service which delivers medication to the home anywhere in the State, free of charge.

With the experience of two years, we are starting to learn about those who access VAD. The median age range is 73. There are approximately equal numbers of men and women. 64% lived in the metropolitan area, and 86% at home. 83% had a cancer diagnosis, 8% a

neurodegenerative disease, and 9% a respiratory or other condition. 70% were born in Australia and only 4% spoke a language other than English at home, suggesting a lack of equality in access. In contrast to the US, where access is predominantly by the tertiary educated, less than a third had a diploma or degree level of education. This may be explained by the high cost of the medication and health services in the US.

Opponents of VAD often argued that it would be detrimental for access to palliative care. In contrast 82% were currently receiving palliative care. VAD is not an alternative to palliative care: it is one more option. The high level of access may, in part, be explained by the legal requirement on doctors to explain palliative care options to an applicant for VAD. No such legal obligation exists for other patients.

Since the passing of the vanguard legislation in Victoria, other States have followed. In WA, VAD commenced operation in July this year, while laws were passed in Tasmania in March, SA in June, and Queensland in September.

Although the number of deaths involving VAD was previously newsworthy, it does not measure success of the law. There are many more people whose suffering is relieved by simply having the medication or knowing it may be an option or for the family who no longer have to witness suffering.

For further information about VAD, including the eligibility requirements and the application process, visit the government website by searching for VAD Victoria.



Doncaster Camera Club remains active during lockdown

– Pamela Rixon

The priority of Doncaster Camera Club is to keep our members engaged and interested and participating in online groups and discussions and educational activities. We have several Special Interest Groups who meet regularly on Zoom. A challenge is set, and photographs taken according to rules and restrictions. Images are uploaded and discussed on Zoom. Members are inspired and participating with enthusiasm.



The recent challenge for the Themes and Series Group was “Letterboxes”. The upcoming challenge for the Scenic Group is “That’s Interesting!” The Monochrome Group is involved in processing images in black and white. The Image Development Group is an interactive session looking at composition and post processing techniques.

The Doncaster Camera Club is for anyone interested in photography. It is the place for both novice and more advanced photographers alike to share the joy of photography. Members come from many of the surrounding suburbs.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at 7.30 pm, with different themes and topics presented. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Currently we are meeting on Zoom.

For more information email doncastercameraclub@gmail.com or see www.doncastercameraclub.org.au

Pam Rixon is Secretary of the Doncaster Camera Club

L: Letterboxes – Ean Caldwell
R: Penguins – Michael Walker

Boroondara Seniors groups census

Seniors groups promote health, wellbeing, safety and social connection and Council recognises the important role groups play. Supporting Seniors groups is an important aspect of Boroondara’s plan ‘Add Life to Your Years, Healthy Ageing in Boroondara’. Your group is invited to participate in Boroondara’s annual census. The results of this census will enable Council to:

- refer new members who appear to be a good match for your group, activities or programs
- appreciate the challenges your group may be facing and where Council’s support may be useful
- understand how Seniors groups are using facilities and their future needs.

Learn more about the project at engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/seniors-groups-census Note: COVID-19 has had a significant impact on clubs, particularly club activities, social outings and membership. However, please answer the questions in terms of how your group would normally operate (ie pre-COVID-19). A special section of questions has been included to focus specifically on the impact of COVID-19. If you would prefer to complete the survey over the phone, or for the survey to be completed by another committee member, please contact Rosemary Sheehan at phone **9278 4691** or email Rosemary.Sheehan@boroondara.vic.gov.au

In the next edition

The deadline for articles for the next edition of *Eastsider News* is 25 November, with the edition due to go online early December. We try to maintain diversity and give priority to those which are time relevant, so make sure you submit your article as soon as possible at info@eastsidernews.org.au

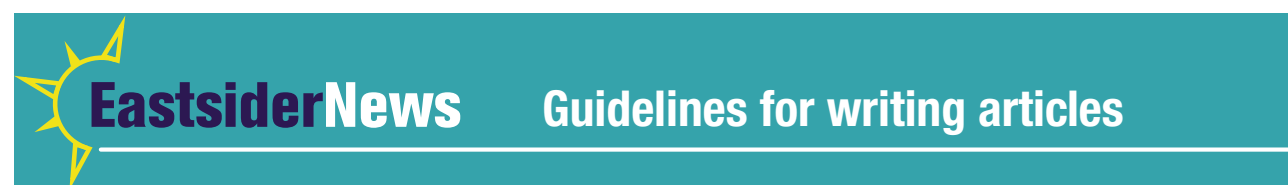
Have you got something to say?

The December edition marks the end of 2021, the second year since the eponymously named COVID-19 entered our language and our experience. Looking back, you might like to reflect on how our community has suffered, survived, and thrived over this once in a lifetime shared challenge. You might also like to look forward to 2022. What are your hopes, expectations, and intentions?

Articles for *Eastsider News* come through word-of-mouth contacts from a variety of personal and community networks. They are flowing in also from amongst the subscribers and the people who have clicked on the website. These networks are evolving and expanding rapidly. If you are reading this, then you are part of that evolution, and therefore invited to submit your news, stories, ideas, photos, Letters to the Editors, and advertisements for the next and subsequent editions. See the submission guidelines on this page. Email to info@eastsidernews.org.au

Page 4 Quizling Answers

1. Just+in+Timber+lake 2. W/asp, F/ox, F/owl, B/ass, T/ern



The guidelines for writing for *Eastsider News* are:

- Length and quality: ranging from 400-700 words, occasionally longer, but always well written, and concise
- Relevance: local public interest, but sometimes with a broader context
- Style: personal, but varied – story, humour, technical, creative, cartoons, etc
- Evidence-based: transparency about whether it is factual or opinion
- Language: can be expressive, but respectful and non-defamatory, with a focus on information, ideas, or issues,
- Text: to be submitted as an unformatted Word document by email
- Photos and graphics: to be submitted as stand-alone 300dpi resolution jpegs by email info@eastsidernews.org.au
- Author’s information: name and suburb for publication, an email address for follow-up but not publication. An author’s headshot and short bio is optional
- The Editors will usually accept material as written, but may make minor changes to improve clarity, readability, or focus.

The types of articles are expected to include:

- General interest: local environment, planning and development, social issues, health, etc
- Local activity centres and organisations: community centres, schools, churches, social groups, sports clubs, business, service clubs, universities, etc
- Socio-demographic groups: eg ethnic, age, ability, household types, etc
- Council business: Boroondara and Whitehorse ward reports, consultations, etc
- Personalities: interviews with interesting ‘ordinary’ people, and related events
- Culture, hobbies: art, music, recipes, eating out – and more.

We publish a new edition online every two months but, to stay accurate and relevant, online versions may be added to and updated more frequently. We are planning to do a limited print edition for community distribution twice a year, when funds become available www.eastsidernews.org.au