

Victoria's Path to a Treaty with its First Peoples

On Tuesday, 23 August 2022, the *Treaty Authority and Other Treaty Elements Act 2022* became law. This legislation represents a further stage in the process to negotiate a treaty between Victoria's First Peoples and the State Government. It will establish an Indigenous treaty authority to act as an independent umpire to oversee treaty negotiations and resolve disputes between traditional owner groups and the state government.

The Act is the result of work that began in March 2016 when Premier Daniel Andrews announced that the state government would be committing to discussing Treaty with the Victorian Aboriginal Community. The Aboriginal Treaty Working Group was set up in July 2016 to ensure community voices were part of the discussion. The Working Group agreed that a representative body was needed to progress discussions.

In late 2017, the Aboriginal Community Assembly made up of 31 community representatives met to consider



the form a representative body would take. The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission was subsequently created in December of 2017 as an independent office to maintain the momentum of the treaty process and establish the Aboriginal Representative Body. Aunty Jill Gallagher AO was appointed Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner. The commission travelled to 30 locations across the state and held discussions with community about the process of treaty and what it meant for them.

The Commission's work provided the basis for the *Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act* which was passed in August 2018. The Aboriginal Representative Body was renamed in December 2019 as the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. Co-chairs are Marcus Stewart, a Nira illim bulluk man and Geraldine Atkinson, a Bangerang and Wiradjuri elder.

The First Peoples' Assembly is an independent and

democratic voice responsible for working in partnership with the State to establish the elements necessary to support future treaty negotiations. Its 31 members reflect the diversity of Aboriginal voices across Victoria. This covers 11 reserved member seats representing each formally recognised Traditional Owner group and 21 general member seats.

The Act contains no legislated timeline for the treaty framework to be agreed by the Assembly and State of Victoria nor are there any rules about what should and should not be in a treaty. Truth-telling has consistently been seen to be part of the treaty process.

This article brings together information taken from the website of The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/treaty/>, First Peoples – State Relations, <https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/treaty-process>, Deadly Story <https://www.deadlystory.com/>, and The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/16/victoria-passes-landmark-legislation-to-create-first-nations-treaty-authority>. It is intended to introduce readers to aspects of the treaty process. Eastsider News apologises for any errors they may have made in describing this process.

World-class expertise

– Chris Trueman

The COVID pandemic and climate change highlight the need to listen to 'the science' – to heed the messages from experts in their field of study. Some people – a minority now it seems – don't want to hear the messages for reasons that can mystify the majority. What most want is for governments, at all levels, to listen to and act on rationally on well-founded rigorous research.

Apart from the negative health effects of COVID and climate change, we have another health crisis which is slowly and insidiously creeping up on society – the negative effects of reduced activity by many in the community, particularly children and youth.



Deakin University is a world class centre of excellence in this field and local. Recently, Deakin Professor Anna Timperio (pictured) shared her knowledge at a Community Chat meeting at Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre. Anna is Deputy Director of the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN) – an internationally recognised centre of excellence.

She is also a Whitehorse resident and a mother of school-age children who move around in our local community.

Anna emphasised the benefits of children becoming far more active than currently. It's time to 'pull up our socks' because we are not doing very well. Anna and her colleagues play a leading role in the *Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance*. Their website can be accessed at the link below.

It has taken decades for governments to recognise and act on the looming catastrophe presented by climate change. We have an even greater personal responsibility when it comes to matters of health. Governments have made the information available, but are they sending the right messages? If so, we don't seem to be taking notice.

The Royal Children's Hospital National Child Health Poll reports that 71% of children DON'T regularly walk or ride to school. Among those parents who reported driving by car as the most common mode of travel to school, the reason for doing so included:

- Driving is the quickest form of transport (52%)
- Driving is the safest form of transport (48%)
- Driving fits in with the family schedule (46%)
- Driving is a way to spend time with my child (19%)
- Driving is my child's preference (15%)

No-one said, 'I'm driving my child to school because it's best for their development and health'. Since 'spending time with my child' is important, surely a walk or ride to school with a child would be a far better way to spend time together than in a supposedly quick journey in a car, often in congested traffic?

Safety is shown in the survey as a big reason. Governments must match their messages about the health benefits of activity and active travel with policies



Here's the latest 'Report Card' on how Australia is embracing the need for more physical activity by children.

and budget allocations to make it safer and more convenient for all to walk and ride. I'm reminded of Joe Biden's quote 'Show me your budget and I'll tell you what you value'.

There's no shortage of resources to confirm what the experts are saying. But are we listening? Visit the WATAG page at <https://tinyurl.com/2fca27va> for a deeper look at this important topic, and many links to advice and research. Access the Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance website at <https://www.activehealthykids.org/australia/>

The meeting with Professor Timperio was organised by Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group (WATAG). Chris Trueman is the WATAG Correspondence Secretary. Go to their website at <https://watag.org/>.

Transport and Whitehorse

Organised by the Metropolitan Transport Forum and hosted by the City of Whitehorse, this is a free public information event. Confirmed speakers are Aiv Puglielli, Greens candidates for North-Eastern Metropolitan; Paul Hamer, MLA Box Hill; and Nicole Ta-Ei Werner, Liberal candidate for Box Hill.

Participants will discuss many local transport issues including what the major parties are planning for transport across Whitehorse and surrounds. There

MTF Transport Forum Whitehorse. Box Hill Town on Tuesday 18 October, from 6.30pm to 8 pm

will also be an opportunity to direct questions to the candidates.

Seating is limited, so please book early. Click here to book. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/410960874037>. The event will also be livestreamed. Make a booking to receive the online link.

In This Edition

The October Edition is our last before the Victorian State Elections in November 2022. We thank those candidates who responded to our invitation to tell us about themselves and why they have nominated. Please go to the website to read contributions received more recently. This edition contains articles discussing preferential voting and policy issues.

It also lists events where you can check out your local candidates. Topics covered in this edition range from local government decisions, policies and activities; sustainability and climate policy; music making; and stories of several local heroes. Our regulars include that handsome dog Max with his latest walk, David Astle with his Quizling thoughts, a quirky poem from Corinne, and not one but two recipes. Good reading!



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov>

Photography Outing to Melbourne University

Pam Rixon, Doncaster Camera Club

Doncaster Camera Club recently held an outing to Melbourne University to photograph the university's early and contemporary architecture. Members captured a large and diverse range of photos; two weeks later they presented their photos at a Zoom meeting and discussed technical matters such as camera settings, composition, and editing processes. This discussion and feedback is a valuable learning experience.

The Doncaster Camera Club is for anyone interested in photography, a place for both novice and more advanced photographers to share their passion. Members come from Doncaster and surrounding suburbs.

For more information check out our website at www.doncastercameraclub.org.au or email us at doncastercameraclub@gmail.com. Go to Instagram at [doncaster.camera.club](https://www.instagram.com/doncaster.camera.club) or Facebook at [doncaster.camera.club](https://www.facebook.com/doncaster.camera.club) – Melbourne to see the work of our members



My Glove Box Friend

– Corinne Fenton

Illustration: Marjory Gardner



There's a creature in the glove box
Of my Mum's red sports car
I'm certain that he lives in there
Behind the money jar.

And underneath Mum's sunglasses
Or beside the tissue box
My creature plays, and sleeps and hides
Just like a sneaky fox.

Among the pens and papers
The torch, the maps, and keys
My glove box friend lives happily
With only me to please.

I've heard his tiny footsteps
I've heard the strangest noise
I've even heard him humming
While he's playing with my toys.

I've heard the coin jar jingle
And I know how long he takes
To nibble my potato chips
I've seen the mess he makes!

I know he'll always be there,
It's 'home' to him you see,
We really are the best of mates,
My glove box friend and me.

From the Editors

In this, the edition before the Victorian state election on 26 November, *Eastsider News* reflects on the last election, where we are now, and our hopes for the future.

At the previous state election in 2018, two years before the first edition of *Eastsider News*, three local seats, Box Hill, Burwood and Hawthorn swung from Liberal to Labor electing Paul Hamer, Will Fowles and John Kennedy, all of whom are seeking re-election in 2022. Will Fowles is standing for the seat of Ringwood after a redistribution saw the seat of Burwood abolished.

Many readers had conversations with Paul Hamer over the government's plan to remove the level crossings on Union Road and Mont Albert Road and use Canterbury Sports Ground as a storage site. To Mr Hamer's credit, he listened to the local community and was able to stop the valuable community resource from being taken over.

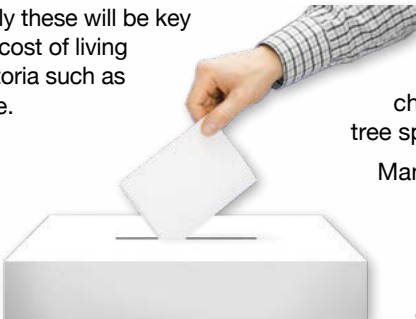
The recent federal election in May saw a change of government with three local seats – Kooyong, Chisholm and Higgins – swinging away from the Coalition largely because of voter concern about climate change, integrity and

women's issues. While it is likely these will be key issues again in November, the cost of living and other issues unique to Victoria such as gas and forests will also feature.

While neither major party has ruled out new gas fields in Victoria, the government's Gas Substitution Roadmap, removing the need for gas to be supplied to new homes, is a point of differentiation. Those opposing new fossil fuel projects will find it hard to vote for the major parties and are likely to look to Independents and Greens as they did in the federal election.

Similarly, while the Victorian government has determined that the logging of Victoria's native forests will cease by 2030, the opposition has vowed to overturn this decision if elected. Many feel very strongly about preserving Victoria's unique native forests, particularly after the devastating 2019-2020 fires.

Locally, another issue residents are concerned about is the loss of tree canopy due to inadequate protection



by Victoria's Building Act (1993) and climate change. A recent study by the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment found climate change posed a threat to more than 90 per cent of tree species in Sydney and Melbourne.

Many wanting to purchase electric vehicles are frustrated by their relatively high price and the lack of infrastructure. Residents without off-street parking have no on-street neighbourhood charging stations as exist in some other electorates and overseas. The Victorian government's EV tax has also proven unpopular, and the new federal government has backed a legal bid seeking to eliminate the levy.

The latest Roy Morgan poll in August showed the ALP holds an election-winning lead over the Coalition. Individual electorates are another matter, and polls have been wrong before. No doubt over the next few weeks we will have a better feel for how it will all pan out. An excellent way for readers to hear their candidates speak, and ask them questions, is to attend one of the several candidates forums being held in the area to look at specific topics such as climate policy and transport. Details can be found elsewhere in this edition.



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.



To learn more about the rich culture and traditions of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, explore their website at www.wurundjeri.com.au

Credits and contacts

The informal group who initiated the idea which has evolved into Independent Community News Group Incorporated and *Eastsider News* were Bill Chandler, Michael Hassett, Allan Havelock, Joy Mettam, Anne Young, and John Malvestuto. From this small beginning, a growing network of community minded people are taking an interest in being involved in its ongoing development. The current compilers and editors are Anne Young, John Malvestuto, Joy Mettam, Mike Daly, and Callum McNaught.

Our volunteer helpers are an important part of ensuring our continuity. Several have very ably helped compile this edition. If you are interested in joining the team, please talk to us.

The primary contact point for Independent Community News Group Incorporated and *Eastsider News* is eastsidernews1@gmail.com.

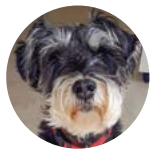


Disclaimers

Eastsider News is a means by which people in Whitehorse, Boroondara and adjacent areas can share information, opinions and experiences. 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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My favourite walks

– Maximilian von Schnauzer

Hi, my fellow four-leggeds, its Spring! And you know what they say about Spring. I am feeling a touch romantic myself. How about you?

I have a rather special friend I'd like you to meet. Her name is Ellie and she is a schnauzer like me but cuter and more petite. We don't see each other as often as we'd like and she can be a little shy when we meet up. But I find that quite endearing and work hard to be gentlemanly and not too boisterous.

Also, she is a lot smarter than I am. I can sit and wait for the signal to eat my dinner, and have learnt to take treats gently, but Ellie ...wow. What a girl! She brings in the paper each day without supervision, she twirls on 2 legs when asked to dance, and barks when she hears 'Sydney Swans' spoken amidst a list of footy team names. I am smitten.

Today we met at the Brighton Beach dog park with our respective two-leggeds – they are cousins.

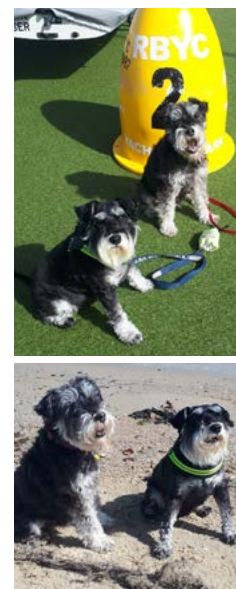
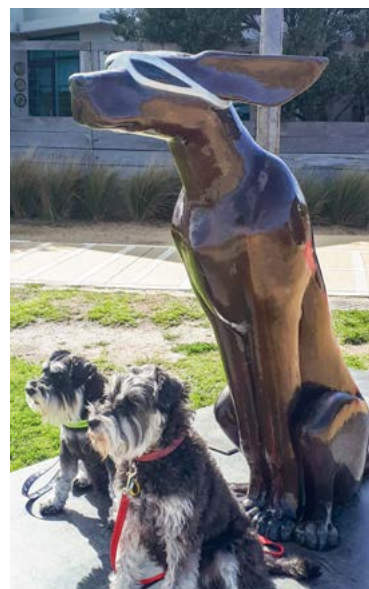
Have you ever been to this dog beach? It's off-lead and huge. You can run and run. Ellie is very brave and paddled a little but I don't like getting wet (as my clipper can attest to!). There are sandbanks to splash

out to, fantastically smelly seaweed to roll in and dogs, dogs, dogs to chase. I was able to show off a little to Ellie by standing up bravely to another dog. She looked a little surprised at my aggressive stance as it was only a dachshund. The two-leggeds were happy, as the secure fencing meant they could leave us be and have a good chat.

They really went upmarket with their coffee. Perhaps it was to do with all this talk I've been hearing about royalty and Queens and Kings. But the coffee came from the ROYAL Brighton Yacht Club. I ask you! What next? You enter from the beach side, wending your way through the yachts to the big steps. There they have special rings to attach us to, and thoughtfully, water bowls. Our two-leggeds had take-away coffees but they said they could have had a meal there looking out at the amazing view.

And then it was time to leave. Ellie walked me to our car. Really, I should have walked her to hers. I watched as she trotted off, wondering when I will see her again. Sigh.

As ever, please say hello if you see me around. I'm black and silver with a red collar.



Paw Notes:

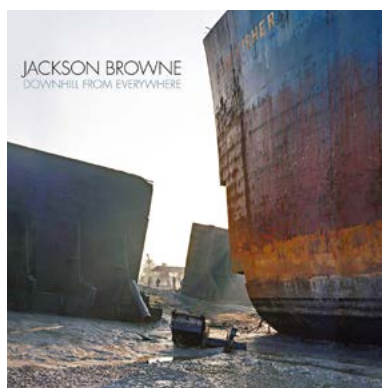
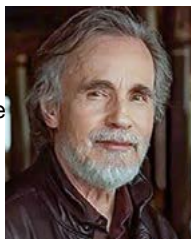
https://www.brightpups.com.au/beaches/beach_sandownst.html

<https://rbyc.org.au/> 'We welcome dogs, with a designated outside area for your furry friends'.

Jackson Browne: Downhill from Everywhere (Inside Recordings)

– Mike Daly

Jackson Browne has a new album out, which is great news for longtime fans like me. He also ranks high on my list of memorable concerts. His 1977 Festival Hall performance, backed by a band led by the multi-instrumentalist David Lindley, is high on the list alongside Bruce Springsteen, Pink Floyd, B B King, Rostropovich, Bee Gees, Leonard Cohen, Christy Moore, Neil Young and Queen.



featuring Amos Garrett's lyrical guitar playing. At the time, Browne was enjoying a career resurgence on the heels of *The Pretender* album and his band included multi-instrumentalist David Lindley. After several encores, Browne and Lindley returned with acoustic guitars to sit front of stage, then Browne told the audience

we could leave any time as the duo played an extended version of *Stay*.

Incidentally, Browne's 1974 *Late for the Sky* album remains a personal favourite and one of its most celebrated songs, *Before The Deluge* became a theme tune for the prescient MUSE (Musicians United for Safe Energy) concerts. He's also member of the Ocean Elders advocacy group and has been honoured with numerous awards for his pursuit of social justice and environmental awareness.

Happily, at age 72, Browne is as passionately concerned as ever about the state of our planet and its inhabitants. His new album includes a postscript to the Donald Trump era in *The Dreamer*, highlighting the plight of immigrants, yet there's also room for romance in the lilting *Love Is Love*, as well as *Minutes to Downtown* and *Human Touch*. And if his title lament for our polluted oceans appears a tad pessimistic, there's a welcome touch of self-irony in a track like *Still Looking for Something*.

This is a well-produced recording that echoes the warm instrumental sounds of his work in earlier decades, while delivering thoughtful lyrical content. In other words: music for grown-ups.

Browne, who began touring the US last year with James Taylor until COVID laid him low, will tour Down Under next year, including Melbourne's Margaret Court Arena on 13 April 2023.

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.

Whitehorse Orchestra and the COVID Variations



Whitehorse is a community orchestra rehearsing weekly at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, where we have rehearsed on

Saturday mornings since 6 October 1990, the week prior to the Centre's official opening. Its concerts, up to half a dozen a year, range from the classical to the popular, and include performances specifically crafted for young audiences, each presented with narration and imagery.

All this came to an unwanted end during the COVID-19 lockdown years of 2020 and 2021. There was hope in 2021 that things may return to normal, and somehow we managed to perform in the first half of the year. Sadly, the rhythm was dashed with the Delta Variation. Once more, we were in lockdown. And yes, this lengthy lockdown did come to an end prior to the close of 2021, but just not in time for us to reach performance standard pre-Christmas. The enthusiasm was there, the Music Director, Gerald Keuneman OAM and Principal, Philip Carrington were keen, but the time was simply too short.

So, we move to 2022 with no lockdown in sight despite the emergence of the Omicron Variation. Ever present, ever pervasive and unbelievably annoying, it infects all and sundry indiscriminately. Musicians are not exempt. However, the Orchestra chose to rehearse none-the-less, starting late in January and continuing quite consistently ever since (just a couple of weeks off in late July, when the Omicron vapour was omnipresent). Not only that,



to date the Orchestra has successfully performed three concerts, one in April featuring the music of African American Florence Beatrice Price and orchestra member Willow Woodman, and two concerts presented Poulenc's *Babar the Elephant* and orchestra member Rebecca Marshall's *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

It all sounds easy, doesn't it? But be assured that with members having to isolate from time to time, and the highly understandable reluctance of vulnerable members to participate just yet, the Director's life is far from easy. In fact, it is often hair pulling time with key instruments missing at crucial points in the rehearsal schedule, sections decimated by illness/isolation, and even the necessity of the Director having to isolate himself (so far only the once, thank goodness).

Whitehorse Orchestra is undoubtedly not the only community group to struggle with the terrible effects of this virus. Other orchestras, ballet/dance groups, choirs, theatres, sports teams all face similar difficulties.

Enjoying Victoria's great outdoors Parks Victoria

The Victorian Government is making it easier to enjoy the great outdoors with cheaper camping fees, new camping grounds, 4WD tracks and walking trails.

The Great Outdoors package of \$106.6 million over four years includes building more than 30 new campgrounds and upgrading 30 existing campgrounds. These will be spread across the state and are based on areas where attention is needed most.

Amongst the projects already completed is French Island Fairhaven. Located in Westernport Bay on Bunurong Country, this hike-in campsite on French Island is in a bush setting 5km from the ferry terminal at Tankerton.



Recent upgrades have improved the camping area by creating better access to the beach, clearly marking campsites, and improving signs.

Work is currently underway in Bunyip State Park, a beautiful park that provides a unique camping experience close to Melbourne. This includes upgrading the existing camping area at the Dyers Picnic Area.

The project is being delivered in partnership between Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. They are working together with Traditional Owners, local communities and stakeholders to make sure they get it right.

More information is available on <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/victorias-great-outdoors>



Steamed Oysters in Black Bean Sauce

The unique Cantonese tradition of dim sum or yum cha is a meal made up of tiny delights – small plates of dumplings and other snack dishes. This recipe comes from Elizabeth's book *Tiny Delights* which celebrates these dishes.

I believe this dish originated in Australia by top Chinese Restaurants because of the excellent quality of Australia's rock oysters, especially around the Sydney area. The salty flavour of the oysters blends superbly with that of the black beans, but the oyster must be the dominant flavour. This dish is a natural starter for a special dinner. Serves 2

Ingredients:

12 very fresh oysters in their shells
1 tbs chopped spring onions or chives
2 tbs peanut oil
Fresh coriander, ginger, red capsicum and parsley (to garnish)

For the Sauce:

Mix together:
1 tbs black beans, mashed slightly with the back of a spoon
½ tsp sugar
½ tsp salt
dash of pepper
2 tsp chicken stock
¼ tsp sesame oil

Preparation:

Mix the black bean sauce ingredients together in a small bowl and spoon a little on top of each oyster, together with the finely chopped spring onion or chives.

Mix together the seasoning ingredients in a separate bowl.

To Cook:

Place the oysters in their shells into a steaming basket and steam gently for five or six minutes. Just before the completed cooking time, heat the oil in a pot to smoking point, then pour a little over each oyster. The very hot oil is essential to give the final effect of flavour and texture. Garnish each oyster with a tiny sprig of fresh coriander and some finely chopped ginger, capsicum and parsley. Serve immediately.



Travel beckons!

– Carolyn Ahearne



Travel is well and truly back on the agenda with record numbers of travellers heading to national and international destinations. Ocean and river cruises are gaining popularity again, as are self-guided tours, and coach tours. Hikes and walking escapes

are also popular for a slower paced vacation.

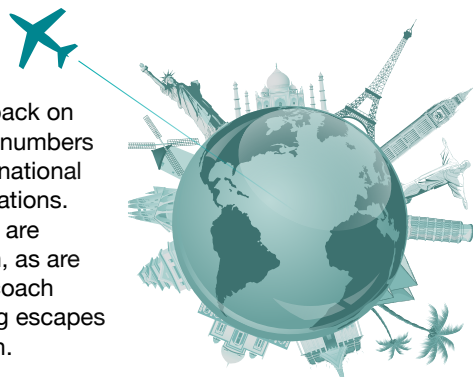
My travels took me to Phuket, Thailand in July, where I learnt about the location, the people, and the culture. The warmth was a welcome change, and it was a delight to dip my toes in the Andaman Sea.

I'm looking forward to ticking off a bucket list item when I attend *The Passion Play* at Oberammergau (Germany). This play is performed once every 10 years since 1633. I will then take a river cruise on the Rhine from Basel to Amsterdam.

I'm sure most people have a bucket list of places they want to visit, or things they want to do. This list will include plans and dreams to travel to destinations or partake in activities they have read or heard about. It may also include thoughts of travelling with extended family and doing something extra special together.

VIT (Very Important Tip) – be patient and organised when travelling this year. Give yourself plenty of time, especially at airports and train stations. Be aware of documentation required for international travel and be prepared.

Carolyn Ahearne is a personal travel manager. She can be contacted by email at carolyn.ahearne@travelmanagers.com.au. Her website is at <https://www.travelmanagers.com.au/ptm/CarolynAhearne/>




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Melbourne Tram Museum gets a funding boost

– John Kennedy MP

Since 1885, Melbourne has been one of the world's great tramway cities. This history is commemorated in the marvellous Melbourne Tram Museum at the heritage-listed Hawthorn Tram Depot. Housing some of the state's most significant historic trams, the museum is a popular attraction for tram enthusiasts, both young and old.

In recent times, the Melbourne Tram Museum has received a grant from the Victorian Government of \$44,000 to support a lighting upgrade, improvements to displays and general maintenance. John Kennedy, the local member for Hawthorn was thrilled to see the museum that celebrates his favourite form of transport recognised in this way.

This funding was awarded as part of the *Preserving our rail history* strategy. The program aims to secure the future of the tourist and heritage rail sector and provides more than half a million dollars to support their operations. The funding this year was offered to the 16 tourist and heritage rail and tram operators, and more widely to rail museums.

The strategy was put together by the Victorian Government in partnership with transport, tourism and heritage stakeholders. Funding is for projects to repair, restore, or refurbish state owned rail assets; improve access to assets; deliver approved projects on buildings or rolling stock; and for works in the rail corridor such as weed control or vegetation management.

For more information visit victrack.com.au.

John Kennedy is the Member for Hawthorn in the Victorian State Parliament



Sharing with love Peter Newton and Timor-Leste

– Andrew Kennon

Long-time Blackburn resident, Air Commodore Peter Newton AO (Retd) has a special connection with Timor-Leste. Following the brutal withdrawal of Indonesian troops in 1999, Peter instigated the idea of establishing a large health care centre outside Dili to be known as Klibur Domin.

Klibur Domin (KD) means Sharing with Love in Tetum. The health care centre was set up in 2000 after the then Commander of the Australian Peacekeeping Force, Major General Peter Cosgrove, told Peter the Dili Hospital desperately needed help to cope with the huge number of injured, disabled and sick people.

KD was set up under Ryder-Cheshire Australia (RCA), a not-for-profit charitable organization and Peter Newton became involved in 1996 after retiring from the RAAF. He was inspired by the life and work of Group Captain Lord Leonard Cheshire VC, OM, DSO**, DFC, the most decorated airman in World War II and CO of the famous 617 (Dambuster) Squadron and his wife Baroness Sue Ryder CMG, OBE, a member of British Special Operations Executive (Secret Service) in WWII.

RCA took over 18 damaged buildings on five-hectares in the Tibar District, 17 km west of Dili. Volunteers were recruited and supplies donated by a sympathetic Australian public. A container load was shipped in September 2000, followed by a Rotary team of nine volunteers who spent two weeks making the buildings habitable and restoring essential services. The first patients arrived in January 2001 and shortly after the 50 beds were fully occupied.

Since September 2000, more than 400 Ryder-Cheshire volunteers have served at KD including from Blackburn. Every year Australian Rotary sends up to three teams



Peter Newton with Father Ted Burns and Joaquim Soares, the Manager of Klibur Domin, together with staff and inpatients of Garton Cottage.

to KD for home maintenance and project works. Rotary Clubs have funded building materials, support vehicles and GeneXpert TB testing equipment at KD.

In 2004, the management of KD was handed over to the Timorese. RCA continues to support its facilities and services which are provided free of charge by providing funding for the everyday operations including staff, capital improvement works and home maintenance.

KD now has 85 patient beds, a staff of 71 locals and five mobile outreach teams, with 4WD vehicles. KD is responsible for COVID and TB testing and has the only ward in Timor-Leste for treating Multi-drug Resistant TB patients. Apart from the Respite Centre and Inpatient-Care for those in recovery, there is a big Community Based Rehabilitation Program to provide equipment, rehabilitation and support for people with disabilities. KD staff treated nearly 1500 patients last year at KD or through outreach support.

In the last 22 years RCA has had many generous supporters through donations, sponsorships and bequests. Father Ted Burns, formerly an RAAF Chaplain, has through personal commitment and strong



Peter Newton (second from right) and Father Ted Burns (second from left) with staff and residents of Garton Cottage and the Manager of Klibur Domin, Joaquim Soares (right).

parish support raised more than \$300,000. Father Ted introduced Peter Newton to Ryder-Cheshire's inspirational work in India where it has a big centre near Dehradun. In Australia, there are homes in Mt Gambier and Ivanhoe.

Peter and Helen Newton and their daughter Kim have all stayed and worked at KD as volunteers and Peter usually visits at least once a year – often accompanied by Father Ted Burns. Peter and another volunteer also went to the Rotary Donations in Kind (DIK) Store in Footscray most Tuesdays for 12 years helping Rotarians load more than 250 containers for Dili.

Ryder-Cheshire is committed to its long-term support for Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste but costs are rising faster than revenues received. 'We need more donations, sponsors for specific people or projects, volunteers and bequests,' Peter says. 'Volunteers can work in administration, healthcare, gardening or livestock care'.

Anyone interested in our work can visit our website at <https://ryder-cheshire.org/> or contact Mike Moignard on 0419 403 256 and mikemoignard@gmail.com. Ryder-Cheshire in Australia is run 100% by volunteers.

Remaking the Forests with Tony Rinaudo

– Bob Simpson

Recently, friends from Coronella Village in Nunawading arranged for others to hear 'a crazy, white farmer', Tony Rinaudo. Through nature-based Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), Tony helped to re-green Niger's forests and slow the spread of the Sahara Desert.

What wonderful change this FMNR process is making. On over 5,000,000 hectares, 200,000,000 trees have been regreened from dormant underground root stock. Ground temperatures fell and retained water levels rose. Food security rose for 4.5 million people and income security is rising, too. Time spent by women and children foraging for food, water and firewood has fallen by as much as 80 percent. Children now attend school regularly. The benefits are profound.

Tony and wife Liz chose to live with the people of Niger as a sense of mission to plant trees and reforest the desert. For this, Tony was tagged, 'crazy white farmer.' Tony told of a later sense of failure when most of the trees died, and the task seemed too big to continue.

One day, while dropping pressure in his truck tyres to move across the sand, he noticed a small shrub. Grabbing for any new idea, he walked across to check it out. Surprisingly, it was a tree, not a shrub. Examining



it, he intuitively figured that pruning could form it back into the canopy tree it truly was. And, by deduction, it must be part of an underground forest. How then could he bring the natural energy of the forest to the surface? With the help of a few crazy

Niger herdsmen and farmers, this idea started FMNR. Disruptive people; crazy people; dangerous people challenging the status quo.

Tony talked about the most empowering quality in forest restoration – mindset change. Forces that work against mindset change include thoughts like 'I'm hungry, today. Tomorrow will have to look after itself'. 'You'll destroy what I've got and leave me with nothing'. 'We've never done that before'. 'How can we afford to do that'.

The positive qualities that drive mindset change include intuitive revelation – something will work, even in the absence of scientific evidence. It demands courage and persistence, particularly when faced with public ridicule. Crazy people. And with success, it needs humility to graciously allow others to take the glory.

Tony and these herdsmen and farmers are ordinary people who achieved extraordinary nature-based outcomes. As one of the Niger Chiefs said, 'We did this

without the help of the World Bank, or our government'. The success has changed the mindset of government from a default 'produce for export' philosophy to putting families and communities first.

In the face of growing fear and hopelessness about climate change, particularly among children, Tony suggested there is good news. Around 3 billion hectares of degraded land across the world could be re-greened through low-cost nature-based regeneration methods. It's already happening and without massive technological solutions, which often do as much damage as the good they claim to do.

In answer to a question, Tony wondered how this amazing nature-based story could attract advocates working in social enterprise, journalism, and representative politics to break through the market-based interests of government and profit-focused entrepreneurs.

And what about the Urban Forest Strategies for the cities and shires of Victoria? What counter-intuitive nature-based story can be crafted to convince elected representatives to focus on nature-based solutions ahead of 'default' market/economic arguments? And help to bring some peace of mind to the children and grandchildren in our families and communities?

Watch this You Tube episode The Forest Maker for an inspiring look at Tony Rinaudo's work at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItyAaebyTg>. If you are a tweeter, follow @RegreenAfrica for more on regreening Africa.

Blackburn Lions Morning Teas Aids Kids with Cancer

– Nelson Knight

On Wednesday 28 September, Blackburn Lions Club and members of Nunawading Lions Club held a successful morning tea to raise funds for 'Kids with Cancer'. As well as an indulgent array of cakes and savouries served by waiters in dinner suits and bow ties, there were plant and handicraft stalls and a raffle. Thank you to the guests, and the Lions who helped with food preparation, serving and clean up. And thank you to District Governor Graham Bryant for a very informative talk.



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Paul Hamer MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR BOX HILL

The COVID Slide to Zoom

– Ross Gillespie

You know the story – the title says it all. We are all trying to engage with one another at work, home and play and in our voluntary work in a more engaged way and effective way. However, there are always forces working against this. Bureaucracies tend to move towards the impersonal, to latch on to any new technology for speed and money saving.

Early word processing and emails promised us time saving and less work. How did that work for you? Move forward many decades and boom, boom: COVID has encouraged new time saving opportunities, new promises. Bureaucracies have quickly latched onto the comfort, the cost saving and convenience of avoiding human contact.

The COVID Slide to Zoom is on. To remain at desks, to use Zoom even for in-house meetings; to replace face-to-

face meetings with Zoom. Councils and agencies all over Melbourne have now reopened for normal business. But not quite. Citizens are now being offered Zoom meetings in circumstances best suited to face-to-face meetings.

Remember the saying, ‘the medium is the message’? This advice suggested that how you communicate carries much of the message and the impact as well. Just as there is a place for letter writing, emails, waves, telephone calls, text messaging, there is also a place for face-to-face-meetings, especially where something is contested.

We know the method of communication chosen tells a story to the ‘listener’, the ‘recipient’ about the initiator of the engagement. We hear people say, ... ‘Why couldn’t she have just called me?’ Face-to-face builds knowing, trust and connectedness. We pick up nuances, real intent and level of commitment from those behind-the-scenes facial expressions, body gestures and the general mood in the room.

Just when councils are trying to engage better with community, (see Chris Trueman’s article on

CW Community Engagement Handbook, in the August 2022 edition of *Eastsider News*), they are replacing human contact meetings with Zoom. This has happened with forums over disputed property developments. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal loves it so much, they apparently now operate all their hearings by Zoom.

This slide discriminates against objectors, depersonalises complex discussions and ‘friendly working it out’ scenarios. It does not fit comfortably with the advocacy work groups such as Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group Inc (CROWAG) are doing on behalf of the community on matters including conservation, tree protection, good governance and better planning. We hope to advocate also, for Council to not allow the Drift to go on.

Ross Gillespie is President of CROWAG. Go to their website here <https://www.crowag.com/> to find out more about their work.

What’s happening to Boroondara’s Trees and what can we do about it?

– Lynne Webber

Boroondara was once known as the leafy green inner eastern area of Melbourne. This is reflected in the word Boroondara which comes from the Woi-wurrung language and means ‘where the ground is thickly shaded’. It was why many of us decided to buy our family homes there. But as many people who live in Boroondara will tell you, this image has deteriorated significantly over the last 25 to 30 years as trees have been routinely removed by developers to maximise the number and size of residences on blocks of land.

On Wednesday 31 August 2022, Lighter Footprints invited residents from the local area to hear from three experts in the field regarding the problem Boroondara and other eastern suburbs councils face and what residents and local councils can do to reverse this trend.

Dr Greg Moore, an expert in ecosystems and forest sciences from the University of Melbourne described the numerous benefits of trees to humans and wildlife. This includes significantly reducing temperatures on hot days;

increasing carbon sequestration; decreasing pollution and protecting biodiversity.

He noted that despite the positive benefits of trees most parts of Melbourne are decreasing their tree canopy by 1 to 1.5% every year. He argued that 30% tree canopy should be set as minimum target to provide the benefits obtained by trees.

Dr Judy Bush, an expert in urban planning from the University of Melbourne spoke about the increased density of housing as Melbourne expands leading to a lack of space both above ground and below ground for trees including lack of adequate root spread and drainage needed by trees.

She pointed out that all levels of government should have clear objectives, goals, and minimum targets for canopy trees. Effective policy implementation requires enforcement of regulations, appropriate incentives, strategies that foster collective stewardship, and the collection of evidence of changes over time.

Chris Spencer, the lead arborist of Boroondara City Council said that in 2022, Boroondara council area had 31.5% of tree canopy left and that nearly 50% of Boroondara’s area was covered in hard surfaces, such as

roads, pavements and roofs. He acknowledged that most of the tree canopy in Boroondara is on public land.

Chris mentioned several strategies that are in place to maintain trees on private land, including proactive inspections by his team and installing tree protection zones around old trees on the boundary of properties. Residents were encouraged to contact the State Minister regarding changes to the Building Act, the Infringements Act, the Energy Safe Victoria Act and the Electricity Safety Act.

He also suggested that residents should plant a tree and or gift a tree to others.

Question time produced many more questions than could be answered by the panel, demonstrating the interest in the topic by residents. Boroondara Council funded the purchase of 50 indigenous plants from GreenLink Nursery in Box Hill for the night to encourage people to plant more trees. All plants found a good home.

Boroondara arborist, Chris Spencer encouraged residents to report issues by contacting his team either by calling 9278 4888 (Statutory Planning) or reporting the issue online at <https://forms.boroondara.vic.gov.au/tree-enquiries/>



Letter to the Editors

The Editors of *Eastsider News* welcome letters from our readers and supporters. We want to provide you with a platform where you can express your concerns and share your insights on the things that matter in our communities.

Dear Editor

A Transport Forum in Manningham?

The Metropolitan Transport Forum will be holding a community transport forum on Tuesday 18th October in Box Hill Town Hall. The forum is being hosted by the City of Whitehorse and offers residents of Whitehorse the opportunity to hear first-hand what the major parties are planning for transport in the district.

I am seeking the support of the City of Manningham to host a similar forum in their municipality. Manningham

All we ask is that you keep them polite, well written, short at no more than 250 words and factually based. We will not publish anything that is intended to promote misinformation or falsehoods.

Please note, while we welcome a spread of topics, views and opinions, the specific responses expressed by individual writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, Independent Community News Group Incorporated, or any other organisation.

residents have had decades, life times of depleted public transport services that remains unresolved. This would give residents an opportunity to hear and direct questions at candidates standing at the next Victorian State Election.

Cynthia Pilli, Doncaster East.

Cynthia Pilli plans to nominate as a candidate in the electorate of Warrandyte in the upcoming Victorian State Elections under the banner ‘More Rail not Roads’.

JOHN KENNEDY MP STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR HAWTHORN



Need assistance with a State Government matter?

Contact my office, we’re here to help.

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Victorian State Elections **Comment and Opinion**

On this and subsequent pages are articles that discuss issues and express opinions on matters that could influence how electors cast their vote in the upcoming State elections in November. The Editorial Team at *Eastsider News* has published these articles to ensure there is healthy and informed debate about electoral policies and proposals. Please note that publication does not indicate that we necessarily support the views expressed in any of the articles. If you wish to make a comment, please email us at eastsidernews1@gmail.com.

Suburban Rail Loop

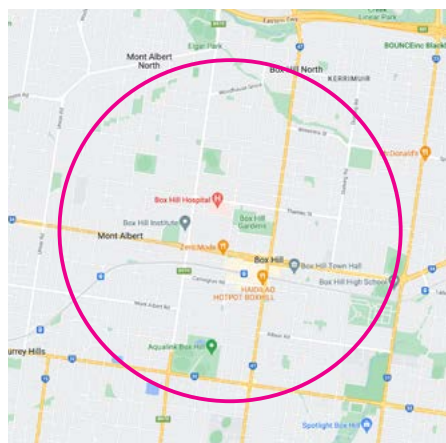
– Greg Buchanan

The Suburban Rail Loop project was announced by Premier Daniel Andrews, in a two-minute video posted to social media in August 2018. Originally code-named Operation Halo, the project was so secret that board members of the government agency responsible for its delivery knew nothing.

Speaking to The Age newspaper, RMIT's Professor of Urban Policy Jago Dobson said, 'It's very difficult to think of a comparable example of a project of this scale that has been announced with virtually no public discussion, no analysis, no preliminary deliberations or planning documentation'.

Fast forward to February 2022 to a 10 week public hearing on the Environmental Effects Statement for the first phase of the project, SRL East – Cheltenham to Box Hill. The committee responsible for the public hearing gave full support to the project, which was endorsed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Hon Lily D'Ambrosio.

The government called it Victoria's most comprehensive and transparent planning and environmental process. Yet it limited the scope of the Inquiry mainly to the below ground rail infrastructure. Left in abeyance were decisions



about replacement public open space and planning for the large precincts surrounding the new stations.

Box Hill Gardens is a popular park adjacent to Box Hill Hospital and will be reduced in size by 25%. The amenity and usability of the remaining parkland will be heavily impacted by the construction activity that could last for 12 to 15 years. The green public space in the centre of Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, which contains significant

canopy trees will also be removed as part of the project. This space has been a key design feature of the town centre since it was founded.

The suburban precincts around Box Hill Station and the other stations will each cover eight square kilometres, an area more than six times the size of Melbourne's CBD. New legislation allows the government to control these areas and thus make way for high density housing and large population growth that will support the viability of the rail loop.

At the public hearing, the Suburban Rail Loop Authority criticised Whitehorse City Council for suggesting state planning policy implied limitations on such development in the precincts having regard to the character of

those areas. The Authority said that no such limitation applied and that the policy expectation is '...to facilitate substantial growth and change...' in these precincts.

This means that suburbs such as Surrey Hills, Mont Albert, Box Hill North, Box Hill, Box Hill South and Burwood will come under the planning umbrella of the Suburban Rail Loop Authority instead of the local council, threatening existing heritage and landscape overlays and neighbourhood character.

A noticeable absence from the project is any plan to upgrade the tired Box Hill bus interchange which services 17 bus routes and has poor connectivity and amenity and will be a considerable walk from the new SRL station.

Quality connections between train stations and bus and tram interchanges will be critical to the success of the project yet they have been left unplanned and unresolved. Pick-up and drop-off areas and pedestrian and cycle paths are also key to properly integrating the project properly with the commercial, retail, hospital and education precinct of central Box Hill.

The public process for the first phase of this project has told less than half the story. It remains to be seen how the government will achieve the city shaping ambitions of the project and whether it can take the community with it on this journey.

Greg Buchanan is President of the Surrey Hills & Mont Albert Progress Association

The Rise of the Hard Right Candidate A Warning from Sex Workers

– Lisa Dallimore and Matthew Roberts

Two City of Boroondara Councillors – Mormon Cynthia Watson and Christian conservative Nick Stavrou – are running for state parliament in the November election and they both present a disturbing brand of hard right politics. Each has been preselected by the Liberal Party to contest the Lower House Ringwood District and the Upper House Southern Metropolitan Region respectively on November 26.

In early September 2021 Boroondara Council voted 10 to 1 against sex work decriminalisation. The decriminalisation of sex work is recognised by Amnesty International as a human rights issue; it is also seen as a labour issue by sex worker activists, who in Victoria have been fighting for decriminalisation since the 1970s.

Later that month at another meeting, Council attempted to drown out sex workers' voices with a string of anti-sex work speakers. The writers of this article, representatives from Sex Work Law Reform Victoria, were present; one of us spoke alongside veteran sex workers' rights activist Cheryl Overs. That night we faced misinformation

and fearmongering from many anti-sex work speakers who made us feel unwelcome, dismissed and stigmatised.

The Council's failure to adequately address sex work issues comprises a textbook example of how not to engage with minority communities. This is a further indication that some Councillors harbour hard right conservative views.

Although Amnesty International recognises sex workers' rights as human rights, the erosion of basic rights applies to many groups beyond sex workers. The rise and mainstreaming of far-right Trump-style politics in the USA gives us a hint of what may be coming to Australia. Voter suppression moves, the erosion of abortion and other reproductive rights, and a newly invigorated assault on LGBTIQ communities in the US are reminders that attacks on human rights now affect millions of Americans from all walks of life. We expect most voters in Melbourne's eastern suburbs would be unwilling to import the division and extremism of USA style politics.

The candidates contesting the upcoming state election have been declared and a clear trend is apparent. The Victorian Liberal Party is choosing to preselect hard right candidates across the board – not just in the eastern

suburbs. In the western suburbs, Christian fundamentalist Moira Deeming will be on the ballot while Bernie Finn has found a new home in the Democratic Labour Party after being dumped by the Liberals earlier this year for his extreme anti-abortion views.

We've recently published an election guide, rating the best and worst candidates on their sex workers' rights performance. Candidates Nick Stavrou and Cynthia Watson were rated poorly.

Victoria is generally considered to be one of the most progressive states in Australia. The biggest losers in the swing to the hard right might be the Victorian Liberal Party itself. Liberals performed badly at the last state election, so why the party continues to preselect candidates who are well outside the mainstream baffles voters and commentators alike. A vote for Liberal Party candidates Cynthia Watson or Nick Stavrou is a long way from what Liberal Party elder statesman John Howard refers to as the 'sensible centre'.

Lisa Dallimore and Matthew Roberts work with Sex Work Law Reform Victoria, a not-for-profit led by sex workers lobbying for the legal rights of sex workers in Victoria. contact@swlrv.org.au Find their election guide at www.swlrv.org.au

A goldfish's view of electric cars

Do electric cars have a role to play in climate policy?

The Earth's ecosystem is a big version of a goldfish bowl. There is no use cleaning one corner of a goldfish bowl. It's an all or nothing situation.

Let's presume that Australia has enough minerals in the earth's crust to make a billion cars every few years forever; we could make a billion cars every few years without exploiting some people for the sake of others; we had enough of those minerals to build all of the power plants and supply lines to power the cars and our consumptive lifestyles forever; and that electric cars were different from normal cars and didn't need tyres or road lanes or parking. Would electric cars still seem such an attractive idea for mitigating the climate crisis facing our world?

The inclusion of electric cars as a climate policy measure means we are cleaning up our own corner of the goldfish bowl by stealing our favourite resources from another corner of the bowl, thereby leaving the whole goldfish bowl more polluted than when we started. And all the goldfish will die.

This is reproduced from a recent post on LinkedIn with permission from Bridget Doran. Bridget is a Chartered Member, Engineering NZ; Chair, Engineering NZ Transportation Group; and Principal Researcher for MRCagney.



Submitted by Chris Trueman www.watag.org

Quizing Questions

David Astle is expert at intriguing, teasing, and frustrating his audiences with his inventive mastery of words. He has very generously agreed that in each edition of *Eastsider News* we can include two of the Quizlings from his book, *Puzzled*. You will find the answers on page 16 of this edition.

1. What two golf shots – plus a slang word for golfer – are also computer terms?
2. Explain how BUTTON, elevated, equates to PIPE, relegated.



Hawthorn and Kew Candidates Forums

Get to know your candidates before the November 26 state election and before early voting commences on November 14. Find out where Hawthorn and Kew candidates stand on climate change.

Listen to the candidates, ask them questions, and inform your vote. What is their vision for Victoria's transition to a clean energy economy and the protection of the planet for future generations?

Come along to an evening forum in your electorate that local community group, Lighter Footprints is organising:

- Hawthorn on Wednesday, 2 November at the Hawthorn Arts Centre
- Kew on Thursday, 10 November at the Marwal Centre North Balwyn.

Lighter Footprints forums are always very popular, so we suggest you register online immediately at <https://lighterfootprints.org/events/>

Voting below the line

Preferential voting for Victorian Upper House elections

– Colin Smith

In Victoria, we use versions of the preferential voting system whereby you choose candidates on a ballot paper in the order of your preference. If your preferred candidate cannot get enough votes to win, your vote can count for your next preferred candidate.

An Upper House ballot paper is usually enormous and covered with names of people and parties unknown to many voters. However, there are two simple ways to vote. You can write a ‘1’ in a square above the horizontal line, or you can number at least five squares, 1 to 5, below the line.

Most choose the first option and thereby allow the parties to determine how their preferences are allocated.



The maths behind winning an Upper House seat

The Upper House has 5 seats for each of 8 regions, giving a total of 40 seats. Whereas in the Lower House there is only one seat for each electorate and one needs more than 50% of votes to win, in the Upper House one needs only 16.7%. For those mathematically minded, the formula for calculating this percentage is (100/number of seats + 1)% = (100/5+1)% = 100%÷ 6 = 16.7%.

Your preferences count

The candidate with the least first preferences is eliminated first, and that person’s votes, along with the surpluses of successful candidates, are added to the other candidates’ tallies according to next preferences. The process is repeated until five candidates have reached 16.7%.

But most of these ‘preferences’ – where voters are just putting a ‘1’ above the line – are from Group Voting Tickets.

Group Voting Tickets

Each party must lodge a Group Voting Ticket (GVT) which numbers all squares below the line in order of preference. This is deemed to be the order chosen by every voter who puts a ‘1’ above the line for that party.

To find out how the parties allocated their preferences on their GVT, the voter needs to go to the Victorian Electoral Commission website or to carefully read the notices on the walls of polling booths. Some parties do the best they can by ranking political friends near the top and putting political enemies at the bottom. But others, mostly parties with little support, seek to redirect preferences to disadvantage parties that would win in a more transparent system.

If you are unsure whether your chosen party’s GVT reflects your intentions, vote below the line. Five squares numbered sequentially below the line constitutes a valid vote. Of course, you should number as many candidates as you deem worthwhile. But be sure to number at least five squares below the line to ensure your Upper House vote works entirely as you intend.

An introduction to candidates standing in electorates in our region

Eastsider News covers several State Lower House electorates in eastern Melbourne including Ashwood, Box Hill, Glen Waverley, Kew, Hawthorn, and Warrandyte. We invited candidates in these electorates to tell us something about themselves and why they were standing. We are pleased that the following people took up our invitation. Please note, however that Eastsider News seeks to be non-partisan and that we have no links to any of these candidates nor do we necessarily support the views expressed in their statements.

Since our publication deadline, we have received contributions from several other candidates. As we are unable to include them in the newspaper, we will set up a page on our website to make all contributions available there.



Paul Hamer MP, ALP candidate for Box Hill

I’m Paul Hamer – the State Labor Member for Box Hill.

I grew up in the Box Hill electorate, went to school in Burwood and have lived most of my life in the eastern suburbs. I am married and have two young children. Prior to being elected in 2018, I worked as an engineer and project manager in infrastructure planning roles in both the public and private sector.

It has been a privilege to represent the Box Hill community over the last four years, and since being elected in 2018 I have worked hard every day to deliver for local residents. Over the last four years, this has included:

- Securing over \$45m in local school infrastructure investment;
- Commencing work on the removal of the level crossings at Union Road, Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Road, Mont Albert – with the crossings to be removed in 2023, two years ahead of schedule!;
- Commencing work on the Suburban Rail Loop;
- Securing funding to improve bus services between Box Hill and Deakin University, as well as increased frequency on routes 733 and 767; and
- Upgrading our community sporting facilities to meet the needs of our local clubs.

When the Andrews Labor Government came to power in 2014, it put an end to the war with our paramedics; and throughout the pandemic the Government has backed our incredible frontline healthcare workers. Now, through its Pandemic Repair Plan, the Andrews Government will invest over \$12 billion to ease the pressure on our hospitals and deliver the health services that our community needs. This includes:

- An expansion of local elective surgery capacity by turning Bellbird Private Hospital in Blackburn into a dedicated public elective surgery centre;
- A new Priority Primary Care Centre in Box Hill, operating seven days a week for up to 16 hours a day to provide urgent patient care;
- 13,000 more nurses and midwives – and upskilling 8,500 nurses by making study and training free from 2023; and

- More paramedics, more ambulances and more Triple Zero staff.

Labor has also announced that a re-elected Andrews Government will invest \$1 billion in rebuilding Maroondah Hospital, creating 200 new beds along with 14 extra treatment spaces, a new emergency department and mental health hub. Like Box Hill Hospital, this hospital is part of the Eastern Health network and rebuilding Maroondah Hospital will provide a massive boost to meeting health needs across the eastern suburbs.

I am also proud to be part of a Labor Government that is helping local families with cost-of-living pressures through supports such as:

- The \$250 Power Saving Bonus – available to all Victorian households;
- A Sick Pay Guarantee -providing up to 38 hours of provides up to 38 hours of sick or carer’s pay to Victorians in casual and insecure work;
- Free Kinder for all Victorian three- and four-year-olds from 2023, saving families up to \$2,500 per child;
- Free TAFE – providing free tuition in more than 70 courses across growth industries;
- Capping Council rates to restrict the amount that councils can raise their rates each year

Only a Labor government can be relied upon to continue to deliver the jobs, health, education, transport and climate change action that local families need both now and in the future.

Authorised by Paul Hamer
24 Rutland Road Box Hill VIC 3128



Sophie Torney, Independent Candidate for Kew

I am a businesswoman and community volunteer who champions respect and integrity and seeks to offer our community an alternative and fresh start as your independent

candidate for Kew.

The new independent voices in Canberra have demonstrated an exciting new era in politics. And now in Kew we can do the same: to raise the standard of leadership and debate, enable individual voices, deliver evidence-based policy and secure freedom of representation without the constriction of party politics.

Now is the time for us to push ahead for what our community wants: a fresh start with integrity, working for a stronger economy and real progress on climate action.

I have lived in Kew for 23 years with my husband Tony and three children and have immersed myself deeply in the community. For a decade, I participated as a committee member and then President of the MLC Parents’ Association, managed junior football teams and clubs for 4 seasons, and led volunteer groups to deliver support and services to charities including Boroondara Community Outreach, You Matter, McAuley Community Services for Women, Share the Dignity, The Big Group Hug, & the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS).

Most recently, I have supported refugees from Ukraine – helping deliver clothing, food, vouchers and essential items to over two hundred newly arrived families. Additionally, during the pandemic I organised volunteers

to make thousands of masks for the Boroondara homeless and charities across Melbourne.

During my professional career, I was in Information Technology at the National Westminster Bank in the UK, a software programmer and project manager in medium and large organisations. I went on to study business at the University of Melbourne, completing an MBA in 2001. I’ve also founded start-up companies, run businesses, and worked in the financial, technology and literary sectors.

I am passionate about this community continuing to thrive and grow and offer a proven track record in bringing communities together by listening, problem solving and understanding their values and needs.

For more information, please go to my website at <https://www.sophie4kew.com.au/>

Authorised by Sophie Torney,
177 High Street, Kew VIC 3101



Cynthia Pilli, Candidate for Warrandyte

More Rail not Roads

At the forthcoming State Election, I will seek to be a candidate in the Warrandyte electorate, standing for ‘More Rail not Roads’. My late husband, Tony Pilli and I have lived

in the Warrandyte District electorate since 1966 and raised four children, now adults. I have consequently witnessed many changes in our community, including those impacting our environment and the health of its community.

In 2010, as a member of the Manningham Council’s Doncaster Rail Advocacy Committee, my understanding of the need for improved public transport increased. By standing as a candidate, my passion for this important issue continues. I consistently seek to do things that benefit the planet and recover energy for a better future in this electorate and others.

The median strip of the Eastern Freeway was always intended in the original plan to be used for a future train line. Rail along the median strip of the Eastern Freeway has a capacity to take 600 cars off the freeway, every trip, every 10 minutes.

Conversely, the mega road project, the North East Link, proposes to remove the median strip and instead add up to 24 car and truck lanes at points of Interchange.

The North East Link proposal is the most environmentally destroying project in this decade, in this state. Twenty-six thousand mature trees will go, replaced by saplings in a 2 to 1 ratio.

I understand that a mature tree may absorb 50kg per annum of carbon and replace with oxygen in the process, whereas a sapling may absorb only 3 to 6 kg carbon per annum. Other native habitat and the wetland is about to be destroyed, including smaller plants, grasses, active soil organisms, not to mention the fauna and invertebrates. This represents a prodigious loss right along the Eastern Freeway corridor.

Road projects are space expensive, much more so than public transport projects. Without effective public transport alternatives, more residents must drive, households need to buy more cars and battle more congestion. Those who have to drive, trade persons in particular, must battle more congestion on a daily basis.

For many, the Eastern Freeway is only part of the journey. Congestion migrates to North and South arterial roads and will become much busier because of the North East Link project.

There are also increasing concerns about the impact of air pollution on community health. One of Australia's leading dementia epidemiologists says she would no longer live on a busy road after watching the science linking air pollution and dementia strengthen over the past two decades. (The Age 17th September 2022) Observational studies keep showing a cognitive decline associated with high levels of air pollution.

We are regularly seeing evidence of the dramatic impact of climate change. Pre-election campaigning in Warrandyte District will be a means to both empower electors with information about the scope and damaging impact of this mega road project, as well as demand an open and urgent public review by the Victorian Government.

Every day, we are experiencing more debilitating consequences of the climate crisis. We have a responsibility to protect what can never be replaced. We have the opportunity to be a clever country, standing with a progressive electorate, looking at the big picture, the smart aspects of forward planning which were already in place long ago.

Hop on the train, I'll be happy to ride alongside you when I stand for Warrandyte and a positive future.

Authorised by Cynthia Pilli,
PO Box 7098, Doncaster East, 3109.



Nicole Ta-Ei Werner
Liberal candidate
for Box Hill

I am a proud lifelong local to Box Hill. I am the daughter of working-class migrants, who moved from Malaysia in 1987 to make a better life for their family.

I'm also a true local. I was born in Box Hill Hospital, grew up in this area and attended school at PLC in Burwood East. I now live with my husband Fraser (who hails from country Victoria), in Blackburn North.

I have always worked within the community and not-for-profit sector. I spent the early years of my career as a youth worker and youth pastor, working with disadvantaged young people from diverse and

multicultural backgrounds. I have worked closely with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) migrant groups, such as the South Sudanese community. I also worked as the Business Development Manager for one of Australia's largest foodbanks. My work in the charity and community sector grounds me with a passion to make a difference.

I am an enthusiastic representative for Box Hill and a fierce advocate for our local area's interests. I believe every person should be afforded the freedom and opportunity to prosper and succeed.

I firmly believe that politics is about people – and that people matter. This has been demonstrated through my lifelong track record of community advocacy, volunteerism and charitable work. I am committed to serving our community and representing the people and families in Box Hill, who like me, call it home. I look forward to being your voice for Box Hill.

I am standing to:

- Fix the healthcare crisis, with \$108 million committed to upgrade Box Hill Hospital's health precinct
- Fight for the local community, who have been treated disdainfully by the Andrews Government as demonstrated through the loss of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Stations to the Union Station superstation merger
- Better measures to put downward pressure on the cost of living, with a commitment not to increase or introduce any new taxes
- Act on climate change, by legislating an emission reduction of 50% by 2030 and investing in the delivery of affordable, reliable and clean power

For further information about me, see www.nicolewerner.com.au or feel free to contact me any time at nicole.werner@vic.liberal.org.au

Authorised by C.McQuestin, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division), L12 257 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000



Will Fowles MP
Labor Candidate
for Ringwood

Hi! I'm Will Fowles MP and I am delighted to be Labor's Candidate for Ringwood in the 2022 State Election.

When voters in the eastern suburbs make their choice in the coming weeks, they'll have plenty to consider. Both major parties are offering

competing visions for Victoria, especially regarding transport infrastructure and health.

Only Labor will rebuild Maroondah Hospital from the ground up, investing up to \$1.05 billion in a new and expanded Emergency Department, 200 more inpatient beds, a purpose-built ED alcohol and drug hub and a brand new Kids' Emergency Department. The important project will create 2,500 local jobs and mean the hospital can cater for 22,400 more emergency presentations each and every year.

A new hospital needs a new name, and that's why we've decided to rename it the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in honour of Her Late Majesty's lifetime of service.

We are also transforming Bellbird Private Hospital, in Blackburn, to a public surgery centre, and expanding it to handle 5700 surgeries per year.

In transport, only Labor will build the Suburban Rail Loop, an intergenerational, city-changing project that will take 600,000 cars per year off our roads.

And only Labor will remove the dangerous and congested level crossings in Surrey Hills, Mont Albert, Ringwood and Ringwood East. This will mean that the Lilydale line will be completely level crossing free by 2025.

I know that for many, deciding who to vote for is as much about values as it is about policies. That's why I think it is important that I share with you that I:

- believe that climate change is man-made, and that we need to take significant action to reduce our carbon emissions,
- support Voluntary Assisted Dying,
- voted in favour of Marriage Equality, and
- advocated for the Victorian Government's process for a Treaty with our First Nations people.

If elected, I look forward to continuing to represent Melbourne's East and supporting our local schools, delivering better transport and growing our health system. I'm proud to be part of the Andrews Labor Government and doing what matters.

A bit about me

I live in Ringwood with wife, Jess, and four children. I have a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws from Monash University. I have worked in the private sector, in property, hospitality, finance and communications. I was elected in 2018 to the Victorian Parliament as the Member for Burwood.

Authorised by Chris Ford, Australian Labor Party (Vic Branch) 438 Docklands Drive Docklands Vic 3008.

Butterbing Cookies



A recipe from Madeleine McGregor

With a little extra time during the school holidays, I decided to recreate one of the sweet treats from a local café – Butterbing Cookies. This café is at Acorn Nursery, 669 to 673 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills.

It is beloved by my whole family as a peaceful place with a wide variety of delicious foods. I have many fond memories of afterschool treats and drinks here.

I found recipes for each element, combined them and edited it to make my own 'Peanut Butter Butterbing'. They were delicious, and my family loved them.

Here is the recipe:

Ingredients

Fudgy Brownie Cookie:

- ½ cup (50g) of cocoa powder
- 1 cup (200g) of white sugar
- ½ cup (115g) of butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons (40g) of vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla essence
- 1 1/3 cup (170g) of plain flour
- ½ teaspoon of baking powder
- ½ teaspoon of salt

Peanut Butter Filling:

- ¼ cup (60g) of butter, soft
- 1/3 cup (80g) of peanut butter
- ½ cup (50g) of icing sugar

Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
Line two baking trays with baking paper.



Mix together cocoa, white sugar, butter and vegetable oil. Add egg and vanilla essence. Beat until fully incorporated.

In a separate bowl, add flour, baking powder and salt. Lightly stir together before adding to the wet ingredients. Mix until a dough forms.

Using an ice-cream scoop, hands or two spoons, scoop out 1-2 tablespoons of mixture. Press them into the thickness you want your cookies to come out.

Bake for 10-12 minutes. Once the cookies can be moved across the baking paper without sticking, take them out. Remember that they will continue to cook once out of the oven. Let cool.

While the cookies are baking, make the peanut butter filling. Cream the butter and peanut butter, using a handheld mixer on high speed. Turn the mixer to low speed and mix in sugar until combined. Then, turn the mixer to a high speed until smooth and fluffy.

Once cookies are completely cooled, match them into pairs by size. Then, add desired amount of filling onto one, spread evenly and add the other cookie on top.

I hope you enjoy this recipe and will try it out for yourself.

Madeleine McGregor is in Year 9 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.

Together we can
Claire O'Rourke

A book review by Amy Hiller

As Australians' collective concerns increase about climate change and environmental decline, Claire O'Rourke's new book *Together we can* provides a timely beacon of hope.

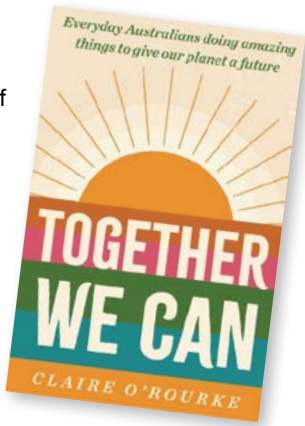
In *Together we can*, O'Rourke normalises climate anxiety and proceeds to tell inspiring stories of individuals and communities who have used their love of our natural world to empower them to act.

The book's premise is 'everyday Australians doing amazing things to give our planet a future'. It provides perspective about just how many are taking up the mantle and getting involved in activities that are positive for our environment.

It is uplifting and inspiring to discover that everyone can enjoy the social, psychological and planetary benefits of contributing to a cleaner, healthier, safer future. Working together toward a collective goal seems the best and only way forward.

Reading O'Rourke's book reminded me of a famous quote from Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'. It is a highly recommended read for all those who are mindful of climate change but have been unsure how to make a difference.

To find out where to buy Claire O'Rourke's, go to <https://claireorourke.com/new-book-together-we-can/>



The Climate Was Right

Whitehorse declares a Climate Emergency

– Chris Trueman

Whitehorse Council took an historic decision at its meeting on Tuesday 12 September 2022 when it declared a Climate Emergency. A motion to this effect was put forward by Cr Trudy Skilbeck, and seconded by Cr Prue Cutts, Cr Ben Stennett spoke strongly for the motion.

The motion that was passed reads as follows.

That Council:

1. publicly declares a Climate Emergency, recognising the Whitehorse community's sustained strong support for Council to lead and act on climate change, including as expressed in the 2040 Community Vision;
2. notes that all actions that flow from this Declaration are included in the existing Whitehorse Interim Climate Response Plan 2020-2022 and any subsequent Climate Response/Action Plan adopted by Council;
3. acknowledges that funding for actions arising as a consequence of this Climate Emergency declaration will be limited to and align with Council decisions



taken as to Budget allocations for the implementation of any adopted Climate Response/Action Plan; and

4. provides clear communication on its website that Whitehorse City Council has declared a Climate Emergency.

The motion was passed with Crs Barker, Davenport and Munroe voting against it. It is to be regretted that something that was so clearly stated in the Council 2040 Vision didn't pass unanimously. Those opposing the motion argued that the declaration is only virtue signalling; Whitehorse has already done a lot and doesn't need to declare an emergency; and the motion didn't ask for funds to support it so it was not worth passing.

The original motion included a sentence at the end 'and is recognised by the global Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilisation in Action (CEDAMIA).'

Cr Denise Massoud moved that this be deleted because she was not sure what it meant to be recognised by

CEDMIA. The amended motion was passed. CEDMIA (<https://www.cedamia.org>) was set up as a website where jurisdictions worldwide can be acknowledged when they declare a Climate Emergency. Ironically, CEDMIA automatically included Whitehorse on their database soon after the Council passed the motion.

A previous motion to declare a Climate Emergency was taken to Council by Cr Cutts in February 2020 and was lost 4-5, so this new motion was welcomed by many people. Individual Councillors were sent a great many private emails from the community, and organisations like CROWAG, asking them to support the motion this time. This highlights the value of expressing your ideas and wishes to all Councillors to let them know what you and the community is thinking.

The speeches by Crs Skilbeck, Cutts and Stennett were excellent and very thought provoking. They must have had a strong influence on the vote this time. Transcripts of the speeches are available on the *Eastsider News* website under the Eastsider Extra page <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/whitehorse/whitehorse-declares-a-climate-emergency/>. Well done, City of Whitehorse.

Risk, Opportunities and Ethical Issues for AI

What are your questions?

A meeting to discuss your questions or concerns about how our future is being re-shaped by superintelligence, Thursday 27 October.



Humanists Victoria

Almost every day brings yet another news item about AI breaking new ground in medicine, science or engineering. But the tentacles of AI are extensive, and it is hard to understand the consequences of the revolution that is underway.

There are carebots to help the elderly and those with cognitive decline, and semi-autonomous weapons for defence. Surveillance in the war in Ukraine has been assisted by drones, as well as photos on Instagram sent unwittingly by soldiers at the frontline. Algorithms, whose biases are poorly identified, are widespread. They govern social media and run our smart devices, but also have the capacity to influence elections and promulgate misinformation.



As automation increases, our skills are progressively eroded. For example, airline pilots are no longer aviators but, strictly speaking, systems-controllers. This gap leaves what has been called a moral crumble zone, where the humans involved bear responsibility for the function of a system but lack full control.

Other questions arise as well, such as can I tell when I am interacting with AI, what is happening to my data or how informed is my consent?

Regulation of AI systems is poor at present, with only a piecemeal approach operating at best. Government has an important role to play in promoting a code of

ethical practice for AI in organisational standards. An international committee is also reviewing these ethical questions.



Adam Ford, a data professional and futurologist, will discuss these issues on Thursday, 27 October starting at 7.30pm, under the auspices of Humanists Victoria. You can attend in person at the Balwyn Library Meeting Room, 336 Whitehorse Road Balwyn or join by Zoom. Please register here <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEvdO-qj0sHt26vgOS3b2MZ7AR5PGsU0Wi> and a link will be sent to you. Send questions prior to the meeting to news@vichumanist.org.au.

For more information on Humanists Victoria, go to their website at <https://vichumanist.org.au/>

Reform of tree regulations is urgent as climate change takes hold

– Ian Hundley

There are serious failings in regulation and administration both at state and local government levels which, together, are causing long-term decline in canopy tree cover on residential properties in greater Melbourne, and especially in the City of Boroondara.

The history

Regulatory protections against canopy tree loss on residential properties in Boroondara was first introduced in 2006 in the form of the Tree Protection Law 1F. Now the Tree Protection Law 2016, it remains in force today in substantially its original form.

Boroondara Council was prompted to introduce the Local Law because of community concern over the heavy loss of canopy trees associated with residential developments. And residential land is important, as it comprises about 75% of the total land area of 6,000 hectares in Boroondara. It is therefore a central issue from a climate change perspective.

Existing regulatory and administrative provisions have not stopped the continuing loss of Boroondara's canopy tree cover

There are several elements of regulatory failure that are compromising Boroondara's canopy tree cover on residential properties. These include:

- inadequate penalties set by the Victorian Government
- deficiencies in current regulations to provide the pre-conditions for growing trees, including inadequate provisions for garden areas and the adverse impact of excavations on site permeability

- the absence of effective supervision and enforcement of regulations for completed building projects
- administrative failures by Council, including with the "report and consent" provisions of the Building Regulations
- The inadequacy of Council resources deployed to maintain and enhance canopy trees on residential properties

We are now in a sprint

There is ground to make up. But given the parlous situation we are now in, with canopy tree loss in Greater Melbourne assessed to now be up to 1.5% percent every year, this now needs to be a sprint event.

This is an extract from a more detailed discussion. The full article is available on the Eastsider Extra blog page here: <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/recent-news/>



Humanity's Moment

A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope

A book review by Barbara Fraser

Joelle Gergis' moving book *Humanity's Moment: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope* (2022) is a highly recommended must-read for all. It is special because Gergis is a lead author re global water in the IPCC's latest top Report. She combines scientific expertise with hugely important aspects of the full picture including poverty, her own grief and depression at the devastation, plus her passion and hope for successful actions. She aims to help us understand and feel similar love for people especially the poor, and for the planet.

We also have glimpses of her life. She is the daughter of Egyptian immigrants. Her surgeon father was an inspiration for her and his community. A keen and sensitive student from her young days, she is married to wonderfully supportive Josh. She especially finds solace from her exhausting work by running in the countryside, swimming in the ocean, and being with like-minded people.

I have chosen these quotes to emphasise three of her fundamental points:

- **Urgency.** 'What we do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade is absolutely crucial for determining the kind of future we will experience in years and centuries to come.' (p.71)
- **Humanity.** 'This is humanity's moment to right the wrongs of the past, to heal our relationship with each other and all life on Earth.' (p.176)
- **Joyfulness.** She views now as 'a miraculous time to be alive' (p.233) and able to help create a fairer, healthier and wiser new world.

Yes, it is up to us all to make a happy ending and new beginning for the whole world!

Healesville Freeway Reserve

Will we get a great result?

– Elaine Hopper

If you live in Forest Hill, Vermont, or Vermont South, you may be surprised to know that you reside near the Healesville Freeway Reserve (HFR). It lies concealed behind houses, a hidden gem, yet to be developed as a public park after successful campaigning by the community.



Healesville Freeway reserve

The 3.5 km strip of land runs east-west between Springvale Road, Forest Hill, and Boronia Road, Vermont. It is no longer required for a freeway (originally planned to go to Healesville, hence the name).

In 2018 the authority, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), consulted extensively with the community before publishing a visionary Concept Plan for the Reserve. Key items were:

- a linear shared path throughout the park, potentially connecting the existing array of trails west of Springvale Road to the Dandenong Creek Trail in the east,

- an off-leash dog walking and sporting area near Davy Lane, and
- preservation of the Bellbird Dell conservation area and remaining areas of virgin bushland.

DELWP concluded that there is enormous potential for the proposed linear path to be extended eastwards over Dandenong Creek to join the Dandenong Creek Trail and the Eastlink Trail. That extension can connect to over 100km of safe trails to places such as Jells Park, Dandenong, Patterson Lakes, Carrum, Bayswater, Ferntree Gully, Croydon, and Mooroolbark.

It is time for this hidden gem to reveal its charms to more people. An estimated 15,000 more people could enjoy the HFR Park annually, if designed to link by a low bridge to the existing Dandenong Trail, and sign-posted there to show people the way and the attractions. These numbers are based on data from VicRoads automatic traffic counters on trails.

The west end of the HFR, exiting beside the Forest Hill Police Station, is close to the Hawthorn Road bicycle lanes, Mitcham to Syndal Pipe Track, and Gardiners Creek Trail. Healesville Freeway Reserve Shared Path is listed as a Strategic Cycling Corridor, class C2 because it has such vital links to both east and west.

At the centre of HFR is the beautiful Bellbird Dell valley. This is a treasured local place with indigenous vegetation and wildlife. There is a proposal that a high bridge supported from beyond Bellbird Dell could carry the shared path over the Dell. A bridge in the treetops would attract the interest of visitors and become a focal point for the park. It could be our own Otway Fly in the suburbs. People on such a shared path would bypass Bellbird Dell and allow the Dell to retain its feeling of oasis.

The \$10.5 million proceeds from the sale of residential properties are being held in trust to fund the construction



Healesville Freeway Reserve Bellbird Dell

of the shared path. This sum is estimated to be more than sufficient to extend the path to the Dandenong Creek trail, construct a treetop bridge high over Bellbird Dell, and to seal the path to create a durable and safe surface.

Parks Victoria's project plan for the Healesville Freeway Reserve is to be announced in October 2022. The current intention of Parks Victoria is to limit the extent of the shared path to within the boundaries of HFR. This will exclude the construction of a bridge over Dandenong Creek and extension of the trail to the Dandenong Creek Trail, as was recommended in the Concept Plan.

That well-researched Concept Plan set a high bar for the development of Healesville Freeway Reserve. Delivery of the Concept Plan in full will present the community with an enduring space for walking, cycling, recreation and enjoyment of nature.

For more information about the ideas suggested here, contact Elaine Hopper at elaine00555@gmail.com

The Great Southern Bioblitz

What wild things live in your backyard, in your local bushland, or down the local creek?

– John Nihill, ACF Chisholm

The Great Southern Bioblitz is an intense four-day international effort each year to record living things throughout the Southern hemisphere. It is the largest citizen science project south of the Equator. The bioblitz aims to better highlight and understand the rich biodiversity in our regions, and to engage as many people as possible to watch and record and learn about the life around us.

In 2022, the bioblitz will take place from 28 to 31 October. Spring will be in full swing with seeds germinating, new shoots opening, eggs hatching, reptiles waking, and insects emerging. It's a great time to be out in the middle of it all.

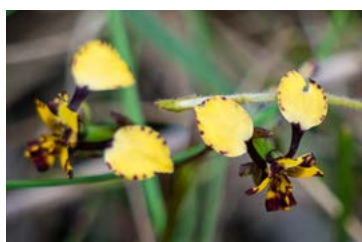


The bioblitz organisers ask anyone taking part to download and use the iNaturalist app. This app is a simple and powerful tool to record and help identify plants, fungi, insects, fish, reptiles, birds, animals, any living and wild thing. The National Geographic Society and the California Academy of Sciences manage iNaturalist as an open social network of citizen scientists and professional biologists, to share information and build a scientific understanding of the world around us. Anyone with a mobile phone or a digital camera can use the app or the website.

The Yarra Ranges Council has produced an excellent 3 minute guide to using iNaturalist, at Yarra Ranges guide. The Chisholm community group of the Australian Conservation Foundation is organising a practice run in using iNaturalist at a local bushland on 22 October.

The bioblitz is supported by local councils, schools, universities and community groups, providing ideas and help to participants. In our area, these include the local government areas of Whitehorse, Boroondara, Maroondah, Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik.

Many of these organisations offer iNaturalist events during the bioblitz, conducted by expert guides. These include moth spotting or lichen study through the City of Boroondara, and bird watching or waterbug spotting through the



City of Maroondah. Your Council website will have more information, especially as the bioblitz gets closer.

The 2022 Great Southern Bioblitz will be both a great event on the international scale, and a peaceful time in nature at the personal level. We hope you're able to join in later this month. We also hope you might keep using iNaturalist after the event, to help identify and record the life you come across in the world around you.

Go to the Great Southern bioblitz website at <https://www.greatsouthernbioblitz.org/>. To find out more about the iNaturalist app, go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/>.

For tutorials on iNaturalist, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx8CYJc0ODs>.

Download the Yarra range Guide at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx8CYJc0ODs>. To participate in the ACF Chisholm practice run, contact Liz or John at acf.chisholm@gmail.com

Organisations that have already signed on are listed at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2022-oceania-umbrella-project>

Photo credit Liz Reen

AUTHORISED BY CHRIS FORD, AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (VIC BRANCH) 438 DOCKLANDS DRIVE, DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

Will Fowles MP
Labor for Ringwood

**REBUILD MAROONDAH HOSPITAL.
REMOVE EVERY LOCAL LEVEL CROSSING.
DELIVER REAL CLIMATE ACTION.**

Doing What Matters

0493 449 632 | WILL.FOWLES@VIC.ALP.ORG.AU | PO BOX 998 RINGWOOD VIC 3134

Take the pledge Vinnies' Buy Nothing New



Vinnies, the retail division of St Vincent de Paul Society invites Victorians to trial a sustainable way to purchase new items for their homes by taking the Buy Nothing New Month (VBNN) pledge. Buying pre-loved treasures offers a creative challenge, a promise of a unique find, community engagement and sustainability.

The pledge is a reminder that with a little extra time and care, buying pre-loved items can bring joy and provide a meaningful connection to the circular economy', said Vinnies Victoria Executive General Manager Commercial Services, Jeff Antcliff.

Organisations like Vinnies do much to reduce the environmental impact of surplus goods. Last financial year, Victorian charity shops processed 242,842 tonnes of donations, thereby reducing CO₂ emissions by 214,368 tonnes, energy usage by 455,505 mwh and water usage by 21,975 ml while contributing upwards of \$232 million to valuable social causes.

'We expect Vinnies' Buy Nothing New Pledge will resonate with many. With inflationary pressures pushing up the cost of living, people are looking to stretch their budgets and feel pride in helping address urgent environmental issues like escalating landfill', said Jeff.

So how can Victorians take the Vinnies Buy Nothing New pledge?

Shoppers should visit their local Vinnies Shop and commit to the pledge by purchasing used goods. Those on social media can share an image of their favourite Vinnies find alongside the hashtags #founditvinnies and #VBNN.

Vinnies is encouraging buyers to change not only their buying behaviours, but to build creative skills. They are working with master creative and stylist, Kerryn Howell, to showcase event tips and tricks.

'With Christmas just around the corner, we are being lured into a culture of buy, buy, buy. Our mission is to inspire people to make considered choices about what they bring into their homes and make them shine', said

Kerryn. 'We'll be sharing tips and techniques for styling key occasions featuring goods found at Vinnies. Our focus is on the table – there is an art and science to this, but everyone can master and take pride in their creations'.

Besides fashion, Vinnies is brimful with pre-loved items including glassware, tabletop decorations, crockery, homewares and more. 'Homewares or outfits found at Vinnies are often the most talked-about possessions among vintage lovers', said Jeff.

Jeff's enthusiasm is contagious: 'Vinnies Buy Nothing New Month is a challenge and an adventure, and everyone is encouraged to get involved, as socially and environmentally conscious members of our community. Our Vinnies volunteers can't wait to see you'.

To learn more about Buy Nothing New Month visit <https://www.buynothingnew.com.au/>. St Vincent de Paul Society provides practical frontline support, advocacy and friendship for the most vulnerable in our community. To find out more visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/>

The Findlays of Heatherdale Reserve

– Elwynne Kift

Heatherdale Reserve has a history to be proud of. One family closely linked to the reserve are the Findlays. Allen and Ida purchased land at Heatherdale Reserve because it was cheap and offered value for money, paying 150 pounds for it in the early 1930's. They moved into the house in 1938 when their daughter, Wilma was three years of age.

Allen was a self-employed gardener at that time. Starting as a boot making apprentice in Fitzroy as a teenager, he then became a poultry farmer at his mother in law's property at 27 Canterbury Road, Ringwood.

They replaced their horse and trap with an Essex car, kept on blocks while Allen was away at war. On his return, Allen worked as a signaller in the Railways in country Victoria.

Allen then worked with Tesselated Tiles Wunderlich, Swifts and on outdoor staff of Nunawading Council. He died at work having a massive stroke, in 1975. He was a very respected employee.

Ida worked in Vermont as a doctor's receptionist at the time of Allen's death. She also worked on poultry farms and at Peitesh's Cider factory in Wantirna.

The photo shows Harry (Allen's son in law) visiting the site of the original house with Philip Daw, two nephews and Mike Symon (Maroondah Mayor). Ian Moodie of Whitehorse Council identified the trees Allen and Ida planted on the birth of each child. The trees and a row of



cypress planted along the driveway from Purches Street remain.

Elwynne Kift is Secretary of the Heatherdale Community Action Group



Heritage disrepair at 22 Kangerong Road

– Hasan Hassan

As you walk down this quiet street off Whitehorse Rd with the Box Hill Police station on the western side and the Little Jiang Nan restaurant on the eastern side, you can see interesting houses from the early development of Box Hill. Many have been proudly maintained and restored, unlike the house at 22 Kangerong Rd, Box Hill.

The *City of Whitehorse Heritage Properties Review – Gem of Box Hill & Mates' Housing Development Precinct, 2006* mentions 'Development ... seemed assured when William Williams, a carpenter immediately built ... on lot 18 but in reality, few houses existed by the turn of the century. An exception was this place at no 22 built by Charles Ragg in 1889 on lot 19'.

Charles Ragg was born in Boroondara in 1855; his later occupation was listed as 'dairyman'. In 1877 he married Annie Carson. Annie's parents Richard and Mary Carson lived at 22 Kangerong Rd from 1896 until Richard's death in 1900. Mary continued living in the house until c1910; her occupation was listed as 'dairywoman'. Mary later moved to Watts St, Box Hill where she died in 1919.

William Sloan and his family lived in the house after the Carsons. Both William Sloan Snr and his wife Elizabeth were born in Scotland in 1871. In 1913 William, Elizabeth and their nine children sailed on the *Themistocles* from London to Melbourne and in 1914 were living at 22 Kangerong Rd.

In 1915 William Snr enlisted in the Australian army but was discharged a year later as being 'over military age'. Sons Thomas and James worked at the Mitcham Pottery factory before they also enlisted in the Australian army in 1915. James was 'underage' but obtained his parents'

consent to enlist. Thomas and James died together after their troopship *Southland* was torpedoed off the coast of Lemnos in September 1915; they were buried on Lemnos. The Memorial Honour Board at Box Hill Town Hall includes their names, as does the War Memorial in the Box Hill Gardens.

William Sloan Jnr also enlisted in 1915 and served at Gallipoli and then the Western Front with the 7th Division AIF. At Hollebeke, Belgium, the Australians overwhelmed the defenders and captured a section of the German line before withdrawing. Melbourne historian Jim Claven states that William Jnr was 'Mentioned in Despatches' 'for participation in a very successful raid on the enemy trenches on 30 September 1916'. Returning to Box Hill in 1918, he continued working as a 'farmer'.

Early pioneers arrived in the Nunawading District (Whitehorse) as early as 1837. Their stories give a fascinating insight into how Whitehorse developed. Some of their stories can be read on a new website titled Whitehorse Heritage.

The house at 22 Kangerong Rd, Box Hill has a Council Heritage Overlay (HO 186). Between 2012 and 2019, planning applications were lodged to develop this site, but no development has yet occurred.

As of June 2022, the house is in a very neglected state with smashed windows, slate tiles missing from the roof, and the front door removed. Part of the rear has been demolished leaving the interior of the house exposed to the elements and plaster walls, ceilings and fittings have all been removed. The gardens are not covered by a heritage or vegetation overlay and have been cleared of all vegetation.



In March 2021, the state government passed amendments in relation to heritage protection of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. These include provisions 'to deter persons from unlawfully demolishing heritage buildings; or allowing heritage buildings to fall into disrepair' and 'to prevent persons from obtaining a benefit from unlawfully demolishing heritage buildings or allowing heritage buildings to fall into disrepair'.

It is concerning to see this 'Council heritage protected house' in such a state of disrepair. I am hopeful the owners, Whitehorse Council and the State Government will work together to fully restore this important piece of our early built heritage.

To read the amendments to the Planning and Environment Act 1987, please click on the following link: Planning and Environment Amendment Act 2021 (legislation.vic.gov.au)

Hasan Hassan is a local resident who has lived in Whitehorse for over 20 years. Check out his website at www.whitehorseheritage.com

Surrey Hills & Mont Albert Planning Forum Suburban Rail Loop Debate

20 October 7:30pm at the Surrey Hills Uniting Church Hall, 681 Canterbury Road Surrey Hills. All Residents Welcome

Join us for an in-depth discussion between planning experts Michael Buxton and Marianne Richards on the challenges and impacts of the Suburban Rail Loop on the Surrey Hills & Mont Albert communities. A Q&A with members of the audience will follow and is encouraged.

Projects such as the Suburban Rail Loop give unprecedented planning powers to the state government with councils and residents sidelined.

What would ordinarily be a council planning control will now pass to a single state government authority.

This will apply to large areas of Whitehorse and some areas in Boroondara. Developments in precincts extending 1.6km from SRL stations such as Box Hill will affect the amenity and heritage of suburbs such as Mont Albert and Surrey Hills. The state government does not need to advise communities of the size and height of new developments. Planning controls and processes will be simplified to favour fast tracking of medium and high density development.

For more information or to register your attendance for either the in-person event or Zoom please enter the following TryBooking link into your browser www.trybooking.com/CCWSF

Join the spooks on Halloween eve at Greythorn 26 October

Halloween at Greythorn Central, on Doncaster Road Balwyn North, promises to be a huge fun fair event with lots of activities and show rides. This annual, totally free event will offer something special for everyone and Greythorn traders make it a superb day.

Along with lolly giveaways from 4pm to 5.30pm, there will be a full carnival from 4pm to 8pm on Doncaster Road and side streets at Greythorn Central. Activities include show rides, face painting, a photo booth, and a balloon clown. Our MC will reward hijinks and great costumes with great prize giveaways.

Come in your spookiest outfit to scare the traders into handing over their lollies. More than 50 Greythorn businesses will participate and families are encouraged to stay on until 8pm.

Community stalls include Rotary Club of North Balwyn cooking up a sausage sizzle to raise money for their community work, plus those of local schools and

sporting clubs. This is a totally free event, except for the community stalls where your purchase will go to support a worthy cause. Support the stalls and check out the great shopping and dining options at Greythorn Central.

For more information contact Yolanda Torrisi Marketing Coordinator, Greythorn Shopping Centre, by phone on 0412 261 870 or by email at yolanda@yolandatorrisi.com



It's going to be a spooky affair at Greythorn Central on Wednesday 26 October.



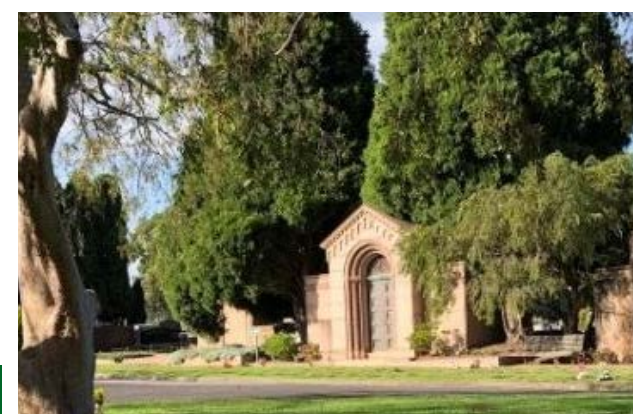
Medicos and Misadventures at Box Hill Cemetery

– Sue Barnett, Box Hill Historical Society

On Sunday, 16 October 2022 from 2pm to 4pm, as part of Whitehorse Seniors Week, the Box Hill and Surrey Hills Historical Societies are conducting a tour of Box Hill Cemetery on the theme of 'Medicos and Misadventures'. Please meet at the Cemetery Office 10 minutes before commencement.

Guides from the two societies will conduct the tour. It will focus on past epidemics or sudden deaths, their effect on families, and some of the medical people who provided health care or who contributed to a greater understanding of health and the treatment of disease.

You can register your interest by making a booking through Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=932243> &. Alternatively, you can email either the Box Hill Historical Society at boxhillhistory@gmail.com or the Surrey Hills Historical Society at heritage@surreyhillshsnc.org.au.



Box Hill Cemetery is located at 395 Middleborough Road, Box Hill. The cost is \$15 and bookings are essential.

Building Bridges through Story: First Nations Saturday, 5 November

– Helen Bartlett

Building Bridges through Story is an initiative of the Manningham Uniting Church supported and partnered by City of Manningham, Community Bank Doncaster East and Templestowe, Benevolence and Koonung Heights Uniting Church. It aims to bring together and connect people by telling stories. Two previous events have shared stories of the experiences of Muslim women and people with disability.

The third event will focus on First Nations Peoples' stories, the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the



campaign for a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament. It will take place on 5 November

from 2pm to 4.30pm at Manningham Uniting Church and Community Centre, 109 Wood St, Templestowe.

The presenter, Thomas Mayor is one of the First Nations' leaders of the Referendum Working Group. He is an articulate, engaging and inclusive Torres Strait Islander, a leading advocate for a constitutionally enshrined Voice, a participant in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a prominent author. Thomas lives on Larrakia country in Darwin.

Thomas began work on Darwin's wharves and rose to become the National Indigenous Officer and Northern

Territory Branch Deputy Secretary of the Maritime Workers Union of Australia. As a participant in, a signatory to and advocate for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Thomas was entrusted to carry the sacred canvas in campaigning for a Voice to Parliament throughout Australia.

He is a prominent author and editor including *Finding the Heart of the Nation* (soon to be published in its second edition), *Dear Son, reflections from First Nations' fathers* and kids' books including *Finding our Heart* about the Statement from the Heart, and *Freedom Day*, the story of Vincent Lingiari and the Wave Hill walkoff.

The event including refreshments is free of charge. Register now at <https://buildingbridges.events/register/>. To get more information, email buildingbridges@manninghamuc.org or phone (03) 9846 2012.

Dot Browne

Teacher, Athlete, Marathon Runner, dedicated community worker and family member

– Glenys Grant



Dot Browne (née Green) was granted an OAM in the 1992 Australia Day Awards. Since then, she has continued to contribute to the community. Her honours include a City of Whitehorse Australia Day Deakin Community Award, presented in 2008 for services in education, athletics and art.

Dot was born in 1941 in the Belgian Congo to protestant missionary parents. They returned to Australia during World War 2 for safety and so their children could attend school. At primary school and Camberwell High, Dot was recognised as a natural leader. She was chosen for many responsibilities, preparing her for prominent roles in later life and helping her gain self-esteem and confidence.

She loved those years of learning, but her parents could not afford to keep her at school. At the age of 16, she started work, learning the accounting skills she still uses. Dot said, 'I met my husband when I was 16, we went together for four years, married when I was 20, had four children, and have been happily married ever since'.

The antagonism between Protestants and Catholics in mid-20th century caused major problems for them wanting to marry. Dot was the daughter of protestant missionary parents and Colin came from a staunch Catholic family. Eventually they married in a church vestry and settled in Mitcham, where they still live.

As a young married mother of four, she fulfilled a life-long dream to go back to study. She completed her HSC at Box Hill High School night classes when the children were pre-schoolers and then went on to gain her Diploma of Primary Teaching at Burwood Teachers' College. She followed this up by gaining an Arts degree at Monash University after her fourth child started school.



Dot taught at several primary schools in the eastern suburbs, predominantly as an art/craft teacher. Towards the end of her career, she taught part-time and then retired in 2009. Dot said, 'Teaching taught me to have confidence in speaking in front of a crowd, no matter how large'.

A champion athlete at school, she played netball and tennis when her children were young. In later life, she became a cyclist. When Dot turned 38 and joined the Victorian Veterans' Athletic Club for people over 35 years of age, she discovered a new talent as a good long distance and marathon runner.

Coaching improved her times and led to her representing Australia in marathon teams all over the world (while still teaching full-time and raising children). She competed in many distance running events, from 800m through to marathons. Some of the eight records she set between 1980 and 1986 still stand today.

She competed in 33 marathons over her running career, with her best time achieved in the London Marathon in 1983 with a time of 2 hours 41 minutes.

Her contributions to the athletic scene in Australia include 51 years of committee memberships, active roles in many athletic clubs and the organising committee of the 1987 World Veteran Games in Melbourne. She represented Australia as a marathon runner in international marathons in London, Auckland, San Francisco, Singapore, and Jakarta as well as many Australian events. She competed in World Veterans Games in New Zealand, Fiji and Melbourne.

Dot's achievements are too many to list and it's hard for her to pick a favourite. She said: 'I have been unbelievably fortunate with everything that has happened in my life. I loved my school years, I have had great sporting success, I was satisfied to get some academic success and I am still very happily married to my lovely husband, Colin, after 60 years'. Thank you, Dot, for all you have given to the community.

Whitehorse Activities Club

– Helen St John

Ready to learn new skills, expand on those you have and meet new people in your municipality? Whitehorse Activities Club Inc comprises retired and seniors of Whitehorse and neighbouring municipalities.

We cover many activities, depending on your interests and capabilities. These include table tennis, golf, badminton, billiards, tennis, line and ballroom dancing,

social and Chinese cultural dancing, carpet and ten pin bowls, chair exercises and handcrafts, various card games and rummucube, coffee, breakfast and luncheon groups, technology, walking, caravan and theatre groups.

We have approximately 600 members and always welcome newcomers. Our joining fee is \$25, with an annual fee of \$20. Modest separate fees are payable for each individual activity.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.whitehorseacs.org.au, emailing secretary@whitehorseacs.org.au or phoning 0424 932 191.





Gardiners Creek Walking Trail

— Ross Ollquist

The Gardiners Creek Trail is an off-road shared pathway through Melbourne's eastern suburbs. The trail links the Blackburn Lakes to the Main Yarra Trail in Burnley and takes in some beautiful parkland as it follows Gardiners Creek for approximately 17 kilometres.

With tracks on both sides of the Gardiners Creek and several bridges, there are lots of options for shorter and longer walks.

The section of the trail between Burwood Highway and Station St in Box Hill South is particularly pleasant and easy walking on well graded surfaces. This route takes you past Deakin University and near wetlands that are populated with frogs and an array of open woodland and wetland birds including the Purple Swampphen and the Little Pied Cormorant. This short rustic walk can be varied by following the trail on either side of the creek.



If you use public transport, take the Yarra tram route 75 Vermont South to Stop 62 Elgar Rd. For the more fit, you can follow the trail to Holmesglen rail station or continue walking northward to Laburnum station.



Enjoy a special 'Behind the Scenes' visit to Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex on Thursday, 20 October 2022 with members of Whitehorse Historical Society.

See and hear the stories of the establishment of the Cottage and Museum and how decisions are made about what to display and just how it's done. Learn how a modern Local History Museum presents itself to the local community and to the world via the Internet. If you thought we are only about 'old stuff', you are in for a big surprise as well as a lovely afternoon tea with Society Members.

Margaret Graham, Whitehorse Historical Society



Farewelling Mont Albert Railway Station

To acknowledge the closing of the 132 year old Mont Albert station, Yvonne Bowyer and The Surrey Hills & Mont Albert Progress Association along with Rotary MASH and Bread Street Mont Albert are bringing the steam train to Mont Albert on Sunday 23 October. Thank you, Bread Street Mont Albert for underwriting this event.

Bookings are via Trybooking for this wonderful community event. Tickets are limited and we expect the demand from the many volunteers of Steamrail Victoria will be huge. So, get in quick and reserve your place.

Click on the following link for prices and details:
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/960714>

David Winter

Springthorpe Memorial

— Judith Voce

Springthorpe Memorial is historically important in demonstrating 19th century social and cultural attitudes to death, and for reflecting the ideals of the Victorian Garden Cemetery movement which aimed at providing comfort for mourners.

The memorial is unique, no other example being known of such aesthetic composition, architectural design and execution, or scale. It exhibits rich and unusual integration of these features. It also illustrates characteristics of the work of the artists such as Desbrowe-Anneer, Mackennal, the glass manufacturers Auguste Fischer and the bronze work of Marriots.

Current conservation works on the memorial

Commissioned by Boroondara Cemetery Trust, as part of a successful Heritage Victoria's Living Heritage Grant, conservation work is being carried out to the Bertram Mackennal statuary group and the Auguste Fischer leadlight roof of Springthorpe Memorial (Victorian Heritage Register # H0522).

Work will include cleaning, consolidation, re-attachment of fallen elements and application of protective coating onto the Bertram Mackennal statuary group. The leadlight cement will be repaired and replaced along with the repair of deformed calmes. Broken and missing glass will be replaced, and rust removed from metal frames. A polycarbonate protective roof will be installed.

These works will reverse recent and ongoing deterioration of the statues and provide greater protection to the roof and statuary below, a positive heritage outcome for this highly significant place.

The Trust cannot spend its own funds on private memorials, but you can donate to assist in restoring and conserving the heritage listed Springthorpe Memorial for future generations. We received a grant of \$200,000 to commence the works but it is estimated completion of the restoration of the statuary and surrounding garden area will cost up to \$500,000.

Please contact our office on 9853 7025 or visit our website www.kewcemetery.com.au for further information on donating for this project.



Grandmothers with Monique Ryan, Independent for Kooyong, September 2022

Our work is not done

There are still 216 asylum seekers detained on Nauru and in Papua New Guinea. Around 31,000 refugees live in Australia on a variety of temporary visas which restrict their ability to work, study and get on with their lives. Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, posted on social media on 6 September 2022 that 'The Albanese Government has made a commitment to transition those who have been found to be owed our protection on Temporary Protection Visas to permanent protection – we will keep this promise, and meet our commitment as soon as possible...'. He acknowledged that those on Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs) have lived in limbo over the last 10 years.

We ask you to join us in our efforts to encourage change and hold the government accountable for meeting their commitments. Are you concerned, as we are, about the appalling treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, especially those who came here by boat between 2012 and 2014? You don't have to be a biological grandmother, nor female. FROGS – Friends of Grandmothers – are also welcome.

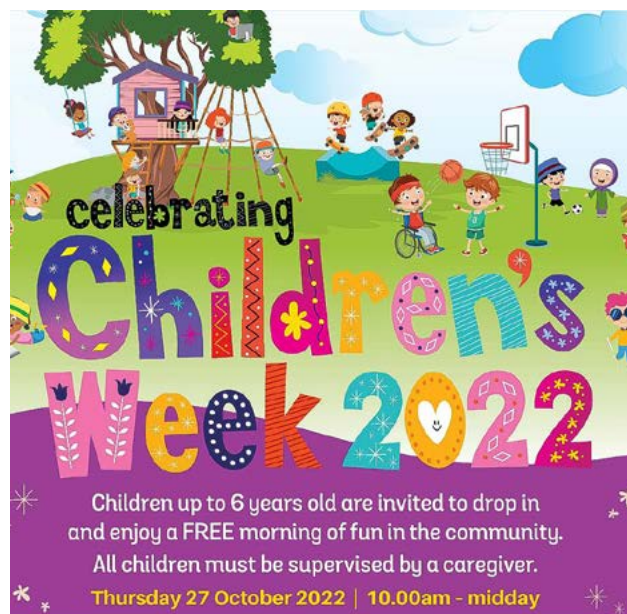
The Kooyong Group meets regularly to share ideas and information, plan, and take agreed action. We are a non-political, passionate group who want to see the end of the dehumanisation of those seeking asylum and their prolonged, cruel treatment. The change of Government is an opportunity to support positive change and continue to advocate for improvement.

Contact info@grandmothersforrefugees.org or visit the website at www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Come and join us Grandmothers for Refugees, Kooyong Group

Ann on behalf of Grandmothers for Refugees, Kooyong

Grandmothers for Refugees advocates for compassion-ate welcome and safe settlement of people seeking asylum. After campaigning tirelessly during the May Federal Election, we saw a change that would bring improved outcomes for refugees and asylum seekers.



Children up to 6 years old are invited to drop in and enjoy a FREE morning of fun in the community. All children must be supervised by a caregiver.
Thursday 27 October 2022 | 10.00am - midday

Bring along your favourite teddy (or soft toy) for a general health check and fun. You will receive a special passport stamped at each activity station:

- Access Health and Community health professionals who work in child and family development
- Maternal & Child Health Nurse
- Oral Health Therapist
- Fun performance with Sandy and her belly dancers
- Craft/quiet corner
- Bear Hunt with your local library
- We will be welcoming the children from our Greythorn Early Education Centre and Kindergarten for the morning.

Location
Foard Williams room
Greythorn Community Hub
2 Centre Way
Balwyn North

All partners running this event are Child Safe Organisations.



Rotary in Action

Rotarians are often asked what they actually do in the community. Thank you to Glenys Grant who researched, interviewed participants and wrote about three recent projects.



Model United Nations Assembly – Rotary Youth

MUNA is a Rotary Youth project for VCE students. Its aim is to promote international understanding and help participants develop public speaking and debating skills, recognise cultural diversity and understand the workings of the United Nations.

This year MUNA was a joint Rotary District 9810 and District 9820 event. It was held at Nossal High School, where three large areas were set up to replicate the UN Assembly.

Twenty teams from private and government schools, representing various countries, debated three resolutions on climate change, violence against women and girls, and space governance. Students were at their most enthusiastic when debating environmental issues.

The teams had to research their given country's stance on these issues and debate the resolutions from that perspective. Many teams were in the national dress of their nominated country.

Rotaract members acted as diplomatic couriers to communicate between each team. They included Thomas White, Forest Hill resident, previous MUNA winner and

Rotary National MUNA Peace Prize recipient. A skilful Dr Hakim Gassiep, portraying the UN 'Inspector-General', presided over the event.

Several awards were presented at the conclusion of MUNA. Emma Huibers and Paris Newhook, Presbyterian Ladies' College, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Box Hill-Burwood were awarded Best Overall Delegation Runner Up. Casper Potgieter-Strachan and Alexander Sayle were awarded Best Overall Delegation for their excellent portrayal of delegates from India.

These students were from Mullauna Secondary College and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mitcham.

Congratulations to all the competing students, the Rotary clubs who mentored and sponsored the teams, and the two Rotary Districts who organised the event so well.



Secretary-General Dr Hakim Gassiep receiving flags, watched by Rotary 9810 DG Ken Miller, 9820 DG Paul Mee, Youth Chair 9810 Malcolm Chiverton and 9810 Whitehorse Rotaract President Alice Terrill.



Group photo of delegates and dignitaries.



Runners Up: PLC team, representing Germany, sponsored by RC Box Hill-Burwood.



Winners: Mullauna College team, representing India.

Indigenous Garden Project Rotary Club of Forest Hill

Once again Rotary has combined with a number of community groups – this time on a project to improve a garden area adjacent to the Forest Hill College library. The environmental focus was to provide plants to encourage birds, butterflies and bees back to the area by creating an indigenous garden.



Forest Hill College VCAL student working on indigenous garden project.

The project involved the school's VCAL students who planned the area and worked there. The students received generous help from the Whitehorse

Council Gardens for Wildlife group to plant out the gardens with donated goods. All equipment for the garden was provided by Bunnings in Vermont South.

The Rotary Club of Forest Hill was involved throughout the project and supplied the garden furniture. An opening is planned in October.

The students wanted to highlight the environmental impact of bees. As part of their literacy program, they decided to write a children's picture book about the importance of bees in our environment to gift to local primary schools.

Students have been working on this long-term project throughout the year with the support of mentor and author Karen Hendriks, who has assisted the writing and illustration process. The Rotary Club of Forest Hill is also funding this publication.

Whitehorse Art Show Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood

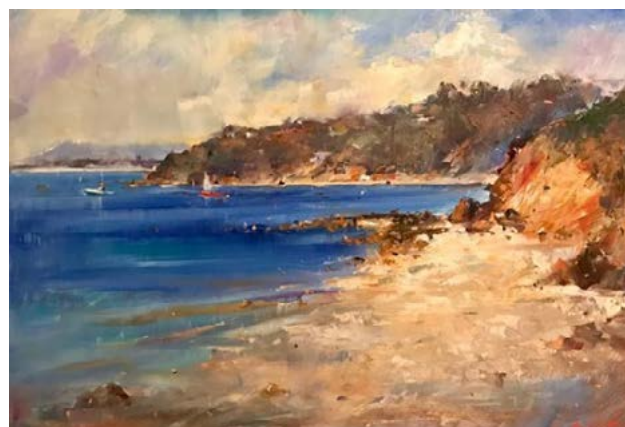
The Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood proudly presents the annual Whitehorse Art Show 2022. This marks the 56th Annual Art Show held within the City of Whitehorse and provides an outlet for quality artists to display and sell their work.

The Art Show will be held in the magnificent Box Hill Town Hall at 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill from Thursday 27 October to Sunday 30 October 2022. Ample parking is available in either the Town Hall grounds or in the immediate vicinity.

The Opening Night Gala three course Dinner (including drinks) is on Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 7pm. Tickets are now available at \$85 per person. This includes a preview of the exhibition and first option to purchase any exhibit. The major beneficiary of funds raised by this event is Box Hill Hospital Stroke Unit.

Please check The Whitehorse Art Show website at https://whitehorseartshow.com.au/key_dates for further information

Artwork by Angelo Quabba



Remembrance Day Project, 2022 Rotary Club of Mitcham

Three community groups and a number of local schools have come together to erect approximately 150 crosses at the Mitcham Memorial in Halliday Park for Remembrance Day November 11, 2022.

Each cross will bear a soldier's name which has been researched by a school pupil. The aim is to have local school children research a service personnel from their family or a local memorial, to recognise fallen family members including those from other countries who served their nation.

The community groups are the Rotary Club of Mitcham, who will coordinate and fund the project, the Whitehorse Historical Society providing research assistance, and the Vermont Mens' Shed making the crosses. The crosses will be placed around the Mitcham Memorial for Remembrance day.

Enquiries to Peter McPhee on 0412 342 426.



North Box Hill Tennis Club

The North Box Hill Tennis Club dates back to 1968, when the local community successfully negotiated land with the then Box Hill Council. Many are surprised to learn the club exists, being in secluded parkland with beautiful surrounds. It is tucked away in the Frank Sedgman Reserve, running along the south side of the Eastern Freeway and not visible from any street.

There are six red porous courts, maintained in excellent condition. Four are lit for night tennis. Night competition is popular. Members receive an access card that allows them to enter the courts and clubhouse at their leisure. Members are encouraged to bring visitors. The clubhouse is well fitted and comfortable. Disabled access and toilet facilities were part of a recent refurbishment of the interior and entrance.

The Club welcomes all members of the community. Free social tennis is provided to anyone interested on Sundays from 10 am to noon. Tennis racquets are available on request, but it is essential that proper flat-soled tennis shoes are worn. Balls are provided.

The address is 24 Elizabeth Street, Box Hill North. The made section of the street ends as it enters the park. The unmade section curves around and along the perimeter of the courts, providing ample parking. There is a bus stop nearby in Station Street, with just a short walk along the shared bike path to the courts.

Contact Adam Dewhurst on 0417 306 652 or the Secretary on 0419 560 506. More information is on the club website at <https://play.tennis.com.au/northboxhilltennisclub>

An enjoyable Family Day at Schwerkolt Cottage

– Patricia Fincham

On Sunday, 11 September the Whitehorse Historical Society welcomed the community back to its annual Family Day as part of Whitehorse City Council Heritage Week.

It was a delight having families wander around the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum complex and seeing the joy on the faces of children both young and old as they took part in the bubble world, the animal farm, making paper tops, listening to stories. For older visitors, there was a Bush Band, Square Dancing, Vintage Cars, and wood turning.



Along with the Coffee Cart, the Cake Stall provided goodies baked by volunteers of the Society; the local Rotary Club held a sausage sizzle. Inside, visitors experienced the expertise of local lace makers, wool

spinners and Chinese painting as well as walking through time viewing traditional Korean and local costumes and household utensils. Another 'must have' was Devonshire tea, with scones, cakes and pasties made by Society volunteers.

Patricia Fincham is a member of the Whitehorse Historical Society

Grand design

why the AFL structure is unique – and has enabled competitive balance

– Daryl Adair, Associate Professor of Sport Management, University of Technology Sydney

The following is an extract from an article that Dr Adair published in The Conversation on 23 September 2022. The full article can be read on The Conversation here

Since 2017, Victoria has commemorated AFL Grand Final Friday as a public holiday, with a parade of the two competing teams through a festive Melbourne (apart from interruptions in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19).

Saturday's match [September 24] between Geelong and Sydney welcomes back the grand final to the MCG after a two-year absence due to local COVID restrictions. The packed stadium and associated entertainment demonstrated renewal in the wake of the pandemic. It also celebrated a unique game, Australian made and owned, with a goal of competitive balance.

Made in Australia

Australian Rules football, as the name suggests, is a substantial part of this country's cultural fabric. It began as a pragmatic effort to keep Melbourne cricketers fit during cold winters in the 1850s. Rather than an invention, this game was more of an adaptation, as the colonists who drew up the initial rules (1859) took inspiration from various informal 'kicking' and 'handling' ball sports in Britain.



In that respect, although this Australian brand of footy evolved to become unique, it was not conceived as a challenge to imperial orthodoxy. Soon after, Association Football (1863) and Rugby Football (1871) were formalised in Britain, then transplanted around the empire.

The unorthodox aspect to this story is that, despite the import of soccer and rugby, the Australian game not only survived, it began to flourish in many parts of the country. That was unexpected: the colonists typically saw themselves as British subjects, paying homage to the cultural pastimes of the homeland. This game, made in Australia, was not part of the apron strings of empire.

But it was a colonial project. Indigenous people were often not welcomed to the sport in its development phase, and at the game's elite level were all but absent until the last quarter of the 20th century. Despite this marginalisation, some believe the white man's game of the 19th century was inspired by an Aboriginal cultural practice, Marn Grook.

Thank you to The Conversation for allowing publication of this article under Creative Commons licence. Go to The Conversation website <https://theconversation.com/au> to read more of this article and many others discussing a huge range of topics.

One really great feature of The Conversation is Curious Kids <https://theconversation.com/us/topics/curious-kids-us-74795>, a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to curiouskidsus@theconversation.com.

WANTED!

YOUR VIEWS

If you have any ideas or can comment on how Whitehorse Council should sustainably manage, protect and grow our open space network to support a healthy and liveable community over the next 15 years –

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU NOW!

'Open space' typically includes parks, gardens and reserves. Importantly, Council also aims to look at how streetscapes, public spaces in retail centres, and open land owned or managed by other authorities can complement the open space network in Whitehorse.

For instance you might have views on the future use of Federation Brickworks site in Box Hill as open space. Anyone for a botanic garden there and museum in the old brick factory?

Check here for more info and to make your comments <https://tinyurl.com/2h69v3ut>



The ACF Platy Project

– John Nihill, ACF Chisholm

Undeterred by rain throughout the Saturday afternoon, 22 intrepid people turned up at Ruffey Creek in Templestowe to watch for platypus. And just as people arrived, the rain stopped. We spread out along the creek towards the Yarra in the late afternoon sun, and settled down quietly to listen to the creek, listen to the birds, see the light change on the trees, and watch for the elusive platypus. After about half an hour waiting, and to the excitement of the children and the awe of adults, there they were, swimming and diving in the creek.

This platypus watch event was organised by the Chisholm community group of the Australian Conservation Foundation, (ACF), and was one of many events down the east coast during the ACF Platy Project month of action. The ACF has teamed up with the University of NSW to help researchers understand where this strange and beautiful mammal now lives, and how we can better protect it.

Platypus habitat ranges from Northern Queensland to Tasmania, but platypus numbers are under pressure and declining, because of land clearing, dam building, urban development, drought and bushfire. There are large gaps in the research about the specific waterways in which platypus now live, and how best to restore water health so that the platypus can thrive. The researchers need people in local communities to help fill these gaps, by spending some time watching for platypus and reporting what they see.

The platypus watch group events that were organised by the ACF wound up at the end of September, but the ACF and the university ask any interested citizen scientists to keep the research alive.

To take part, have a look over the University of NSW map of historic platypus sightings. Zoom in on the map to your



local area and then choose a spot on a creek, river or wetland near you. If you would like a good chance of seeing a platypus, choose a spot where there has been a recent sighting. But we contribute the most valuable evidence when we report from places where there have not been recent sightings.

Spend an hour or so on the bank, by yourself or with family or friends, to watch for platypus and record whatever you see on the online map. Platypuses are nocturnal, so dusk or dawn are the best times to watch.

Add a photo if you're able to. Our reports are valuable research, firstly to record whether or not we see a platypus, and also to record what we can see of the state of the water and the vegetation along the banks.

You might be surprised at how many places platypuses live, even in Melbourne. But even if you don't see a platypus, the experience of sitting quietly by a creek is in itself wonderful, and either way, your report is truly important.

Look over the University of NSW map of historic platypus sightings at <https://www.acf.org.au/platy-project>.

The ACF operates through local community groups, made up of welcoming people who care about our natural world and our climate. If you would like to join us, please visit <https://www.acf.org.au/community-groups>

LOCAL TRADIES

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contact us at info@eastsidernews.org.au



EastsiderNews Guidelines for writing articles

The guidelines for writing for Eastsider News are:

- Length and quality: ranging from 400-700 words, occasionally longer, but always well written, and concise. Letters to the Editors may be shortened if they are longer than 250 words.
- 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 jpegs by email to eastsidernews1@gmail.com. To get adequate resolution, we ask that your image has a resolution of 300dpi and is at least 250kb and preferably larger at around 400Kb or more.
- 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. We will also add to and update content on our website, and plan to do a limited print edition for community distribution when funds become available. Go to our website at www.eastsidernews.org.au to check out the current and past editions.

In the next edition

The deadline for articles for the next edition of *Eastsider News* is 25 November 2022, with the edition due to go online mid 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 eastsidernews1@gmail.com.

We encourage you to send us photographs and images that relate to your contribution. To get adequate resolution, please try to make them at least 250Kb and preferably larger at around 400Kb or more.

Page 7 Quizling Answers

1. Drive, chip, hacker
2. 'Button up' is the same as 'Pipe down'