



Photos: Helen Lester (ACF Higgins)

The alarming story of our forests

– Mitzi Tuke

We are living through a climate, environmental and biodiversity crisis. Yet logging of Victoria's native forests continues unabated with devastating results for the ecology of forests. Evidence shows the Mountain Ash forests of the Central Highlands are on the verge of collapse through a combination of logging and climate change. The example of Toolangi State Forest, less than an hour out of Melbourne is being repeated in other forested areas of the state, including Gippsland and the North East.

The severe 1939 fires affected a large proportion of Victoria including Toolangi. Much regenerated naturally before logging started in late 1970's. Since then, VicForest, the State government's logging agency has logged Toolangi and forests in the north and east, with logging coupes being opened up under so-called 'timber release plans'.

When a coupe is logged, only 40 percent of forest matter or logs, is taken out. The remaining 60 percent or 'slash' is burnt. Destroyed forest regenerates with difficulty; 50



percent of logged mountain ash fails to grow back after logging. If it does regenerate, trees are left to grow for 40 years, and then the area is slated for relogging.

A forest takes at least 80 years to mature and for biodiversity to recover. This means forests are being logged before they reach maturity. Extensive logging creates a 'young forest' and the richness of biodiversity, both flora and fauna, is threatened and often lost. Where mature trees once stood, wattle and scrub grow causing a degradation of the forest, its habitat, and consequent loss of biodiversity.

Heavy logging over the last 50 years throughout Victoria has resulted in a patchwork of young to very young forest with regenerated interspersed with unregenerated areas. This area is sufficiently large and the biodiversity so substantially destroyed as to threaten the viability of Mountain Ash forests in Victoria.

The greater glider was once common in our forests. It lives in trees of about 130 years old and more, where hollows have formed when boughs have dropped. Greater gliders cannot live in young trees because hollows have not yet formed. With the relentless destruction of its habitat, greater gliders were declared vulnerable in 2016 and have recently been declared endangered by Minister Tanya Plibersek. Leadbeater's

possum is also endangered because of the loss of hollows in mature trees.

The state government has pledged to end logging by 2030 but that is too far into the future to prevent the major forest destruction and biodiversity loss that will occur.

Forests are also under threat from the increasing severity and frequency of fires fuelled by climate change. Professor David Lindenmayer, world renowned forest management and conservation ecologist, has studied the forests of Victoria's Central Highlands and impacts of fire. He found a compelling relationship between fire severity and the age of a forest. The older a forest is, the more it can withstand the impacts of severe fire. The more a forest is logged, the more susceptible it becomes to being burnt.

The economic argument against logging native forests

VicForests has been operating at a loss. The government has funded major shortfalls of the agency, amounting to around \$20 million annually for the past two years. The greatest loss was over \$50 million this last financial year.

Plantation timber accounts for 90 percent of timber industry requirements, with the market for timber for housing framework now supplied exclusively by softwood plantation timber. There is a strong argument for moving completely to plantation timber to supply industry needs.

Our native forests are being turned into nothing but wood chips. It is a travesty for our precious forests, with their majestic Mountain Ash eucalypts and their richly diverse ecosystems to end up as cheap paper and cardboard products.

Urgent action to save our forests needs to happen now. If you feel passionate and appalled that only 1.1 percent of our old growth Mountain Ash forest remains, please write to Ingrid Stitt MLC, our new Victorian environment minister.

Mitzi Tuke is a member of ACF Chisholm and the ACF Community Victoria Forest Alliance

Dissatisfied Victorian youth seek big changes at parliament

– Callum McNaught

Recent research has shown that young Australians of voting age are dissatisfied with the electoral system and that more actions need to take place to convince young people the importance of participating within a democracy.

The Victorian Electoral Commission revealed that the 1194 candidates who nominated for last year's state election was the highest number that ever stood for an election; and that the prior election had a voter turnout of 90percent.

So why, despite the high voting participation rates and number of candidates to choose from, are young Victorians finding themselves dissuaded from politics? The Parliament of Victoria's community engagement team has made it their goal to target this question and better involve young Victorians.

Recently, their youth engagement team hosted a feedback session at the Parliament of Victoria in support of youth engagement with politics. Attending were young Victorians from high school age students to adults finishing their university studies and all expressed a similar sentiment that Parliament as an entity did not represent their concerns.

They found themselves at odds with the ornate and mammoth structure teetering over Spring Street and felt that the politicians inside were occupied with older voting generations and their concerns. It was revealed that younger Victorians want action on climate change and for



the government to focus on equality and the awareness of issues affecting indigenous Victorians.

There was a call for more young politicians in government, with those attending expressing the view that older politicians are less likely to consider the issues and concerns of younger voters.

This also echoes a changing political landscape in Victoria; the Resolve Political Monitor conducted a poll before last year's election and found that one third of those voting in the election were 40 and under.

This was reflected in last year's State election which saw a larger push for socially progressive candidates and a move away from the major parties to candidates who were both younger and who represented parties that engaged with young Victorians and their issues.

In an increasingly changing world with rising cost of living pressures and the looming threat of climate change it will be the younger generations who inherit the political system in a time of conflict. Many agree it is a system which is not acting in their favour.

To better involve young Victorians in the political process, the Parliament of Victoria has previously hosted a youth concert on the stone steps and held internship opportunities so that young voters can better understand the political process and meet with politicians.

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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

In This Edition

Our contributors have yet again sent us a wonderful array of material. If you didn't realise that we like trees, open space and other environmental matters, this edition will let you in on that secret. Keep an eye out for notices promoting several upcoming events that cover such topics.

This edition brings you stories on the contributions and achievements of local residents who we are pleased to acknowledge. Our intrepid reporter, Glenys Grant writes about the work of school students at both primary and secondary level and their mentors. We also have stories of people in the community who have worked consistently over the years to give back to their communities.

You will also find articles on a range of activities happening in our area that may encourage you to become more involved in local matters, whether it is supporting your local shopping centre, joining a group that shares your creative interests, exploring local history or giving help where needed. And for those times when you need your dose of fresh air, we bring you suggestions of places to explore.

Our biggest pleasure is to bring you the work of our younger journalists, Callum and Madeleine. We would be delighted for other young people to join them with articles on whatever topics are of interest to them. Enjoy this edition and let us know what you think (preferably nice, polite and helpful suggestions) by emailing us at eastsidernews1@gmail.com.



Graham Ross, Convenor of the KooyongKoot Alliance and the Kooyongkoot Catchment Keeper and Michelle Ananda-Rajah Federal Member for Higgins unveil the commemoration plaque.



L>R. Matt Fregon State MP for Ashwood, Jane Addis then Mayor of Boroondara, Graham Ross, Convenor of the KooyongKoot Alliance and the Kooyongkoot Catchment Keeper, Michelle Ananda-Rajah Federal Member for Higgins.

KooyongKoot receives grant towards a future Markham Forest

– Glenys Grant and Graham Ross

The KooyongKoot Alliance has been awarded a \$20,000 grant as part of a vision to create a Markham Forest alongside Gardiners Creek at Markham Reserve in Ashburton. The grant to plant trees is facilitated through funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for the Queens Jubilee Program to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The group is preparing a couple of sites in the reserve, with the help of Boroondara Council, to allow the community to plant over 3000 trees in 2023. Seven semi-mature native trees, each representing 10 years of the Queen's reign, have been planted on the site.

A plaque to commemorate the event was unveiled by Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah, Federal Member for Higgins. Also in attendance were State MP for Ashwood, Matt Fregon and Councillors Garry Thompson, Victor Franco and Mayor Jane Addis as well as over 20 community leaders.

Graham Ross is Convenor of KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA). He described the initiative as part of a plan to develop a long-term revegetation program for the area, with the community taking the lead. The program is being undertaken by KKA and a large number of local groups including Rotary East Malvern and Chadstone, local Scouts Groups, Lions Groups, Scouts Victoria, Holmesglen TAFE, and local community centres.

Graham spoke about the multiple benefits of the revegetation program for the area, and in particular its contribution to strengthening the local Markham community. He said 'The planting is an opportunity to bring the community together as it undergoes a substantial change with around 400 residents soon due to occupy the new State Government housing development adjacent to one of the planting sites on the reserve'.

'Through this long-term commitment, it is envisaged that a sustainable biodiverse vision for the Markham Reserve is established, not just for the local flora and fauna, but also for the local community and for future generations to come.'

He commented that the recently elected Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP for Higgins was committed to the



KooyongKoot Members L>R: Noel Jacobs (Treasurer of the KKA), Ruth Sharley (Convenor, Back 2 Nettleton Friends Group) Graham Ross, (Convenor of the KooyongKoot Alliance and the Kooyongkoot Catchment Keeper), Sam Russell, (Urban Guerrillas), Pam Welsford (Secretary of the KKA and President of Friends of South Surrey Park).

project and to the vision of both KKA and the Regional Collaboration (involving multiple councils and major stakeholders) for a strategic plan for the whole of Gardiners Creek/KooyongKoot.

Graham described the regeneration project as offering a wonderful opportunity for the local Markham community to rally together around a long-term project that helps biodiversity, helps water quality and will help bring community together. As he said, 'There is everything to like about this project.'

'The KKA's vision is to replicate this model across the Gardiners Creek catchment and in this case compliment both the Councils own Strategic Plan for Gardiners Creek and the Strategic Plan that is being developed by the Regional Collaboration for the whole of the Gardiners Creek/Kooyongkoot Catchment.'

This legacy project is all about bringing the community together to help heal Gardiners Creek/Kooyongkoot. A similar project is planned in Whitehorse in 2023 so stay tuned.

Read the public statement by Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP for Higgins here: <https://michelleforhiggins.com.au/higgins/regenerating-gardiner-s-creek/>

Continues from page 1... Dissatisfied Victorian youth seek big changes at parliament

The recent feedback session went one step further to brainstorm future ideas to promote youth engagement, these involved cultural festivals and transforming the spaces of Parliament in several innovative ways. Many agreed that education of political processes needed to be engaging and interesting for younger Victorians.

The results can now be used by the Parliament of Victoria to better engage the State's youth in the voting process and a system which fairly represents them. As a participant the experience reflected that Parliament is aware that the State's youth feel overwhelmed by what is considered an archaic and limited State political system. Changes need to be made for young voters to feel welcome within the system and to promote to their friend groups and families the value of political participation.

The Parliament already has a high rate of voter participation, but for young Victorians it is one which they find does not prioritise them as a group nor as individuals. Changes are however being made to alleviate these concerns.

Eastsider readers, you may have children or grandchildren who find themselves disinterested in the local political system but care greatly about the big issues in their lives. If so, do let them know there are opportunities for them to raise their issues and be heard.

As 2023 begins, perhaps we should listen to the youth and their concerns as they will be the ones who determine the shape of our Parliament and political system in the decades to come.

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.

Current compilers and editors are Anne Young, John Malvestuto, Mike Daly, Glenys Grant, Sal Dugan, and Joy Mettam. We extend our thanks to Glenys who has been a whirlwind in seeking out and writing up stories and taking photographs.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our team.

Our volunteer helpers are an important part of ensuring our continuity. In our last call out, we were delighted to make contact with several people who have continued to contribute with articles, photographs and in other ways. Thank you to Chris Gray, Chris Trueman, Ross Gillespie and others.

If you are interested in joining the team, please talk to us. Our most pressing need at the moment is to find somebody who can manage the material as it comes in, do an initial assessment, coordinate editing and create the layout that we send to our graphic designer. This would not involve writing or editing.



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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Forging Friendship and Community Spirit in Local Neighbourhoods

As many of us came to realise during the Melbourne lockdowns, social connection, engagement and participation are integral to achieving positive wellbeing.

One Whitehorse-based worker, Ian Bunston, is someone who champions the importance of social connections, having worked in various 'community connector' roles in the eastern suburbs. He has seen first-hand how community participation can build bridges of hope, belonging and understanding, especially after the isolation of lockdowns experienced in 2020 and 2021.

'We are facing a unique time to innovate, create and maintain connections', Mr Bunston said. 'We can all serve as 'connectors of hope' at this time by perceiving people's unique needs, talents and interests, and responding affirmatively with encouragement, support and attendance at events.'

Some local connector activities Mr Bunston instigated to inspire, connect and educate others include the Box Hill community boat-building group, the Box Hill community choir, a walking group and Monday Matters (an online forum featuring a weekly guest to share their life journey). Special guests who have participated in the Monday Matters conversations have included a former Australian Deputy Prime Minister and a former Governor-General.

During the lockdowns, Mr Bunston found new ways for activity-based communities to thrive via online technology, communication apps and phone conversations. He also engaged with locals through social media — by creating a Facebook group called



Ian Bunston. Photo: Nicholas Ong

Neighbourhoods Now to celebrate the benefits and importance of community.

Mr Bunston continues to support the Box Hill Community Choir, which affords locals some creative expression, as well as fun, friendship and belonging.

Research shows connector role improves wellbeing

Surrey Hills-based charity Korus Connect provides holistic pastoral care in many areas of Victoria, including the eastern suburbs. It is responsible for the Community Connector initiative. Mr Bunston has been an integral part of this program as a Community Connector.

The purpose and benefit of the community connector role is:

- building relationships based on trust
- creating a web of mutually supportive community relationships
- equipping local people to care for local people

- strengthening connection, purpose, motivation and a sense of belonging and
- being proactive, community-based and localised.

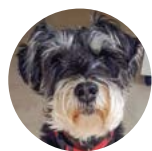
The Korus Connect team was keen to understand how, and to what extent, the community connector role contributed to participants' wellbeing using independent research. To that end, the organisation commissioned Huber Social to work with key program representatives and participants to assess impacts.

The findings indicated the Box Hill-based community connector program had a positive impact on participants' social wellbeing, showing people who were engaged with community connector activities were found to be 41 percent less lonely or isolated, than those who have never participated. Further to this, people who are regularly engaged with the Community Connector's activities also reflected 29 percent higher overall wellbeing as compared to the community average.

Korus Connect CEO, Dawn Penney, said organisational partnerships have been vital to the success of the local Community Connector initiative, including funding by VicHealth to support the community choir and research support by Huber Social.

'It is pleasing to undertake research demonstrating how the Community Connector initiative has imparted positive benefits to local community participants.' Ms Penney said. 'Meaningful connections certainly generate positive, tangible and lasting impact on people's sense of meaning, purpose and belonging; as well as strengthening social cohesion in local communities.'

The Box Hill Community Choir is continuing to attract new members. If you would like to join, please contact Korus Connect via phone on 03 9811 0999 or email enquiries@korusconnect.org.au. To find out more about Korus Connect, go to www.korusconnect.org.au



My favourite walks

— Maximilian von Schnauzer

Hello my four-footed friends.

Are you great at reading the signs? Do you watch carefully when your two-leggeds are getting dressed? Top half on — tick. Bottom half on — tick. But now, crucially, the shoes. Lace-up sports shoes — yes, yes, yes, a walk! But if it's thongs or slippers — you deflate.

Or maybe you're really good at hearing trigger words in a conversation. But this can also be a deflate situation. Imagine a conversation between Mum and Dad along these lines. "I'd like to go OUT to DINNER tonight. It would be such a TREAT. Yes, we could WALK there, perhaps through the PARK. You LEAD the way. I'll be glad to SIT when we arrive. Or we could just STAY at home.

As you listen you're excited, then disappointed, then excited again, and finally just very very confused.

But if there is to be a walk, you might suggest this one. *Wattle Park*. It's a beautiful bush area, with entry from Riversdale Road. The park was opened in 1917, with the idea of encouraging tram patrons to travel to the end of the line on weekends and holidays. The Melbourne Transit Band has given free concerts here since 1941. (see Paw Notes). The name, Wattle Park, comes from the number and variety of wattle trees. It's said there is always at least one tree in bloom at any time.



There is much to see here. But firstly, sorry, there isn't an off-lead area — Parks Victoria want the wildlife protected.

Hmm. Where to start? Avoid the golf course — dangerous and illegal. Avoid the cricket ground — also potentially dangerous.

The park is in two parts. The western end is real bush bashing. Much more pleasant is the eastern end where there are gravel paths winding through the trees. Perfect to explore with a mate.

Here you will find a playground with actual trams for children, or children at heart, to play in. Also picnic tables and BBQs. (Note: potential snack territory).

Near the playground, you'll see the Wattle Park Chalet. Built in 1928, the chalet is popular for weddings and other functions.

Across the road from the chalet is a pretty special tree. It is the oldest original Gallipoli Lone Pine tree in Australia. A soldier brought the pine cone back as a souvenir of his time in World War 1. There are information boards nearby or you could check out the link in the Paw Notes. Dad spent some time here, reading, as you can imagine.



The walk can be long or short, depending on the paths you take. But either way a two-legged will soon be hinting at coffee. And today they are in luck. The golf course Pro shop serves a great latte. There's a lovely covered verandah, with dog water, where you can have fun critiquing the golfers on the first tee. "Terrible swing!" "Oh ... great shot!" "What would we know?"

And just when you can't take another step, treats sometimes come out with the coffee.

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

Paw Notes:
<https://www.wattleparkgolfcourse.com.au/>
<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/wattle-park>
<https://wattleparkchalet.com.au/>
<http://www.melbtramband.org.au/>
<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/259491>

An invitation to learn about Box Hill's past



The Box Hill Historical Society is pleased to welcome four guest speakers between March and June 2023.

On Sunday, 19 March 2023 we welcome our special guest Graham Lee, who will speak about the history of the *Box Hill Lacrosse Club*, and some of the important people who have contributed to its history.

On Sunday 16 April 2023, we welcome our special guest George Petrou, a Box Hill boy. He will tell us about the book he has produced, called *The Art of Sacrifice*, which features his original art and background stories about individuals who have given Australia notable war service.

On Sunday 21 May 2023, we welcome our special guest Peter Wright, who will tell us about the history of the very durable Box Hill Tennis Club.

On Sunday 18 June 2023, we welcome our special guest Dianne Bassett, who will tell us about the history of the wonderful Alkira organisation, that has served in Box Hill for over 60 years.

All meetings will be held at 2pm, at the Box Hill Library, in the Bert Lewis Room (Meeting Room 1) on the 1st Floor, at 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Visitors are always most welcome.

Admission costs just a gold coin donation. *For more information, phone 03 9285 4808 or go to their website at*<https://www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

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Working together really helps

– John Lambert

Prices are going up and many families are struggling. As a result, many organisations are working hard to help those in need.

One of these is Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN). EERN has been run by volunteers in the east of Melbourne for more than 25 years. It picks up donated furniture and other household items, checks them and places them in a warehouse in Mitcham. Local welfare agencies then bring people and families in need to select items, free of any cost.

Some may need an item such as a fridge, sofa or bed. Others may need a lot more. Whatever their needs, EERN and the generous members of the community who donate items help these people to build or maintain their homes.



On occasions, EERN has a shortage of some items. When this occurs, one of the first places they contact is their sister agency Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN). WERN was modelled on EERN and operates in the western suburbs of Melbourne. If WERN has some of the items needed, EERN takes its truck to their warehouse. They also load up the truck with items WERN lacks.

In mid January, EERN took a load of tables and chairs to WERN and brought back several bed frames and mattresses. This is a great example of charities working together.

As John Pullen, President of EERN says: 'Working together really helps'.

The Network is always looking for good quality household items (although not large ones as they don't fit in



Loading bed bases into the EERN truck and the EERN Warehouse

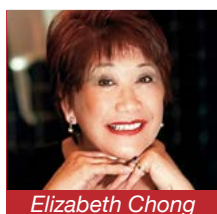


the homes of people who are brought to the EERN warehouse).

You might even like to become a volunteer, picking up donated items in the truck, organising the warehouse, answering phones, testing and tagging electrical items or repairing washing machines. Whatever you can do, there is almost certainly an opportunity to volunteer at EERN.

If you are interested in finding out more about EERN go to www.easternemergency.org.au

John Lambert is Vice President of Eastern Emergency Relief Network



Five Willows Prawns

This is a beautiful dish for lovers of prawns. The sauce is piquant and with its pretty colours is a garnish in itself.

Elizabeth Chong

Ingredients:

- 8 king or banana prawns (fresh or frozen), with shells and heads removed, tails intact
- A dash of salt and pepper
- 3 tbs peanut oil
- 1 stalk spring onion, cut into 5cm pieces and lightly slapped with the broad part of the chopper (use mainly the white part of the onion)
- 1 slice fresh ginger
- 1 tbs each of carrot, cucumber, capsicum, and Chinese mixed pickles, cut into julienne strips.

Sauce

- 2 tbs vinegar
- 1 tbs sugar
- 2 tbs water
- 2 tsp hoi sin sauce
- A few drops tabasco
- 1 tsp cornflour.

Preparation:

- Mix all the sauce ingredients together in a bowl or jug.
- Put to one side.
- De-vein and wash the prawns. Cut into bite-sized chunks and sprinkle with salt and pepper.



To Cook:

- Heat the peanut oil in a preheated wok, swirl around gently until just smoking.
- Add the spring onions and ginger to sizzle for two minutes, then remove and discard.
- Add the prawns to the wok and stir-fry in moderately hot oil for about 30 seconds. Remove and place on a plate.
- Add the vegetable strips to the wok (there should be about one tablespoon of oil remaining in the wok). Stir-fry the strips over gentle heat for two minutes.
- Stir in the prepared sauce until it thickens and bubbles, then spoon the sauce and vegetables over the prawns.



The Edge Community Fund

The Edge Community Fund is our local community charity helping vulnerable children and their families in Ashburton, Ashwood, Chadstone and surrounding suburbs. It was set up as a charitable trust some 16 years ago to enable local businesses and community to work together to help vulnerable children participate in everyday activities.

Since its start in 2006, The Edge has helped over 550 children and their families – making sure that kids on the edge get a bit of an edge that ensures they can participate in the same way as other kids. Its philosophy is to quietly help those in need while preserving their privacy and dignity. Requests for help come to The Edge Fund from local schools and organisations and once approved funds are provided for the kids through these organisations.

Over the years The Edge has helped many families in all sorts of ways – providing school shoes on the first day of schools, school uniforms for families that could not afford them, train tickets for students, calculators, school camp fees, help with IT, swimming lessons, sports fees – all so the kids don't miss out.

The following comment from a recent recipient is typical of the relief many feel at getting support from The Edge Community Fund: 'Thank you. That is great news for the family and we really appreciate the Edge Committee Support'. This is also reflected in the comments received from schools for support to attend school camps: 'Thank you so much. The students had a wonderful time and a great learning experience.'

2023 Easter Raffle

The Edge Community Fund is now conducting its Annual Easter Raffle. First prize is the famous Traders Hamper worth at least a thousand dollars made up of donations from many local businesses. It will be drawn outside the Bendigo Community Bank in Ashburton at 3pm on Thursday 6 April.


Tickets are \$2 each. Sellers will be present several times a week in the Ashburton Shops. You can also purchase tickets at the Ashburton Bendigo Bank Branch; online now via TryBooking (<https://www.trybooking.com/CETKG>); by using the QR code below; or in books of 10 from Anne at edgefund@craigfc.org.au.

The Edge Community Fund is a registered charity approved by the tax office and donations are tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation to help local kids and their families contact Anne, our volunteer coordinator, at edgefund@craigfc.org.au. Alternatively, you can donate via TryBooking via the link to the donation page on <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/edgeforkids>.

All funds raised or donated go to help children as The Edge Community Fund is run by volunteers. Let Anne know if you wish to volunteer to help or join our committee.

The Edge Community Fund
c/- 7 Samarinda Ave Ashburton 3147
edgefund@craigfc.org.au





WHITEHORSE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Canterbury Road

In their newsletter for January-February 2023, the Whitehorse Historical Society has an article that discusses Canterbury Road and the combination of factors that have influenced the form, direction and surroundings of this major local road.

We suggest you go to the Society's website to find the answer to several questions about the road, including how it acquired that surprising wiggle in an otherwise straight road. It makes for interesting reading at

<https://whitehorsehistory.org.au/category/newsletter/>

Quizing Questions



Mix the ten letters missing from the riddle below to make its punny two-word answer.

WH## BO#K DO YO# BUY # #AU#Y
GRA##A#IAN?

What eight-letter word means potentially difficult, as well as provoking amusement? And what other word – a three-letter synonym of problem – also means to remedy a problem?



Thank you, David Astle for allowing us to use your intriguing, teasing, and frustrating quizlings that can drive a person to distraction. These come from his book, *Puzzled*. You will find the answers on page 16 of this edition.

Travel beckons



Carolyn Ahearne

Your Personal Travel Manager

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Bees on a Mission

– Glenys Grant

In our last issue, we told you about Forest Hill College VCAL students and their Indigenous Garden, entitled 'A Tough Pathway to Success'. It described how in 2021-22 Positive Education Learning Specialist Adrienne Baucke and her 12 VCAL Year 11 students started work on developing an indigenous garden project in a fairly barren enclosed area outside their school library.

The project was supported by the Rotary Club of Forest Hill, the Whitehorse indigenous plant nurseries and the Gardens for Wildlife team. Despite countless setbacks and COVID restrictions, these students succeeded.

But that's not all they achieved in 2022 in year 12 – their most demanding year. Here is the rest of the story...

They also had to complete Year 12 VCAL projects, and the idea of writing, illustrating and publishing a bee book to encourage primary schoolers to save bees came about.

This was because they had researched bees and their struggle to survive while planning their indigenous garden and had decided to hang specifically designed bee houses there in the hope of attracting and supporting bees.



Charlotte Smart, illustrator of *Bees on a Mission* book and Environment Award winner.

By the end of 2022 they had produced a delightful book, one that any primary school would be pleased to have for their students. These



books have now been distributed to schools and are already known to be appreciated.

All students helped write the book, and Charlotte Smart illustrated it beautifully. For her consistent contributions to both the indigenous garden and the bee book project, she received the Rotary Club of Forest Hill Environment Award 2022-23 and Prize.

This was presented at the garden and bee book launch at the school which was attended by the project supporters, school personnel and students. It was encouraging to see that the bee houses hung in the trees are already inhabited.

The Rotary Club of Forest Hill supported publication of 50 books and was acknowledged for encouragement and support throughout both projects, along with Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife Manager Belinda Moody, while Karen Hendricks mentored the students through the book writing process.

But the real stars are dedicated teacher Adrienne Baucke, the VCAL students and the forward-thinking school staff who endorsed these unusual projects—projects that have been successful and beneficial for current participants



Environmentally focused Forest Hill College VCAL students, 2022



and the environment – while the indigenous garden and bee book will continue to be of use to and enjoyed by future students.

A note about native bees

Did you know that Australia's native bees are solitary visitors to our gardens, great pollinators, they don't sting, and most importantly, are a valuable component of wildlife for the environment. Please design your garden to attract our native bees. The Gardens for Wildlife team can help give advice on this. Google *Gardens for Wildlife*

Primary school unsung heroes

– Glenys Grant

Unsung heroes from 12 local primary school were recently acknowledged at the Rotary Club of Forest Hill Youth Achievement Awards 2022-23.

This unique club program has continued for more than 42 years and in that time 384 students have been recognised. Students receive awards, acclamation, certificates, vouchers and a video to commemorate the occasion. These were given out at each school's end of year presentation.

After Covid19's impact, how wonderful all 12 primary schools not only elected to participate but were overjoyed that the Rotary Club of Forest Hill was still making these awards available. Each year for 42 years, teachers have been enthusiastically involved, selecting a Grade 6 quiet achiever with the aim of recognising a student who may not normally be widely acknowledged for their contributions.

The criterion is that the student doesn't have to be the best scholar or sportsperson but instead made a



(L) Livingstone Primary School young achiever Amelie Nassiokas being presented with her award by the President of Rotary Club of Forest Hill, Bill Marsh.

(R) Young achiever Elsa Castellino being congratulated on her award by Rangeview school principal Marika Ferguson

worthwhile contribution to other students, the school, community and/or the environment. Citations show these youngsters to be truly inspirational, giving such promise for the future.

The award is also aimed at encouraging these quieter students to higher successes – and it works. These youngsters often shine again in later years, as this award gives them the confidence and incentive to continue to achieve.

The last three years have been such difficult ones for students and this is a way to acknowledge their resilience and efforts.

The Rotary Club of Forest Hill 2022-23 primary school Youth Achievement Award winners are:

Blackburn Lake – Olivia Allen,
Burwood Heights – Josephine Mander,
Livingstone – Amelie Nassiokas,
Mt. Pleasant Road – Sophie Rosthorn,
Orchard Grove – Maya Furze,
Parkmore – Audrey Tattersfield,
Rangeview – Elsa Castellino,
St. Timothy's – Oscar Rodwell,
Vermont South Special – Ashton Menzie,
Vermont – Vyomi Patel,
Weeden Heights – Amolmangok Amol
Whitehorse – Ella Dunshea.

School Holidays

a time to catch up and try new things



– Madeleine McGregor

Hello all. I hope you are well and have been enjoying the (slightly unpredictable) summer weather. For many, including myself, these past few months have been school holidays. It's been a time for relaxation, creativity and reflection.

The Christmas break has been a time of catching up on favourite activities as well as a time to try new challenges.

Op Shop Volunteering has been by far, the most rewarding thing I've done over the past two months. I had the opportunity to learn so many skills, meet new people and give back to my community. I highly recommend this, even if it's just for an hour a week.

Kayaking in Tasmania. My dad and I participated in a full-day, guided Kayaking tour where we learnt the proper techniques. After we put on our equipment, we spent the whole day exploring. This included seeing seals, visiting a pebble beach, and viewing a shipwreck. By the end of the day, it felt like we'd been kayaking our whole lives.

Sewing. As a Christmas present for my mum, I set to work making a custom pair of PJ pants. Dredging up what I remember from sewing lessons two years prior, I began. I spent many hours pinning, hemming and backstitching. I'm pleased to say that, in my mum's unbiased opinion, they were fabulous.



Christmas fondant sugar cookies

Christmas baking. My family has a tradition of making a new, extravagant treat for family Christmas every year. In the last few years, we've made a gingerbread tree, macarons, hedgehog slice, rocky road and blondies. This year, inspired by the Great British

Bake Off, we set our hearts on fondant sugar cookies. We bought special moulds from a local cake shop, which allowed us to make mini-snowmen and trees. We also experimented with coloured fondants, even dabbling in ombre tones. Overall, they were a success and our family adored them

Going to the cinema. *Avatar: the Way of the Water* was my movie of choice for this expedition. After not being at an in-person venue for so long, it was lovely to sit in the plush chairs and let the movie magic wash over me. The CGI (computer generated imagery) in the film was incredible, as was the plotline. I will definitely be visiting the movies more often, now that restrictions have eased. Obviously, the toffee Choc Top helped add to the experience!

Trying new training: I'm lucky enough that my school ran weights sessions several times a week, available to all students. This is something that I've never really done before, so it was satisfying to push myself out of my comfort zone. It was great to see improvements in strength, as well as meeting new people. I also recently got a gym membership, so have loved trying out all different types of classes. My favourite was Spin Class, and I'm looking forward to trying many more.

Overall, these holidays have been amazing, and I've loved these activities. Hopefully, this article has given you some downtime ideas. Happy New Year.

Madeleine McGregor is a Year 10 secondary student 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.

Commemorative student bricks dug up!

– Hasan Hassan

In September 2022 I was driving west along Belmore Road near Milne Road – where Koonung Heights Primary School once stood (now the Scarborough Square Housing Estate) when I noticed that the terracotta paving bricks and part of the footpath had been roughly dug up and tossed in piles.

These terracotta paving bricks were made by students of Koonung Heights Primary School to commemorate the closing of their school in 1993.

Each tile was made by a student at the school and the designs, drawings, names and comments were each uniquely individual and personal to that student. Once made they were taken by the school to a brickworks in Brunswick to be fired and then placed by the students in what was thought to be a safe place; to be viewed in the future by the people waiting to board the bus at the bus stop at Milne Road (before it was moved further east along Belmore Road).

The terracotta bricks were of local heritage significance and should have been preserved and protected.

What is the Whitehorse Council going to do with the terracotta bricks?



I contacted the Whitehorse Council maintenance department who said that they were a trip hazard and that area including the footpath was being repaved for safety reasons and to restore a grass nature strip to that area. They initially said I could take whatever of the terracotta bricks I wanted.

I explained the bricks historic value and significance and rejected their suggestion to take the bricks – replying that they should be kept, restored and should never have been taken up in the first place.

If they were a trip hazard (which I rejected) they should have been repaired ‘in situ’. It appears that an assessment of the terracotta bricks was not undertaken by Whitehorse Council as the Council officer was not aware of the presence of the students’ terracotta bricks and their significance.

We received an email from the Manager of City Services stating that the terracotta bricks would be kept at the Council depot, cleaned and restored while they determined best how to use them – one suggestion appears to be to make a small wall of the bricks in the pocket park (maintained by the City of Whitehorse) which is beside the current bus stop.

Councillors Prue Cutts and Amanda McNeill are to be commended for their actions after the matter was raised with them.



If there are ex-students from Koonung Heights Primary School or other interested people who have suggestions on what they would like to see done with the terracotta bricks or can contribute more to the story of these ‘terracotta bricks’, you can let Whitehorse Councillors Prue Cutts and Amanda McNeill know your thoughts -they represent ratepayers on the Whitehorse Council serving on the Heritage Steerage Committee. Their contact details can be found on the City of Whitehorse webpage **Councillors** |

Whitehorse City Council or at the Heritage Website www.whitehorseheritage.com under ‘Heritage Information’ sub section ‘Please save our heritage’. Additionally you could contact the Whitehorse Director City Planning Jeff Green and let him know your views on this matter on customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

The concrete paving and terracotta bricks were later removed and the whole area – nature strip, old bus stop and footpath have all since been replaced with concrete. I can only assume and hope that the terracotta bricks were taken to the Council depot for restoration and later restitution as they stated.

Hasan collaborated with Peter in writing this article. Peter is a local resident and has lived in the area for over 65 years and Hasan for over twenty years.

Celebrating 50 years of Ross-Hunt Real Estate

– Rosie Starr

It was 1973 when John Ross & Alan Hunt opened the doors to Ross-Hunt Real Estate on Hamilton Street in the Mont Albert Village. Now exactly 50 years later, John Ross, 87 years young, remains an active director of the company.

John works alongside his daughter Alex, and two grandchildren Rosie and Arran, managing the full-service Real Estate business that has grown to over 50 staff and become the largest independent Owners Corporation service provider in Victoria.

John has discovered in his lifetime that the way business unfolds can often be surprising and unexpected. When he bought a small rent roll to get the business up and running in the 70s, he didn’t know what a ‘Body Corporate’ was, but when it was offered in conjunction with the rental roll he thought he might give it a go.

The primary focus of the business at the time was Sales and Rentals, but John recalls that some of his original Body Corporate clients happened to be active members of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre Club and that numerous members of the club approached Ross-Hunt seeking their Body Corporate services. Word of mouth marketing was alive and well, with more people requesting it, John realised it was time to direct more focus to Body Corporate Management.



Alan retired after a short time with the business, but John continued to build his experience which eventually led to him to becoming President of the Real Estate Agency Association (REAA) and a key figure in the merger of the REAA and RESI to become the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV). John also spent 6 years on a government committee reviewing the Owners Corporation Act.

In the late 1980s, a developer purchased the original Mont Albert office building and it’s two neighbours, including the Mont Albert Bridge club, to turn it into a government office space. Ross-Hunt moved across the road but remained on Hamilton Street. The business eventually outgrew this building, and in 1997 a larger premises was found on Norfolk Road in Surrey Hills, which suited for another 14 years.

Since 2011, Ross-Hunt has been situated in the heart of Surrey Hills, as part of the vibrant Union Road

shopping community. The current building has a uniquely Melbourne feel, with a dynamic history spanning over a century. It has been home to a school, a picture theatre, dance studio, undertaker, play theatre and most recently a clothing factory. Legend even has it that on September 3, 1939, Robert Menzies was watching a film in the building when the film was stopped abruptly. Menzies reportedly stood up in the Theatre to announce that Australia was at war.

Over the years, Ross-Hunt has been proud to be involved in community events in the area including the Surrey Hills Music Festival, Anzac Day services, Lift the Lid Walk for Mental Health and more. Seeing these local events bring the community together has been a highlight of the Ross-Hunt journey for John.

Over its 50 years Ross-Hunt have also been fortunate to have many amazing long-serving staff, with an astounding 17 team members who have spent over 10 years with the company and 7 who have stayed for more than 20 years. This includes John’s secretary Rhonda who holds the record, having worked at Ross-Hunt for over 30 years.

As we take the time to reflect and celebrate this milestone, we would like to thank the Mont Albert and Surrey Hills community for their continued support. We feel excited for the future of Ross-Hunt as a company who aims to remain a down to earth family business that truly cares about our customers and community. We know it will be these core values that will hold us in strong stead for the next 50 years.

Treasures and Tastes at Trinity Market resumes for 2023

Saturday, February 18 at 9am to 1pm
Holy Trinity complex, corner Union Road and Montrose Street, Surrey Hills

After a wonderful Christmas market with over 40 stalls the popular *Treasures and Tastes* community market returns on February 18 at 9.00am.

The market is held on the third Saturday of each month from 9.00am to 1.00pm at Holy Trinity, Surrey Hills. The stalls feature handcrafted items including jewellery, children’s clothing and toys, scarves, bags, cards, health and beauty products, and woodwork. There is also farm fresh produce and eggs, crepes, cakes, biscuits, relishes, honey, dog treats, and plants out on Union Road.

The Treasures Café is open during the morning, so do invite your neighbours and friends to join you there. And you will find a BBQ out in the courtyard.

To see what is available and get market updates please check: www.Facebook.com/TreasuresAndTastesAtTrinity/
Inquiries: 9890 2165



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WHERE? Unit 1, 41 Railway Road (cnr Queen St) Blackburn 3130 (close to Blackburn Railway Station and Bus Terminal)

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info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au ♦ www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au
Email: membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Jeff Beck: guitar genius

– Mike Daly

The world lost an extraordinary number of notable musicians in 2022, including our own Archie Roach, Olivia Newton-John, the Seekers' Judith Durham and The Saints' Chris Bailey. Recently, the death of David Crosby (of The Byrds and Crosby Stills Nash & Young fame) marked the end of an era that evolved from the late '60s hippiedom of California's Laurel Canyon to Woodstock's 1969 music festival and beyond.

Woodstock organiser Michael Lang was another recent casualty, along with Jerry Lee Lewis, Fleetwood Mac's Christine McVie, Ronnie Hawkins, Meatloaf, Procol Harum's Gary Brooker, Foo Fighters' drummer Taylor Hawkins, Yes drummer Alan White, Vangelis, The Crickets' Jerry Allison and Bachman Turner Overdrive's Robbie Bachman.

But the loss felt most acutely by aficionados of the electric guitar was that of Jeff Beck, surely one of his generation's most innovative and influential musicians.

Beck, 78, succumbed to bacterial meningitis. Like many of his generation (Paul McCartney is 80 and the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger and Keith Richards are 79) he had still been actively recording and touring, guesting on other people's



album: 'Emotion and Commotion'.

Here, he delivers a delicate rendition of Benjamin Britten's 'Corpus Christi Carol', explodes into 'Hammerhead' full of wah-wah effects and full-on, killer rock riffs, then delivers a heartbreaking rendition of 'Nessun Dorma' from Puccini's 'Turandot'. As friend Eric Clapton observed, waiting in the wings at one concert: 'How do you follow that: it's a showstopper.'

Beck's mother loved classical music, his father was a jazz aficionado and Beck, like many of his contemporaries (including boyhood pal Jimmy Page) became heavily influenced by US blues and rockabilly music, from Lonnie Mack and Roy Buchanan to Gene Vincent's Blue Caps

records (Stevie Wonder, for example, on 'Superstition') as well as indulging in his long-time passion for building and driving hot rod car.

Beck's mastery of the Fender Stratocaster and Telecaster, as well as the Gibson Les Paul, was the envy of contemporaries and critics alike. He also had the unique ability to marry dazzling technique with sublime lyricism, epitomised in the title of his 2010

guitarist Cliff Gallup, but most notably Les Paul's multi-track recordings. Check out Jeff's 'Rock 'n' Roll Party' live DVD, honouring Paul.

Beck initially played with blues rockers The Tridents in Chiswick (south-west London) later joining Page in The Yardbirds, after Eric Clapton departed to hone his blues chops with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers.

He could produce any sound he wanted with the use of pedals, whammy bar, string bending and feedback. One of The Yardbirds' big hits, 'Over Under Sideways Down', was to feature a sitar player but they balked at the unusual rock rhythm and quit the session. Beck, undaunted, improvised a sitar sound on his guitar instead and it became the single's defining feature.

Page, in a touching tribute, described Beck as 'the six-stringed warrior', Mick Jagger called him 'one of the greatest guitar players in the world' and Ronnie Wood said he felt 'like one of my band of brothers has left this world, and I'm going to dearly miss him.'

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

A feast for music lovers

No matter what your tastes in music, if you live in the catchment area for *Eastsider News*, you are well served for choice as a listener or a performer. The Camberwell Music Society is just one organisation amongst many others that stage regular events. We would love to hear from those who are into other musical genres so we can keep our readers up to date with what is happening out there.

The Camberwell Music Society presents an exciting array of classical music performed by national and international



artists of the highest calibre. All concerts are held at the historic Camberwell Uniting Church at 314 Camberwell Road, Camberwell.

The CMS's next evening concert is on 4 March at 7.30pm and will feature Hannah Shin, one of Australia's most exciting young piano talents. This solo recital will include works by Bach, Haydn, Chopin and Liszt.

Their evening concert on 9 May is with the newly appointed Artistic Director of the Australian, National Academy of Music, Paavali Jumppanen. The Finnish virtuoso, Paavali is joined by string musicians from ANAM in presenting one of the iconic masterworks of Romantic

chamber music, Schumann's epic Piano Quintet in E flat major, Op 44.

The next CMS morning concert is on 28 March at 10.30am. Wenhong Luo, one of Australia's most sought-after chamber musicians and viola soloists will be playing Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata. Other pieces include works by Ravel, Hindemith and Tchaikovsky.

For information on how to book for each concert, go to the CMS website at <http://www.camberwellmusic.org.au/>

The kindness of strangers

– Bryan Long

In our mid-fifties, my wife and I were hardly typical backpackers traveling in Norway, but we were certainly enjoying the unspoiled fishing villages and the rich historic sites. Alesund, on the west coast, with its turn-of-the-century Art Nouveau buildings and its superb views of the surrounding islands was a great jumping-off point for a number of trips.

Upon our arrival we saw that the Rainbow Warrior was berthed in the harbour, and always interested in environmental issues, we were soon engaged in conversation with Thomas, a young Dane doing volunteer work with Greenpeace.

It wasn't long before we were enjoying coffee in the crew's quarters. Our conversation turned to our next port of call – Copenhagen and our accommodation – youth hostels! 'Youth hostels are sh--', he said bluntly, and reaching into his pocket he thrust something into the top pocket of my anorak.

It was a key – the key to his flat in Copenhagen. 'Stay there', he said, 'you are most welcome.' Protesting that we were complete strangers I firmly returned his key but just as quickly it was replaced in my pocket. 'My bed will be empty, use it,' he said. The key went back and forth a few times but he was insistent.

His logic was simple. The room was there. The bed was not being used. We were most welcome. The end result was that we spent a week in his flat right in the centre of Copenhagen. His flat mate Heinrich, returned some days later, and could not have been more welcoming, advising us what to see, making telephone calls on our behalf, arranging meals, and generally being the perfect host

He would accept no money and when we left he provided us with a wonderful, celebratory, farewell Danish dinner – and packaged lunches for the journey. We were literally overwhelmed with their kindness.

Years on, we continually wonder if we could do something similar – give the key to our home to a complete stranger and say, 'We're not using it at the moment, and you're most welcome'. Shamefully, I still



don't think I could, but Thomas and Heinrich remain in our thoughts as beacons of hospitality.

Although many unkind acts occur in our world, it is my contention that acts of kindness and hospitality far outweigh them, but perhaps this kind of good news is so commonplace that it does not attract attention. People like Thomas and Heinrich, and countless others, contribute actively and probably unknowingly, to reminding us that the unexpected can be one of the ultimate joys of life's journey.

U3A Ringwood offers a diverse array of courses for 2023

– Lynn Blackbell

U3A Ringwood invites you to explore its offerings for 2023. In addition to the courses it ran during 2022, there are three new weekly classes that we are sure will interest our members.

- Chess – *The World Game*, is a weekly class designed to attract novices, Grand Masters and potential world champions.
- Revolutions, will look particularly at the Russian and Chinese Revolutions, both important events in world history.
- Advanced French. Approximately equivalent to Year 11, this weekly Class will include discussion, verb revision, comprehension, effective communication, reading and translation.

During Term 1, we will be conducting two special presentations. These are held in the Kevin Pratt Pavilion premises on Mullum Mullum Road Ringwood and both members and non-members can attend.

On Tuesday 7 March at 1.30pm, members of Realm Library will invite you to *Discover Your Library*. As a modern library, Realm provides much more than traditional book borrowing services, including special events, collections and reference materials.



The second, to be held later in Term 1, will be a wide-ranging discussion of wills. This Presentation will be made by a current practicing lawyer experienced in this field and employed by McCracken and McCracken.

When confirmed, the date will be publicised on our website. We suggest you be quick to register your interest at info@u3aringwood.org.au as this will be a popular topic.

If you are interested in becoming a member of U3A Ringwood, you can come to the office at 35-39 Tortoise Drive Ringwood North, phone the office on 048 591 224, or go online at www.u3aringwood.org.au.

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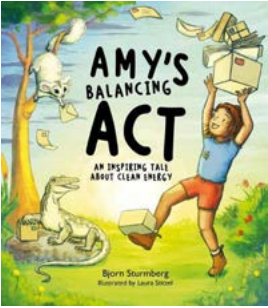
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Book review

– Barbara Fraser

Amy’s Balancing Act – An inspiring tale about clean energy, by Bjorn Sturmborg, illustrations by Laura Stitzel, NSW, Little Steps Publishing, 2022

Dr Bjorn Sturmborg is an expert on clean energy at ANU. He wanted to write a book for primary school children, their parents, grandparents and others which explains clean energy and climate in a simple way.



Much of the book is about energetic Amy who delivers the mail in an imaginary place named Energia, and how she had to change from the old to the new way of delivery. She represents Australian Energy, her old horse Clyde represents fossil fuels, and I’m leaving you to work out who the other delightful characters stand for. Of course, the story ends with everyone happy!

The book cost me about \$30 and is worth it. It is clever, important and bound to delight and inform young and old. As a great-grandmother and retired professional educator, I am suggesting a primary teacher could help their class present it as a play with everyone involved.

Congratulations and many thanks to Dr Sturmborg.

Reflections on the Franklin River

The power of community

– Kelly Sinfield of the Wilderness Society East Group

Climate and nature were undoubtedly the hot topic of last year’s Victorian state election. Calls to stop logging of native forests galvanised environmentally concerned voters and reminded many of the powerful community campaign of the 1980s that stopped the damming of the Franklin River.

In the lead-up to November 26, 300 to 400 Hawthorn residents attended Lighter Footprints’ Hawthorn Candidates Forum to hear what our local candidates for the Lower House had to say on climate. The protection of Victoria’s native forests was a popular topic at the forum. The Wilderness Society East Group used the results of a survey they had previously undertaken to frame their questions to candidates around the pulping of Victoria’s tall forests. News coverage at the time had confirmed this to be an issue that the Hawthorn electorate cared about.

In mid-November, the Wilderness Society put forests on the agenda again when the group held a special screening of the documentary *Franklin* at the Lido in Hawthorn. Sixty environmentally concerned locals attended and received a short introduction from one of our East community group members and an update on The Wilderness Society’s Tall Forests Campaign.

The fight to save the Franklin River from being dammed in the 1980s has been one of Australia’s most significant environmental battles. Captured in this compelling documentary is the story of how the wild Tasmanian river was saved, and the touching personal journey of Tassie



At the cinema, Wilderness Society East Group members: Behzad, Kelly, Ila, Maude and Richard. Photo: Ben Fletcher at Pause The Moment Photography.

local, Oliver Cassidy, as he rafts 14 days down the river to reach the historic site of the blockade, retracing his late father’s journey.

Along with Cassidy’s father, 6000 people were involved in the peaceful but strongly defiant campaign that after eight years eventually prevented the proposed hydroelectric scheme from being built on the river. If the dam had gone ahead, it would have caused irrevocable damage to World Heritage recognised values, and flooded sites of immeasurable importance to Aboriginal people that date back millennia.

Compelling in so many ways, *Franklin* takes viewers on the emotional rollercoaster between hope and despair that is par for the course in activism. It inspires us to reflect and remember that there is power in community. Community activism is more than the sum of its parts and when we come together, we can achieve great things.

With the results of the state election behind us, Victorians have made clear that they want to see further government action on issues affecting climate and nature. Ninety nine percent of those who completed our survey agreed that the next Victorian state government must value and protect forests to support wildlife, clean air and water for communities, and undertake respectful agreement making with Traditional Owners.

However, the Victorian state government doesn’t plan to phase out native forest logging until 2030, and endangered species can’t wait. Our tall forests provide vital habitat to critically endangered species such as the leadbeater’s possum and the greater glider. They provide Melbourne with clean drinking water and are home to carbon-dense Mountain Ash trees that are vital for carbon sequestration and storage now and for the future.

If you want to take community action for Victoria’s forests in the East, complete our Volunteer Sign Up form and we’ll put you in touch with your local community group: <https://www.wilderness.org.au/community-power/movement-for-life>

For further discussion on the matters raised here, go to the following online sites:

Victorian state election 2022: Hawthorn candidates make pitches on how they would tackle climate change at town hall forum (theage.com.au)

FRANKLIN – feature documentary (franklinriver.movie)

Wilderness Society | Our story

Twenty six year old Kelly Sinfield has lived and worked in the eastern suburbs for five years and is currently located in Hawthorn. She loves to spend time in nature, and joined the Wilderness Society East group after recognising its fundamental role for her wellbeing. Kelly loves to learn and share knowledge, and believes curiosity and collaboration are catalysts for positive social change.

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.

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.

Dear Editor

Each new year provides an opportunity for new beginnings. As such, many of us make new year’s resolutions. Improving our health remains the most popular personal goal in Australia but being more sustainable is slowly climbing the list.

The good news is that living more sustainably is almost always healthier. Thus, we can tick off both goals with the same actions. Eating less meat and dairy, for example, is better for our health and better for the environment. Likewise, riding a bike instead of driving the car is wonderful

exercise and reduces emissions, and veggie gardening offers outdoor activity and fresh, healthy, local food.

We are fortunate in eastern Melbourne to have many food choices, bike lanes, green spaces, community gardens, parks and local shopping centres accessible by bike.

So, fellow community members, let’s stop making new years’ resolutions we don’t keep and instead make lifestyle choices that tick two or three boxes in one sweep. After all, healthy humans rely on a healthy planet.

Amy Hiller, Kew

A letter from the past

– Carolyn Ingvarson

In cleaning up some old papers recently, I stumbled upon a yellowed copy of *The Age Letters to the Editor* from December 31, 2014 (below), in which was published my furious response to Tony Abbott’s comments that removing the carbon tax was a gift to women. It was headed ‘Trading our future for a handful of silver.’ It was tweeted by Malcolm Fraser and I’m told went ‘viral’.

The anger expressed in that letter on behalf of women, barely let up over the following eight years as the then Australian government failed to address what was needed to avert what was being predicted. You can thank in large part, the fed-up women of Australia for voting them out.

And you can thank the brave women who stood up as independents to challenge ‘good guy’ members who had gone along with the long standing approach of ‘climate-do-nothingness.’ Those women’s stances – outside of party protection – took guts, and gave people the chance to demonstrate how much they wanted to see change, by voting out these long standing members.

But it hasn’t stopped climate change! Here we are – experiencing its appalling consequences, now at least, with hope that things will change with this government. The task is now so much harder eight years on, thanks to mistaken views like Tony Abbott’s making us take backward steps.

For me, and so many of the women I know, 2023 offers us the chance that we might yet build a nation we want to live in. Truth is the women of Australia never could be

told what to think by Tony Abbott – and they will demand nothing less than pitching in now to keep this planet safe!

Tony Abbott trading our future for a handful of silver

I’ve been pondering Tony Abbott’s comments that the carbon tax removal was a gift to me, a woman. I felt rage that he thinks I could be bought by a few dollars – when the price is the continued rise in carbon emissions fuelling climate change. I watch my garden die despite the (tank) water I pour on to it; I am fearful of taking my grandkids to the holiday house in the bush

when this summer’s fire risk is predicted to be so high – month after month has been the hottest on record; I suffer from despair, verging on depression, at the legacy my family will face of the deliberate winding down of the renewables industry; I fume at the propping-up of old greenhouse gas pumping industries, when everyone knows they are making us and the planet sick. So, Tony, don’t ask me to thank you for trading my family’s future for a handful of silver. I will thank you when you lift your head to look beyond immediate political gain, and act for the future based on a sustainable, low-carbon economy. And so will my kids. Carolyn Ingvarson – Canterbury

An event not to miss: Energy update

Director of the Smart Energy Council, Simon Holmes à Court will give an energy update in the Chandelier Room of the Hawthorn Arts Centre on Wednesday 22 February at 7:30 pm.

Simon’s presentations are always well attended. The event is free but a donation is appreciated. Book (for each individual) now at lighterfootprints.org/events to ensure you don’t miss out.

Plastic, plastic, everywhere

– Sal Dugan

Modern living equates with plastic. We wear it, play with it, fill our shopping with it, eat with it, indeed, even eat it. We fill our rivers and oceans with it, we trap birds, fish, snakes, insects, spiders and other creatures with it, whether intended or not.

According to Lee Tulloch's insightful piece (Traveller, The Age, 2 December) in the region of 12 million tonnes of plastics flow into the world's oceans every year, and suggests a further 1.3 billion tonnes will be added to that over the next couple of decades. Microplastics are among this number, and it's they that are consumed by marine life, and in turn by us when we enjoy a delicious but possibly plastic-ridden and toxic seafood feast.

Even washing our clothes may add to the microplastics entering the marine system, given most clothing these days is manufactured using synthetic materials, such as nylon, polyester, and acrylics. If we use grey water for our veggie gardens, we are feeding the vegetables with microplastics; if we don't, we are sending them into wastewater, which eventually makes its way into the river systems and eventually to the seas. Depressing, isn't it.



So, it is timely that the Victorian government has now fallen into line with wiser states by introducing a broader ban on single-use plastics from sale or supply on 1 February, 2023. This ban includes both the selling and manufacture of plastic straws, cutlery of all sorts, plates, drink stirrers and cotton bud sticks, expanded polystyrene food and drink containers, including plates, cups, bowls, clam shells, covers and lids, and the squishy trays beneath supermarket meats.

This ban also includes biodegradable materials as, although they do break down over a very long time, they are mostly not organic and just disintegrate into tiny pieces which, when littered, can still harm wildlife.

The ban, to be enacted by regulation, applies to all businesses and organisations, with exemptions for disability or medical reasons, health and safety or where suitable alternatives are not currently available. Let us hope that it is adequately policed.

But does it go far enough? What about the plastic stickers that are found on fruits? Or plastic bread tags that cause havoc amongst our birdlife? The plastic soy sauce fish that are such an institution in the takeaway sushi culture? And the ubiquitous coffee pods, of which, it is estimated, some three million per day end up in Australian landfill.

There are countless unnecessary plastic objects we could live without. Think of some and send your suggestions to Eastsider News, with ideas on how we can eliminate them from our lives.

A start would be to support your local butchers and greengrocers in preference to buying the shrink-wrapped plastics that surround meat, vegetables and fruit in supermarkets. If that's not possible, demand plastics be removed at point of sale at the local supermarket. Just make sure to take appropriate multi-use containers to "rehouse" your purchases.

It's commendable that the Victorian Government is taking a stronger stand on the single-use plastics issue, but do keep encouraging them to go further. Refundable drink bottles, both plastic and glass, would be a massive achievement. Let's push it!

References for this article include Sustainability Victoria's website here: <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/in-a-business-2/single-use-plastics-ban-centre> and the South Australian government website here: <https://www.replacethewaste.sa.gov.au/>. You can read Lee Tulloch's article here: <https://www.traveller.com.au/plastic-pollution-in-oceans-what-can-travellers-do-about-it-h28585>



Agustina sails across the nation

This article is, hopefully, the beginning of a series focusing on the voyages of Agustina, who can traverse deserts and mountains, cross rivers and cruise contentedly down the highways of this great nation.

So, who is Agustina? A banal description is 'an off-road, off-grid camper'. However, she is so much more. As a retired couple (yes, Covid finished off all pretences of work for us peripatetic science/education academics), we decided that exploring Australia would be the best way to continue to learn and grow through travel. And we wanted to do it in affordable style.

Agustina is compact (smaller than her travel companion, Big Red, Range Rover Sport); easy to tow (good fuel economy); and opens up to an extremely comfortable sleeping and living area. The name? Agustina (feminine version of Augustine) means great or magnificent; a very apt name. The 'Ag' is a chemist's insider reference to her wonderful silver coating. We had to wait a year for Agustina (we all know the trials and travails of the supply of almost everything these days), but the wait was worth it.

In early December we set off to drive to Perth to celebrate David's 70th birthday with friends and family. We only had 30 days for this Great Trek to Western Australia and back due to commitments in Melbourne at both ends. Agustina's total for this 30-day trip was about 7450 km, with Big Red driving close to 8000 km.

Agustina loved the subtle and ever-changing hues of the Nullarbor; appreciated the windswept grandeur of the Great Australian Bight; enjoyed the quirkiness of many country towns; nurtured us as we recovered from (thankfully mild) Covid camping in a friend's vineyard in Margaret River; and rejoiced in the admiration of WA friends and family. We had a great time too.

Some folk think that the Nullarbor is boring; I don't. Constantly shifting colours of the grey-green shrubs against the red-brown soil, with brighter greens and orange-yellows in the bigger shrubs and small trees: colours also changing with the time of day. We were surprised to see so many trees on the 'treeless plain'. I have crossed the Nullarbor by car four times and once by train; I have loved every minute of this stretch of Australia and do not think I will ever tire of it. So much more

complex and interesting than the seemingly never-ending grain fields at either end. More about that later.

While the trip was a splendid sojourn, there was a downside that we all need to think about. We saw increasing signs of deforestation since our last trek across the nation in 2019: more denuded agricultural land and clear evidence of the continued logging of native forests.

The number and size of the salt pans we saw has also significantly increased. We know the science of how trees keep the water table down through transpiration; we also know how the runoff from baked soils and the residues from agricultural chemicals contribute to salinity in shallow water tables. We, as a literate community, have known this science for decades. However, knowing something intellectually and actually experiencing a phenomenon are two separate things.

For us, seeing the ongoing devastation of our beloved land was heartbreaking. 'We reap what we sow' though, in this case, we reap what we have cut down. Yes, we need agricultural land but there are sustainable ways to produce food that focus on ensuring that natural

resources (especially water and top soil) remain viable in the long term. We do not need to cut down native forests, most of which logged timber goes into wood chips for low-grade timber products. Our tracts of native land are precious resources as carbon sinks and havens for biodiversity.

Our adventures with Agustina will continue. We will continue to explore the splendour of this 'wide brown land'. We hope that its 'beauty and its terror' will remain for our grandchildren to love and cherish.

* Attribution to Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'My country' <https://www.dorotheamackellar.com.au/my-country/> (though I would remove most of the cattle and other hard-hoofed animals from our land to protect our fragile top soil).

Carmel McNaught is an Emeritus Professor of Learning Enhancement at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her peripatetic academic career ended with the COVID pandemic. She now finds writing about life more exciting than producing academic papers and books. Email: carmel.mcnaught@cuhk.edu.hk

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MEET THE LOCALS

Anne Payne OAM

– Glenys Grant



Anne Payne and her husband Ian have lived, with their family, close to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, for 55 years. She was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia Queens Birthday Honours List in 2020.

She spoke about the passion that motivates her contributions to her local community. 'We have been involved with this wonderful piece of bushland in the middle of suburbia, all our married lives. The Advisory Committee, Environment Education Program, Water Watch monitoring, working bees and the Visitor Centre are essential to the ongoing management and planning for this bushland.'

'I get much pleasure from working at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and several other smaller bushland spaces tucked away in the City of Whitehorse. I have made so many precious friendships, learnt so much about our environment, the fragility of our bushland and been able to share that knowledge to school groups and the many visitors.'

Anne and her husband are also involved with several advocacy groups in Blackburn. These include The Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society, Blackburn Village residents group and CROWAG (Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group). As a member of Papermakers of Australia, Anne also enjoys making her own paper, using natural fibres.

Anne commented: 'Living in such a beautiful place as we do, I feel strongly that development in our community

must consider the need for a balanced environment. Sensible housing and supporting all who deserve comfortable accommodation, passive recreational spaces, tree canopy, and a habitat for our wildlife to survive both in our own gardens and public spaces, are essential.'

For the past six years, she has worked with the Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife Program as a garden guide, a program run with support of Whitehorse Council.

She explained, 'We are a group of volunteers who visit residents, schools and kindergarten gardens, to help them achieve the goal of enhancing their gardens to provide a habitat supporting our local wildlife, be it birds, insects, bugs, or creatures.'

To quote Anne, 'The Order of Australia award I received in 2020 really should be for all those who have provided me with their inspiration, passion, and friendship.'

The cycleway threat to our Boroondara parks

– Ian Hundley

How enjoyable and relaxing is it to walk through the local park – lost in thought? Walking the dog? And casting the trials and tribulations of your day, if not out of your mind completely, at least to the back of your mind for a while. Walking is the most common form of exercise of all. And it's no wonder. We are made for it.

But walking as a form of exercise in Boroondara is under threat. This is especially so in the northeast of the municipality, where Boroondara Council is, by a process of attrition, and though unannounced, chiseling a cycleway through several parks. The parks include Hays Paddock, Harrison Reserve, Stradbroke Park, Myrtle and Macleay Parks, Hislop Park and Jacka Reserve.

Whilst not incorporated into the Bicycle Strategy, proposed Council works that have been foreshadowed compel that conclusion. There is a three metre wide concrete corridor targeted for Jacka Reserve, a three



The threat in Myrtle Park, North Balwyn: There are bicycles, electric bicycles and e-scooters headed our way.

metre wide concrete stabilized path through Gordon Barnard Reserve, a signaled crossing of Balwyn Road in North Balwyn, a three metre wide concrete stabilized concrete path extended through Hays Paddock for connection to the Principal Bicycle Network.

With just a few bits to fill in, there would be a continuous cycleway through our parks for about five kilometres.

The undeclared Council objective to incorporate these parks as a feeder route into the Principal Bicycle Network would be complete.

If this 'stealth' project comes to fruition, for the sake of our physical health we will need to be constantly on guard against cyclists and scooter riders who commonly ride at speeds up to 30 kilometres per hour. So much for the relaxing walk.

And have you noticed how the road rules in relation to cycling are not promoted, nor complied with anymore? Cycling on footpaths – and at speed – is now common place. And there is no enforcement action to speak of.

E-scooters are another thing. A trial of e-scooters in the inner suburbs of Melbourne appears to have descended into chaos, with several serious crashes.

And these vehicles are also seen in parks in Boroondara, in contravention of the law.

The most alarming thing now, the way Boroondara Council is headed, is that our parks are surreptitiously being repurposed as corridors for cyclists and would, as a consequence, cease to be parks worth having.



L > R: Catherine Krestyn, President & Jennie Irving Vice President BHRR

We 'get' hard rubbish!

– Jennie Irving and Catherine Krestyn

Who hasn't driven past a pile of hard rubbish on the nature strip and thought 'What a waste!' Or stopped for a furtive rummage to pick up something they could use. Perhaps you're quite relaxed poking around a pile, finding items you can donate to local op shops.

As kids, we spent countless hours delighting in the treasures to be found in hard rubbish piles. Not much has changed!

In September 2022, after extensive research and planning, coupled with our passion for sustainability, we saw a gap in local solutions to the hard rubbish issue. This led to us proudly co-founding Boroondara Hard Rubbish Rehome Inc. (BHRR).

BHRR is a sustainability-focused community group. Non-profit and entirely volunteer-run, it retrieves useable resources from hard rubbish piles and gives them a new life, rehoming them with both charitable organisations and individuals. It also provides a platform for members to rehome their own surplus items – for free.

Access and knowledge are huge issues. Many people want to find new homes for things, but don't know where or how. Hard rubbish is often a reluctantly used last resort. This is where BHRR can help. It provides a space for good items to be kept in circulation by creating community connections, meeting needs by rehoming surplus items before these end up on local nature strips. This is also helping to shift our concept of hard rubbish items as 'waste' to one of 'resources'.

As two individuals, we have single-handedly rescued over 5,000 kgs of good items from hard rubbish piles. These have been rehomed through the BHRR Facebook community and local charities. This supports the BHRR goals of growing the circular economy with practical, local solutions, but also building a supportive, caring Rehome community, now numbering nearly 3000.

Community outreach is a key focus of BHRR. The huge quantity and variety of resources rescued from hard rubbish have enabled BHRR to support a wide variety of organisations and individuals. To date, these have included Fitted for Work, Avalon Centre, PALMS, Brotherhood Books, North Balwyn Rotary and Hawthorn Rotary, RSPCA and other animal welfare organisations, physiotherapists and in-home carers,

teachers, kindergartens, local artists, community centres, community gardens, international students and other new arrivals to Melbourne.

The 1000s of kilograms of electrical appliances, towels, kitchenware, bedding, clothing, mobility aids, bags, books, pet equipment, toys, books, games, furniture, tools, stationery, rugs, curtains, DVDs, ironing boards, sports and camping equipment, prams and other baby-related equipment that have been rescued from hard rubbish piles now have a new life where they are needed, instead of being sent to landfill.

BHRR has quickly become a valuable community asset. We see the enormous potential in linking people not just to resources, but also to each other. It's a real community win-win!

For more information, visit BHRR on Facebook here: <https://www.Facebook.com/groups/809680593385005/>

Catherine Krestyn – Hawthorn
Jennie Irving – Camberwell
boroondarahardrubbishrehome@gmail.com



Storybook Trail

If you are looking for an activity for the children, a visit to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary could be worth considering.

Apart from the wonderful playground, children can engage with the Storybook trail that has been installed in the picnic area, accessed from Central Road, Blackburn.

The storybook is Adam Goodes' and Ellie Laing's book, 'Somebody's Land' and illustrated by David Hardy. The story is told as a walk around the various stations, beginning near the Visitor's Centre. The installation will be up until the 28th February.



Pages on display while walking the storybook trail

CAMBERWELL HOCKEY CLUB

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Registrations now open for 2023 season

All skill levels welcome and invited

Come and try days now available contact clubadmin@camberwellhockeyclub.com.au for more details

Winner - Jellis Craig Community Awards | Most Inclusive Club - Boroondara Awards

Liveable Cities

In 2022, Melbourne was named both Australia's most liveable city and the 10th in the world by the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index. The title is awarded to the city with the highest score for stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

The concept of a liveable city has numerous dimensions according to what you consider enriches your life in a city. For some, it is a measure of how easy it is for you to earn a living; for others it is the ability to regularly

connect with the natural world. Over many years, planning policy has given priority to those elements which enable economic and commercial interests to flourish. This emphasis has seen a relative neglect of social and environmental factors that strengthen community, enrich everyday life and enhance the security and health of residents and visitors.

In the words of the RMIT University's Centre of Urban Research, 'In a time of rapid population growth, a changing climate, and volatile global economic conditions, the need to improve how our cities work has never been more urgent.'

Cities are described by the Centre as '... the foundations of our economic, social and environmental wellbeing.' To build this wellbeing, they consider it is necessary to create a '... better understanding and insight into policy, planning and decision-making in areas such as urban environments, resource and energy use, infrastructure and mobility, liveability and, resilience and adaptation.'

To read more about planning to create liveable cities, a good starting point would be the Centre for Urban Research website here:
<https://cur.org.au/projects/>

Green Open Space

– Elizabeth Meredith

During the long COVID lockdowns, isolated from family and friends, the dog and I shared about 600 mealtimes. However, even as I delayed cleaning out some cupboards, I realised how lucky I was to have windows looking out on a soft green garden, and to have a park close by where my small canine companion could frolic.

I must admit that I was a little envious of her ability to mingle with her doggy friends, while I wore a mask and kept a polite distance from other humans. All this made me think of the many people in small apartments which lacked sunlight, or whose windows looked out onto brick walls or paling fences; and who had no parkland close by.

Having lived in such apartments in my younger days, when I came to live in what was then 'leafy Surrey Hills',



I realised how valuable green open space could be for one's wellbeing. Subsequent research across the world has supported this, identifying positive physical and mental health outcomes. In particular, some research has shown the beneficial effects on childhood mental development.

Whitehorse Council debated its Open Space Strategy in 2007. I, on behalf of the local resident association [then WERA], put in a submission for open space in Surrey Hills and Mont Albert. The subsequent report indicated that these suburbs had only about 2 percent open space. This compared unfavourably with all the other parts of Whitehorse, some areas having four to five times as much! Acquisition of new open space was recommended.

Fast forward to 2022, and the Council is reviewing its Open Space Strategy. Even though increasing medium and higher density development has occurred, and is occurring, in these suburbs, there has been no real visible

gain in any public open space. even as private open space is lost. Despite population increase, only a couple of single, easily overshadowed, household blocks have been provided, while the irreparable destruction of Lorne Parade Reserve with the level crossing removal, has led to a total negative outcome.

These suburbs still have about the lowest percentage of open space in Melbourne, with no basketball, netball or accessible tennis courts.

While Council has spent millions on buildings for a golf course at the eastern perimeter, we can only hope that it will find a similar amount for some green open space for this part of the city. After all, Box Hill, Surrey Hills and Mont Albert provide most of the developer open space donations.

Go to the City of Whitehorse website here to follow progress on their review of the Open Space Strategy:
<https://yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/open-space-strategy>



Doncaster Camera Club Photography Exhibition

The members at Doncaster Camera Club are looking forward to another exciting, busy and enjoyable year. We commenced the year with a photography competition titled Forms in Nature, after which we showed some very clever and entertaining Audio Visuals produced by our members.

In March, Doncaster Camera Club will be holding a public Photography Exhibition. There will be a large display of prints and as well as a projected display of digital photos and Audio Visuals. We are really hoping that many people will come along and view the impressive and extensive work of our members.

The Exhibition dates are Friday 17 March from 4pm to 8pm, and Saturday 18 March from 10am to 4 pm at The East Doncaster Baptist Church, 45-47 Tunstall Road, East Doncaster. Entry cost is \$5.00 entry and refreshments will be available.

Do check out our website and put the dates of our Exhibition in your diaries. We look forward to your support.

Contact the Club by email on doncastercameraclub@gmail.com or by post at Pam Rixon, Secretary DCC, PO Box 2043 Box Hill North VIC 3129.

To find out more about the group, check out their Instagram account at [doncaster.camera.club](https://www.instagram.com/doncaster.camera.club); go to their Facebook page at [doncaster.camera.club](https://www.facebook.com/doncaster.camera.club) – Melbourne; or go to their website at www.doncastercameraclub.org.au



1. Michael Walker 2. Marg Walton 3. Pamela Rixon 4. Peter Stone



Free English Conversation Classes

Manningham Uniting Church runs English Conversation Classes for people of all nationalities with English as a second language. It is held at their Church and Community Centre in Wood Street Templestowe, between 10 – 11.30am each Friday, during Victorian School terms.

It is a relaxed class, run by volunteers, open to those who may be starting to learn English, through to those who want to brush up on their conversational skills.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in attending, please contact Manningham Uniting Church Ph: 9846 2012 or email: info@manninghamuc.org



Manningham
Uniting Church

Never Give Up

– Owen Clarke

You may think that you've had enough,
But never, never ever, give up.
And even when you feel all scarred
And you have troubles by the yard,
Never, never ever give up.
When it seems all your friends don't like you,
And everyone bullies and strikes you.
Know every road has its bumps and ruts.
You don't think it, but you do have guts
So never, never, ever give up...

We have published only the first 10 lines of this inspiring poem by Owen Clarke here. You are encouraged to go to our [Eastsider Extra](https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/poetry/never-give-up-a-poem-by-owen-clarke/) blog at <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/poetry/never-give-up-a-poem-by-owen-clarke/> to read the poem in full. The complete poem continues this powerful message about the importance of courage in difficult times.



Fed up with far too much tree loss in our suburbs?

Public Forum SAVE OUR CANOPY TREES

The Hub, 96 Springvale Road Nunawading
1st April, 2023, 1.30 - 5.00 pm. It's FREE

Keynote speaker - Dr Greg Moore OAM.

Chair National Trust Victoria's Register of Significant Tree Committee

[Click Here to Book Today or find more details.](#)

Combined Residents of Whitehorse
Action Group Inc. www.crowag.com



HEALTH: What are green prescriptions and which countries offer them?

– Douglas Broom. Senior Writer, Formative Content World Economic Forum

The following article is an extract of a longer article. The complete article was first published on the World Economic Forum website site in February 2022. Links to that article are at the end of this piece. Thank you to the Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group (WATAG) for bringing it to our attention.

For many people, a visit to the doctor often ends with a medication prescription. But what if your doctor prescribed a walk in the park instead of conventional medicine? Canada has become the latest nation where GPs are doing just that....

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes nature as ‘our greatest source of health and wellbeing’ and says enhancing biodiversity is critical to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the mental health benefits of getting out into the great outdoors have long been recognized, so-called green prescriptions are now being widely used to treat physical conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and lung diseases.

Scientists say the health value of spending time in nature goes beyond the psychological. Research suggests contact with microbes in the environment can ‘train’ our immune systems and reinforce the microbial communities on our skin, in our airways and guts.

Researchers say that venturing out into nature has been shown to improve sleep, reduce stress and boost happiness, as well as increase attention, memory and creativity, according to the *New Scientist* magazine.

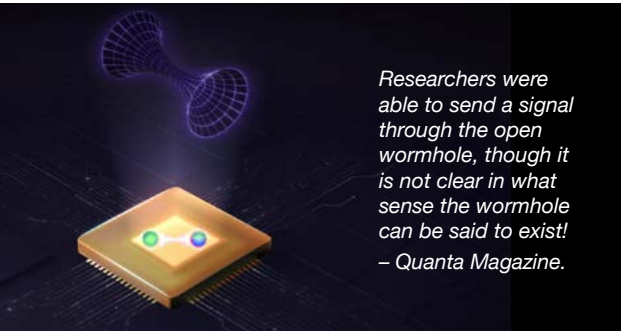
To read the full article, please go to <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/green-prescriptions-health-wellbeing/>

Through a space-time Wormhole?

– Malcolm Cameron

Many claim 2022 was the premier year for science ever. Premier when compared to discoveries of Ancient Greece; Isaac Newton in 1687; Albert Einstein in 1905 and 1915; and Quantum Mechanics in the mid-1920s. It would be sad not to be aware of this claim reported in *Nature* journal in December 2022 and be part of the excitement.

It's like this. After the 1930s, physics was left with General Relativity on the cosmological scale governed by gravity; and Quantum Mechanics on the atomic/subatomic scale. Both theories met every subsequent experimental test but fail to fit together. Worse still, Relativity implies possible ‘wormholes’ transporting things instantly between end-points in space or time. And Quantum Mechanics allows for ‘entanglement’ of particles linking two particles together as they move apart even to other



Researchers were able to send a signal through the open wormhole, though it is not clear in what sense the wormhole can be said to exist! – *Quanta Magazine*.

sides of the universe. (No wonder our education system cuts off before the above dates of Relativity and Quantum Mechanics although that makes the education hardly worth the name.)

Entanglement to Einstein was ‘spooky action at a distance’ so he did not like Quantum Mechanics. But now entanglement has shot up in importance as it allows new kinds of computations using ‘qubits’ as applied commercially in Quantum Computing.

So, what happened in 2022? First, in 2013 wormholes in space-time were spectacularly postulated to be equivalent to quantum entanglement. Two incompatible theories predict the same thing! Then in January 2022, a group at the California Institute of Technology indirectly saw qubits passing through a wormhole using a Google quantum computer.

The year 2022 was a great time to be alive – the best time ever in physics. The reaction ranged from enthusiasm to doubt. Of course, *Eastsider News* readers won't completely understand the physics or computing but we should demand to be part of the news audience. And, if you want something to study, then choose to study the most difficult subject ever.

To get more detail about this story, Malcolm suggests you google *Quanta Magazine* at <https://www.quantamagazine.org/> and search for wormhole. *Quanta Magazine* is an editorially independent online publication launched by the Simons Foundation in 2012 to enhance public understanding of science. To follow this story and others, you can sign up there for a free subscription.



Playground and BBQ area

Kingsley Gardens Whitehorse Tree Trail

– Glenys Grant

The City of Whitehorse has many parks and bushland reserves to explore and now visitors can get to know them a little better with the council's first ‘Tree Trail’.

Visitors wandering through Kingsley Gardens in Box Hill can access short, informative videos by scanning QR codes on-site. The videos provide an opportunity for people to connect and care for nature by hearing from staff and volunteers, sharing insights on tree identification, species selection and tree care.

‘Whitehorse staff regularly host walking tours in our parklands. It's a great way to educate the community about our natural environment,’ said Belinda Moody, Tree Education Officer, City Planning and Development. ‘With the rise of QR code usage over the past couple of years, we thought it a great opportunity to use QR codes to run virtual walking tours. The community can learn about the trees in their parklands and engage with the information anytime they visit a local park’.

This communication from Whitehorse Council was intriguing. The park was one we had never visited so it was time to find out more.

Kingsley Gardens is part of the Whitehorse Heritage Trail. It is situated behind Box Hill Institute, near the southeast corner of Whitehorse and Elgar roads. This was originally the site of the heritage White Horse Hotel and almost opposite the Gas Works. It is a formal style garden that features a range of mature trees, both native and exotic.

Recently we explored the park – and can recommend the area as a lovely peaceful place – especially good to visit before the Box Hill Institute's scholastic year gets underway.

We discovered a tranquil, community-friendly park. There was a diversity of trees, both native and exotic; gently sloping paths with easy access for those with walking



Belinda Moody



Gardens with Trees and QR codes.

difficulties; plenty of comfortable seats; a delightful children's playground and a covered, solar powered BBQ area.

But even better- along the main paths are nine QR codes on posts. We used our mobile phones to access the videos linked to each QR code and then watched them with great interest. The videos were scripted to inform the community of the lovely trees in the area, inspiring us all to learn more about this environment and protect it.

When this trial was commenced there was some concern that the codes may be vandalised, but in the time this new concept has been in operation no damage has occurred.

This is the first Whitehorse area to have these QR codes and information videos. It's a trial – and we loved it! More please, Whitehorse. For more information visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/trees .

Belinda Moody, Tree Education Officer & Coordinator of the Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife program, is mentioned above and deserves recognition here. Belinda has been involved in planning many new tree and environment innovations in Whitehorse and has recently been awarded a Planning Champion award by the Planning Institute of Australia.

This award ‘... recognises non-planners for making a significant contribution and lasting presence to the urban and regional environment over the last 1-2 years. It's awarded to non-planners who promote and advocate for good planning and planning outcomes and the value of planning and/or the planning profession to the public’.

Congratulations, Belinda.

Bungalook Nursery

– Margaret Witherspoon

Bungalook Nursery focuses on growing plants that are indigenous to the Whitehorse region and supplying them to our local bushland parks, Whitehorse City Council, schools, community organisations, and an increasing number of home gardeners. Growing our local plants provides food and shelter for our birds, animals and all kinds of little critters.



Now is the time to plan your coming autumn and winter planting activities from our wide range of quality stock, at only \$2.00 per tube. You are welcome to come and browse, chat with our volunteers, and purchase a few plants for your garden or as a gift.

Bungalook Nursery is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit group run by the Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project:

- We are open every Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am until 1pm.
- Our address is 107 Fulton Road, Blackburn South (Wurundjeri Walk) towards Holland Road.

For more details, email us at wcipp@yahoo.com.au, visit our website at <https://www.wcipp.org.au>, or phone 0400 563 912



Welcome to customers



Brachyscome multifida, Cut-leaf Daisy. A very popular small garden plant.

The safest drivers are 'L' plate drivers

Glenys Grant and Bob Williams



Did you know that the safest drivers, with the least crashes, are 'L' plate drivers? It's obvious why, isn't it? They are always accompanied by an experienced adult. But what happens when they obtain their 'P' plates? Suddenly their crash rate increases 30 times.

This frightening statistic is why Rotary developed the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program (RYDA) in 2001. Since then, attendee numbers have increased dramatically as students, parents and teachers have recognised its worth.

Why is RYDA so effective? It provides students with critical road safety information and strategies that do not come from driving lessons, books or the school classroom. It targets the overconfidence of many young drivers in an attempt to lessen their risk taking and encourages more concentration on the road.

Road Safety Education Victoria provides the facilitators in Victoria with programs run in most States of Australia and New Zealand.

Bob Williams, Nunawading Rotarian, explains Rotary's continued involvement in RYDA to try to save young



Students with Road Safety Education facilitators.

lives. 'The Rotary clubs of Nunawading, Forest Hill, Maroondah, and Emerald combine to provide volunteers for RYDA days to assist the facilitators. Some of the schools our local Rotary clubs assist are Aquinas College, Swinburne Senior College, Vermont Secondary College, Avila Secondary College and Norwood Secondary College, North Ringwood'.

Bob referred to Emerson School in Dandenong, another constant participant who was recognised recently with an award from one of RYDA's sponsors. As a special school where many of their students will never drive, they



Demonstration of speed with pedestrian casualty

recognise the importance of passengers learning RYDA strategies to assist the driver.

'It isn't just students who benefit from RYDA but the teachers who accompany the students also say they have increased their own road safety awareness as have many of the parents of the students with their children picking them up on their driving habits' he said.

Any schools interested in the program for their senior students should contact either Nunawading, Forest Hill, Maroondah, or Emerald Rotary Club, who will arrange for the Victorian RYDA coordinator to speak to them.

Safe Plate Day is coming

Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse



NHW Whitehorse will be holding their first Safe Plate Day for 2023 on Saturday 1 April 2023 – not an April Fools Day joke.

We will be at Bunnings, Burwood Highway, Vermont South from 10am until 3pm. Please come along with your vehicles and have your number plate screws replaced with anti-theft screws for just a gold coin donation.

Reports from Victoria Police indicate that number plate theft is a huge crime across Whitehorse. The stolen

plates are attached to an already stolen vehicle and then the criminals go on a shopping or crime spree – drive off petrol, other burglaries and joy riding. When the police check the vehicle number plate, it shows you as the owner and they come knocking on your door for an explanation and/or arrest.

So please, come and have your number plates fixed more securely and help police stamp out the above crimes.

NHW will be supported by Victoria Police, SES, CFA, the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse (ABAW) Bunnings, Ambulance Victoria and as a special surprise, possibly horses from the mounted branch.

The Bunnings sausage sizzle will also be part of our event on 1 April, so bring your 'hungries' as well.



Community Meeting

We will be holding a community meeting on Tuesday 9 May 2023. This will be held in The Avenue Uniting Church, cnr Blackburn Road and The Avenue, Blackburn, commencing at 7.30pm. Keynote speaker will be Deputy Commissioner Ross Guenther from VicPol. He will be ably assisted by Inspector Lisa Gilham, from Box Hill Police Station.

Please book in to NHW Whitehorse if you wish to attend so we can cater accordingly. A yummy supper will be served after the meeting.

For more information, go to the NHW Whitehorse website at <https://nhw.com.au/whitehorse/> or email whitehorse@nhw.com.au



Mind your 'English' Language

– Marie Pietersz

The first of several tutorials where the author will discuss some common mistakes made by writers using English to communicate.

The 'Queen's English' (or should it now be the 'King's English'?), is a term used to describe a form of English traditionally spoken by educated people of high social class. However, in recent years tradition has been pushed aside by a desire for rapid-fire speech that ignores the niceties of so-called proper English.

Factors such as advanced communication technology including the internet and sophisticated telecommunication devices, the growth of English as a second language for many people have fostered a desire for instant communication. This has seen an evolution of a staccato form of English considered adequate for messaging.

Abbreviated communication is the 'name of the game' for personal and business needs. Accuracy and articulation, as in old-fashioned writing, come in a poor second to speed. There is now an acceptance that the jargon of the short message service (SMS) is adequate and comprehensible 'speak'.

Proper grammar and punctuation are still important and users of SMS speak and learners of English should take note of some of the bloopers in circulation.

Let's start with the confusing 'apostrophe' – a small punctuation mark (')

One of the more commonly confused written rules in the English language is the use of the apostrophe. There are three uses:

- to indicate plurals of letters, numbers or symbols and some unusual nouns.
- to show that one or more letters are missing in a word that has been shortened.
- to form possessive nouns.

Plurality

Do not use an apostrophe when writing plural forms of everyday nouns. A plural form tells you that there is more than one of something; so, there is no need to add an apostrophe, just an 's' in most cases.

Contraction or a shortened word

Do use an apostrophe when a word has a letter or two missing. For example, 'weren't' means 'were not'. Use an apostrophe where you would normally put the 'o'.

The shortened word the term 'you are' is 'you're'. Use the apostrophe to show the letter 'a' is missing. Do not

mistake the word 'your' for 'you're'. For example, you would write, 'Let me know if you're coming', NOT 'Let me know if your coming'. 'Your' is a possessive adjective.

Ownership

Do include an apostrophe before the 's' of a single noun to show ownership. For example, the 'girl's' hat means the hat belongs to one girl. Do include an apostrophe after the 's' of a plural noun to show ownership. If you refer to 'girls' hats', then you are stating that there are many owners of the hats.

To test whether you are using the pesky apostrophe correctly, Marie has developed a series of questions and answers that you can access on the Eastsider News website at <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/uncategorized/mind-your-english-language/>

OPEN GARDEN weekend
'Rosemont'
April 1 & 2

Maureen Lucas, the owner, is a noted nationally qualified horticultural judge who writes for newspapers and magazines in this field. She has won numerous prestigious awards and will be happy to help with any queries on this day.

64 TIMBERTOP DRIVE, ROWVILLE
1st & 2nd APRIL, 2023.
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each Day
ADULTS \$5,
CHILDREN (Supervised) FREE.

All funds raised to assist the Lions Club of Rowville in carrying out their numerous needy community projects. This includes Disaster Relief funding.

Over 50's Expo for e-bikes and trikes



In conjunction with Whitehorse Council, some local bike shops, and enthusiasts, this WATAG (Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group) event will be held on 26 March at the Nunawading Community Hub from 2pm to 4pm.

Local enthusiasts who already ride non-standard two and three wheel bikes will be there to chat with you and let you see what's available. And we'll have bikes and trikes for you to test ride too.

Plus give-aways and special offers

For instance, you might not be familiar with this type of recumbent bike, let alone had a chance to see one in action. It's like riding in an armchair!

There's no need to register or book. Just come along and be surprised at what's available to help older folk who want to keep active but are a little unsure how to do this safely and in a way which meets their changing physical needs.

Note the date in your diary now. Use the QR code to find out more about the event.



Early success for the Community Space at Forest Hill Chase

– Patricia Fincham

We are often told 'not to look back' but sometimes by doing this we can better plan the future. A quick look back on the early days of the Community Space at Forest Hill Chase shows that it is already meeting a need.

It is now 7 months since Whitehorse Churches Care, in partnership with the Forest Hill Chase, Shopping Centre opened its Community Space to the local neighbourhood. Feedback from locals and others who live some 20 plus km away has been overwhelmingly positive, complimenting the meaningful contribution to the local community.

This has included providing a safe and welcoming space for children adapting to increased social interaction after the lockdowns as they prepare for school/kindergarten and providing a non-judgemental connection point for people of all ages, cultures and emotional states.

As with so many organisations, we rely heavily on a great team of volunteers. Over 65 men and women contributed nearly 3500 hours of service from May to December 2022.

Of this, 1024 hours were making regular phone calls to 300 people on the Whitehorse Community Support register. A further 600 people connected via our Newsletter.

Our key events included:

- A well-attended series of Mental Health workshops facilitated by qualified Counsellors
- The launch of a Community Choir 'Just Sing' (held on Tuesdays between 12.30 and 2.30pm) aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing.
- Musical performances including a lively band of Ukuleles, School Choir, individual instrumentalists and a regular Friday night live music gig provided by Angel & Co (set to continue on the first Friday of the month, from 7pm).
- An interactive Christmas display and nativity scene created by local artists.

Our MPs, local councillors and their staff have also visited and offered their support.

The opportunity to connect and engage with each other and with various areas of interest is a very important part of our Hub. Reading/playing with young children, knitting/crocheting, art, borrowing/chatting about books, puppet making, learning another language to name but a few of the many activities enjoyed by members of our community.

Finding employment is a task of mammoth proportions in all communities. A Jobs Advocate, employed by Jobs Victoria, is available on site on the first Wednesday of each month (10am to 12noon), to assist people find work. Additionally, a local group, Tailor Made hosted an employment skills programme aimed at helping participants overcome difficulties to find meaningful employment opportunities. They will continue their support in the coming year.



Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop offered community members the opportunity to meet and talk to a real live member of our Police force. Our Police personnel do a great job protecting us, at times under very difficult circumstances caused by local and outside interference. Come and enjoy a free coffee (courtesy of Forest Hill Chase) and a chat with our local police on Thursday 23 February at 11am.

As you can see, we are a very busy band of men and women but not too busy to review what we have done and hopefully undertake new, necessary and exciting activities.

We at the Hub wish you all a very Happy and Rewarding 2023. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you. We're located on level 2 at Forest Hill Chase, opposite Australia Post. Go to our website at <https://www.foresthillcommunityspace.com/> for more information.

Save our shopping villages

– Yvonne Bowyer

The Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Traders Association was formed in 2022 in response to the downturn in business due to the level crossing removal project in the neighbourhood.

In June 2022, Mont Albert Road and Union Road level crossings which connect the shopping villages, were closed for six weeks. During this time, 95 percent of local businesses experienced a significant drop in revenue and 75 percent felt the effect on their small business was unsustainable. After two years of COVID lockdowns, many businesses are struggling.

From 17th February 2023, major construction will commence on the project, and both Mont Albert and Union Road level crossings will again be closed to traffic, until at least the end of May, resulting in further financial hardship for the local businesses of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills.

We are faced with ongoing road closures and disruptions, limited parking for customers and staff, difficult pedestrian access, and no meaningful consultation provided by the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP), the government authority tasked with the project. This has created much stress and anxiety, job losses, and business closures with possibly more to close.

The Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Traders Association needs your support as the state government is

steadfastly refusing to provide any financial support. Please continue to shop at Union Road, Surrey Hills and Hamilton Street, Mont Albert or come and visit us if you don't live locally.



It would be greatly appreciated if you would also sign our petition and share this with your family, friends and networks. Here is the link to the petition <https://chng.it/JMfqB7znG7>



Yvonne Bowyer is Secretary of the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association and a committee member of the newly formed Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Traders Association.

Trentwood Morning Walkers are on the go

– Jackie Warren

It is 8am in Greythorn, the birds are singing, there is a faint breeze blowing and a touch of dew on the ground. This is what awaits a small but enthusiastic walking group.

In 2022 a small band of walkers joined together to start the Friday morning before work, with a little bit of exercise and chatting along the way. The Greythorn Community Hub provided the perfect starting point to head off in different directions each week.

The usual path takes us away from busy roads where we can discover all the local gems that Balwyn North has to offer. What was once orchards is now such a different array of housing as well as plenty of open space where children play and dogs enjoy the many smells of our beautiful suburbs. The freshly cut grass is a welcome sight after such a long, wet winter. To hear the crunch of dry grass underfoot reminds us of the hot days ahead. Fellow walkers we pass share a 'morning' or a discreet nod acknowledging that others too enjoy the benefits and joy of the simple act of walking.

Did you know that walking for an average of 30 minutes or more a day can lower the risk of heart disease, stroke by 35 percent and Type 2 diabetes by 40 percent? But also, nature awaits. Birds flying, frogs singing, fresh air in

our lungs and great chats. The beauty in walking is that it is free and the tracks we follow are pram friendly. We set a moderate pace, just quick enough that we can still chat and laugh as we move along.

Led by Trentwood Community House in partnership with the Heart Foundation, we meet at 8am every Friday and are always back at the center by 8.50am.

Join us on our weekly adventures. Look up the Heart Foundation website and register with Trentwood Morning Walkers at <https://walking.heartfoundation.org.au/walking/group/trentwood-morning-walkers>. Or come in and see the staff at Trentwood at the Hub, Greythorn Community Hub 2 Centre Way, Balwyn North.

See you on the walking tracks, don't forget to nod and say 'morning'

Jackie Warren is Community Engagement Coordinator, Trentwood at the Hub

How to write a poem?

– Beverley Walsh



How do I write a poem?
Will it come bursting out of my head,
the words like concrete pouring from a mixer
straight onto a page and set?
Or will it be like childbirth?
I'm told it's agony
until it's joy
and a child has emerged,
fully formed, perfect in every way.
Will my poem be like that?
Should I write a sonnet?
Perhaps like Shakespeare....

There is much more to this gentle, witty poem than what we have published here. We suggest you read the full poem which we have posted on the Eastsider Extra blog here: <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/poetry/how-to-write-a-poem-beverley-walsh/>. Enjoy the quiet humour of Beverley's musings as she wanders through the various poetic byways to find the answer to her question.

Rotary Whitehorse Farmers' Market

When: Every second Sunday of the Month, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Where: The front of the Whitehorse Civic Centre Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Usually, there are around 55 stalls selling plants, fruit, vegetables, eggs, hot food, cakes, bread, honey, and a variety of other seasonal produce.
Stall holder enquiries:
 Simon Wheelton 0438 151 710

2023

Whitehorse Business Group

Membership Application

Membership Benefits

- Regular networking events
- Free Lunch & Learns each month
- The opportunity to promote your business on social media
- Seminars and major events at discounted ticket prices
- 2023 Whitehorse Excellence in Business Awards
- Connections with the Whitehorse City Council and the VCCI
- Membership is open to businesses in ALL locations

Become a 2023 Member of the Whitehorse Business Group today.

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Thursday Coffee Group

Every Thursday at 10am locals from the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert area meet at a café for a coffee and a chat, alternating between cafes on Union Road and Hamilton Street. The group have been meeting since July 2022 when I noticed the small businesses were suffering greatly when Union Road was closed at the level crossing for six weeks due to Level Crossing Removal Project works.

I was wondering as an individual, what could I do that could help these businesses? It was extremely difficult getting to the area and people were shopping elsewhere. I decided to put my idea on the local Facebook page, the Surrey Hills, Mont Albert and Surrounds Discussion Group, and see who turned up.

I figured every dollar counts and why not give it a go! And once people come down to the villages they might also visit some of the other small businesses. By posting to Facebook each week, it also promotes the cafes to the wider community; there are now approximately 8,800 members on the Surrey Hills, Mont Albert and Surrounds Discussion Group Facebook page.

From 17 February 2023 until at least the end of May a major construction blitz will take place, with Union Road



(Surrey Hills) and Mont Albert Road (Mont Albert) closed to both vehicles and pedestrians at the level crossings twenty four hours a day, seven days per week.

Our Thursday Coffee Group will continue to meet each week to do our little bit for the local economy. We enjoy each other's company so much that I don't see us stopping any time soon! Newcomers are most welcome and the venue is mentioned each week on the Facebook page for the Surrey Hills, Mont Albert and surrounds discussion group.

The biggest way people can help our Surrey Hills and Mont Albert traders is to continue shopping at our villages. If you don't live locally please come down and visit us, we would love to see you!

Even though it will be incredibly difficult to access the area from 17 February until the end of May, your perseverance means the world to our small businesses as they receive no compensation from the state government. A number of businesses have already closed and we don't want to see anymore close.

We are so lucky to have such a wide variety of traders from hair dressers to dry cleaners, gift stores, bakeries, op shops, cafes, restaurants and take aways, fashion



stores, medical facilities, post offices, newsagents and supermarkets to name but a few. We have a lot to offer so please come down to Surrey Hills and Mont Albert today!

To find the next venue of the Thursday Coffee Group, go to the Facebook page for the Surrey Hills, Mont Albert and Surrounds discussion group. at <https://www.Facebook.com/groups/surreyhillsmontalbert3127discussiongroup>

Yvonne Bowyer, Surrey Hills Resident

Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association

– Neville Young, ES&CTTA President

December and January were momentous occasions for the Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ES&CTTA).

In December, ES&CTTA Life Member, Don Cheney was recognised by Table Tennis Australia for 50 years of contributions to Table Tennis.

Don has been involved as either a player or committee member for more than 70 years. For 25 years, he was on the ES&CTTA committee either as a committee member then Secretary and later President. For the past 45 years, he has voluntarily run Monday night Recreational Table Tennis sessions for 48 weeks of the year. Don has raised all the funds to cover the cost of buying tables, equipment, balls and venue hire. The night is run at a minimal cost to participants.

If you would like to hear Don talk about his experiences, please click on the link below.

In January, the annual Spur Afrika Table Tennis Tournament was held. The Tournament is held to raise money for the charity, Spur Afrika. At the end of every year, any money made is donated to charity. In December, Don presented a cheque for \$1,500 to Spur Afrika.

Spur Afrika

Spur Afrika operates across Kenya and Melbourne to spur Kenya's sustainable future. Spur Afrika aims to engage, empower and educate the children and young adults in Kibera slums and recently in Kisumu. Spur engages the local Kenyan community through authentic mentorship, culturally sensitive initiatives and sustainable programs. Spur empowers children and young adults with skills to transform not only their own lives but the lives of their families and communities. Spur educates through the provision of schooling, extra-curricular activities and public health programs.

Spur is always looking for like-minded people to join the cause and help enable sustainable development in Kenya.

The Spur Afrika Table Tennis tournament has been held annually since 2015 (excluding COVID years). The 2023 Tournament was held on January 15 and teams from all over metropolitan Melbourne participated. All funds raised went to Spur Afrika. Since 2015 these tournaments have raised over \$44,000, including a total of \$9320 for 2022 and 2023.

Thanks to Felix Kung and all the participants and organisers for fundraising and playing Table Tennis for Spur Afrika. This year the Tournament was won by the Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association Team, the members of which were Colin Chen, David Griffiths, Justin Kwan and Jeff Dever

A new year of Table Tennis begins soon

If you are interested in playing Table Tennis either socially or competitively, please go to our website for further information and contact details.

<https://esctta.com.au/esctta-venues/>



Don Cheney being presented with his award.



To hear Don talk about his experiences please click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plkjha1xUso>.

To learn more about Spur Afrika, please visit www.spurafrika.org.



The winning team, Colin Chen, David Griffiths, Justin Kwan, Jeff Dever with Grace Wong from Spur Afrika.



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Grumpy: your chance to sound off about your pet gripe

Time to harvest the grapes of wrath

Welcome to 'Grumpy', an occasional column devoted to the little (and not-so-little) things that irritate us in our daily lives. We're sure you will agree that sounding off about those annoyances does wonders for your mental health. So, here is your opportunity to share your pet grievances with fellow Eastsider readers.

In the interests of transparency, we unashamedly admit we took inspiration from the *What cheeses me off* segment on that inestimably entertaining 3AW Breakfast radio program featuring Ross and Russel as well as harking back to the glory days of television with Daryl and Ossie on *Hey Hey Saturday*.



We offer a few examples here and hope that you, dear readers, will also see fit to air your contributions from time to time here in a future Grumpy column:

- Reckless drivers who treat a left-hand turning lane at an intersection as a challenge to floor the accelerator and overtake the car on their right, despite signage ahead clearly reading: 'Left lane ends'.
- Dog walkers who fail to pick up what their pets deposit on the nature strip; or do pick up but then jettison the full bag anyway.
- TV news announcers who think a long word carries more weight than a shorter one. During recent flood reports 'inundation' began to replace 'flood' with irritating regularity and, in a few classic cases, we were treated to the nonsensical 'inundated by floods'. Either news editors are asleep at the wheel or standards have plummeted to new depths (*just to stress the point with a touch of hyperbole*).
- Supermarkets that cut the price of junk food and drink but ramp up the cost of essentials.

- The merciless onslaught of gambling advertising across all media: TV, radio, newspapers and the internet (including YouTube).

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that nearly 40 percent of adults gamble away \$25 billion legally every year (with almost half on poker machines) and it seems that the older we get, the more we gamble.

- Smartphone users who think using the phone while walking is a signal for oncomers (sometimes even including cars) to give way; or that a conversation has to be conducted at maximum volume (we have overheard some embarrassingly loud and graphic verbal descriptions by a phone user in a crowded train carriage that we wish we could have unheard).

So, don't keep your mutterings to yourself. We can guarantee you will feel so much better if you share them. Further Grumpy suggestions by readers would be welcome and can be sent to us at eastsidernews1@gmail.com



Weighing the litter collected at CUAD, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, 2022

Clean Up Australia Day

Glenys Grant

Whitehorse Council has invited all residents to Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, 5 March. If you are available, how about helping out your local community?

Clean Up Australia Day is Australia's largest community-based environmental event. Residents, schools, community groups and businesses in Whitehorse can join with hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the country for this great initiative. Each year an estimated seven billion cigarette butts and 80 million plastic bags end up in Australian waterways, streets and parklands.

Since 1989 when Ian Kiernan had the idea to clean up Sydney Harbour, Clean Up Australia Day participants have collected more than 200,000 tonnes of rubbish – that's 4.7 million household wheelie bins.

Clean Up Australia Day is fun and everyone can get involved. Individuals and local groups can organise a Clean Up site – such as a park, waterway or bushland area – or volunteer to join an existing site, such as Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. Council supports the local clean-up efforts and will arrange for the collection and disposal of any rubbish collected on the day.

The man behind Clean Up Australia Day: Ian Kiernan AO

Sydney born and raised Ian Kiernan became a successful businessman and a professional yachtsman, representing Australia in many International competitions. In 1986-87, he sailed in an around-the-world solo yacht race. During this trip, Ian became concerned with the amount of rubbish he saw everywhere, clogging oceans and littering coastlines.

Back in Sydney, Ian and friends organised the 1989 Clean Up Sydney Harbour event rallying over 40,000 volunteers who collected more than 5,000 tonnes of rubbish. Out of this awe-inspiring result, Clean Up Australia was born. The following year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers collected and removed litter across the country.

Ian very much believed in shared ownership of the litter problem and was focused on making sure that everyone understood that we are all part of the problem, therefore we all must be part of the solution.

Clean Up Australia grew quickly and, in 1991, the United Nations asked Kiernan to create and oversee a global initiative, Clean Up the World, which launched in 1993. More than 30 million people in 80 countries participated

Clean Up Australia Day 2023 at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Come to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary on Sunday, 5 March from 10am to 12noon to be part of the Whitehorse Clean Up Australia Day. Parking is off Central Road Blackburn opposite Gwenda St.

All attendees must register on-site and sign off before leaving the site. This is required even if you register online on the Clean Up Australia Day website. Go to the Visitors Centre after 9.45am to sign in. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Bring gloves if you have them. Please wear appropriate clothing: enclosed shoes, hat, preferably long trousers and sleeves. Don't forget your sun cream and drink bottle (re-fills available on site).

As Ian Kiernan said, 'We are all part of the problem, therefore we all have to be part of the solution'. And it's a fun day!

If you are bringing a group, please let us know the number to help us plan the work. Contact the Coordinator at: BLSAC@bigpond.com

More information and pre-registration for the event at Blackburn Lake are available online at [Clean Up Australia – Blackburn Lake Sanctuary \(cleanupaustaliaday.org.au\)](http://CleanUpAustralia.org.au) You can also find out more at <https://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/> or call 1800 CUA DAY (1800 282 329).



Thank you

Since our first edition, we have been privileged to bring you the wonderfully creative work of Corinne Fenton and Marjory Gardner. What a team – Corinne's joyful poetry for children accompanied by Marjory's humorous illustrations. We now say goodbye to these beautiful and creative people and thank you for all the pleasure you have brought to us. Best wishes to you both for your new challenges and adventures.

In the next edition

The deadline for articles for the next edition of *Eastsider News* is 25 March 2023, with the edition due to go online mid April. 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. COMMA SUTRA
2. Ticklish, fix



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.