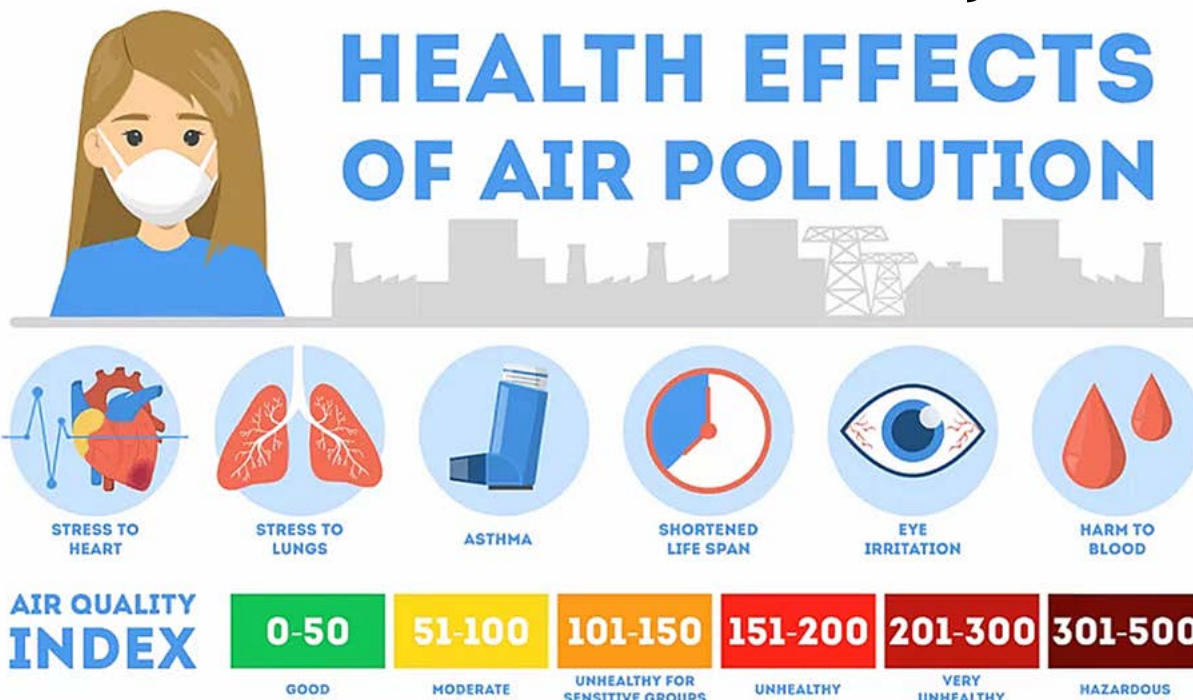




## Air Pollution and the North East Link Project



*By Barry Watson*

**T**HE North East Link Project (NELP) is a massive and hugely expensive infrastructure project to improve road traffic to the north eastern areas of Melbourne. The major elements are 6.5k of road tunnels from Watsonia to Bulleen, and upgrades to the Eastern Freeway and the M60 Ring Road to be completed by 2028.

The 10-kilometre toll road was initially budgeted at \$10 billion; by December 2023, it was estimated to have reached \$26 billion. This figure includes only those costs that can be easily quantified in financial terms. By taking a narrow economic view of the project, the Government has failed to calculate the many other costs to which it is difficult to allocate a direct, accurate monetary value.

### **Air pollution is costly to our health**

Air pollution from motor vehicle emissions is the major source of urban air pollution. These emissions include PM2.5 fine particle pollution (particulate matter at a size of 2.5 micrometres found in vehicle exhausts especially diesel trucks), nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone and benzenes.

These pollutants are harmful to human health and well being. Exposure to PM2.5 fine particle pollution can cause allergies, sinus congestion, acute asthma, heart attacks and sudden death, cancer, cardiovascular disease and lung disease. Approximately 11,000 Australians die each year from motor vehicles air pollution. The World Health Organisation has stated that the only safe level of PM2.5 is zero.

When the North East Link is completed in 2026, a further 100,000 vehicles per day will be added to the widened Eastern Freeway. Modelling in the NELP Environment Effects Statement (EES) shows that PM2.5 will increase by 136% and Nitrogen Dioxide will increase by 85% on the Eastern Freeway. The increase in heavy commercial vehicles here and on other roads in the area and the absence of filtering on the south tunnel portal vent stack contribute to these levels.

The Victorian Environment Protection Agency has stated that, despite the relevant Environmental Reference Standards having legal status and that the air quality

*(Continued on page 6)*





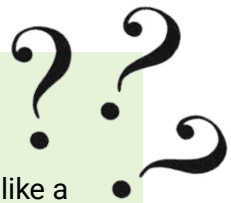
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## Quizling Questions

Answers on page 40.



1. Can you dredge up a well-known European river that not only sounds like a horse, but also can be mixed to spell a creature frequenting rivers?
2. We have an American state in mind. Delete its opening M, and the remainder can be mixed to spell a particular European. Which State?

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*.  
To read more of his work, go to [davidastle.com](http://davidastle.com)

## 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](http://www.wurundjeri.com.au)

# Outsourcing Aqualink?

## Whitehorse City Council plans to outsource Box Hill and Nunawading Aqualinks

*Ruth Hargrave*

THE proposal by Whitehorse City Council to outsource the provision of specific services delivered to residents and ratepayers has drawn criticism from amongst users of these services. The latest proposed privatisation involves contracting out of the management of Aqualinks at Box Hill and Nunawading and the operation of specific services provided there.

Users of these facilities are concerned that external contract models can be driven primarily by profit to the detriment of the service offered to the client. When tried in other jurisdictions, outsourcing has led to cost cutting and poorer quality services. This concern is heightened by the discontent expressed by clients of the outsourced Whitehorse's aged care service who point to a reduced continuity of care, poorly trained and often unavailable staff and inadequate meals.

It is generally accepted that a municipal council exists to be a custodians of community assets and service providers to the community, to provide a range of local services that support the health and wellbeing of residents. Facilities like Aqualink are essential to the provision of services and do not fit well with profit making. As council states, 'Community is at the heart of everything we do'. Outsourcing sits uneasily with that vision.

Observations of outsourced gyms in other jurisdictions suggest they no longer serve the users as they once did. Membership costs have risen substantially, as in Ashburton and Hawthorn; staff are offered their jobs back on a lesser award and classes can be cancelled on public holidays to eliminate the need for penalty rates.

The Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc (WRARA); has had a petition running for some months to request Council to maintain the Aqualinks at Box Hill and Nunawading, as it has done for over 40 years. We have collected more than 4,000 signatures to date and are still collecting. Our aim is to prevent this community asset being outsourced before any contract is signed.



Council is likely to say specialist companies are more cost effective. However, there are already many opportunities to reduce costs that don't involve a change of management. There are clear opportunities at my gym to achieve increased efficiency and reduced costs.

For example, is Council aware that chlorine and salts are sucked up and circulated around the gym via the air conditioning? This leads to an ongoing rust problem in the gym equipment, thus demanding frequent maintenance. The staff is inadequately trained to manage the chlorine dispenser. Get that right, and there will be less need for frequent maintenance. By monitoring times of low usage, Council could implement effective time management strategies to reduce costs. These are measures private companies will employ that could easily be done by the council, now.

Thousands pass through Whitehorse Aqualink doors every week. They come because of the dedicated staff, equipment and operating hours, the availability of junior swim programs plus rehabilitation for elderly and injured folk. We need this facility to continue as it is, to serve the ratepayers and residents.

Critics of the move to privatising certain services are asking that Council rethink its current, corporatisation strategy and to remember that Councils exist to represent the wishes of residents and ratepayers. Such a move casts doubts in people's mind as to the role and function of the municipal council.

In a recent speech to the Victorian Parliament, the MP for Box Hill Paul Hamer said, 'It is disappointing that Whitehorse City Council has chosen to see Aqualinks as a burden, rather than an investment in the health and welfare of our youngest through to our oldest residents'.

If people are as worried about this issue as I am, please email the council at <https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/about-council/contact-us> to express your concern. Also contact your local councillor to voice your disapproval.



# Planning: Preserving Community Voices

**John Friend-Pereira**

**R**ECENT planning reforms introduced in the State Government's 2023 Housing Statement will have far reaching impacts on our suburbs. The Statement includes 32 planning reforms, granting the Minister for Planning more power. However, the changes fall short of effectively addressing the housing crisis and reduce input from community and local councils.

## **Markham Estate Redevelopment in Ashburton.**

The original Markham Estate comprised 56 public housing units. Over eight years, various proposals were made for redeveloping the estate, often overlooking community concerns. The initial 2016 proposal planned for a mere 62 public units (an increase of 6) out of 252 new units. Despite community opposition, the subsequent 2018 proposal retained the same number of public units. Only through persistent advocacy by the Ashburton Residents Action Group (ARAG), supported by the City of Boroondara, did the final 2020 proposal see an increase to 111 public units out of a total of 178. The worry is that under these new rules, the community might not have a say at all.

In its February 2024 report, the City of Boroondara Urban Planning Committee highlighted numerous problems with the Markham planning process including:

- Lack of community and council input
- Lack of transparent processes and external scrutiny of final approvals
- Minister's wide-ranging power to agree proposals without clear enforcement oversight
- Unstreamlined and untimely processes causing significant delays

## **Redevelopment in Alamein Avenue**

Nearby public housing at 1–9 Alamein Avenue is currently two-thirds unoccupied (only 10/36 units occupied) and slated for redevelopment by Homes

Victoria. There is concern it could face a similarly flawed process under the planning powers granted to the Minister. Those powers would exclude community input and council involvement and enable the stealthy privatisation of prime public housing. Based on the approach taken at Markham in 2018, this could see up to 162 units replacing the current 36 units, with only 41 units for public housing. It will once again depend on the tenacity of the local community to fight for a better outcome in terms of design and retention of public use.

## **Why is State Government making these changes?**

They claim it is to address delays in planning processes and lay the blame on local councils. However, evidence shows that local government processes aren't the main issue. Over 98% of housing permits are granted without councilors voting, and delays often occur after planning approval. A report by planning consultants SGS showed that almost 90% of approved multi-unit dwellings are processed, yet about 25% do not commence construction, with industry experts noting that developers act on their permits when it suits them economically.

## **Other possible approaches**

Another approach to ensuring there's enough of the right kind of housing would be to include communities in the process. The use of inclusionary zoning could mandate developers to include affordable housing units within market-rate developments (eg 30% of all new developments of 15 units or more would be public and affordable). Instead of diminishing power from councils and sidelining communities, the government should focus on improving the speed and quality of housing construction.

A Traffic Light System could help expedite approvals for developments prioritising sustainability, affordability, and community benefits – these

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Fuel Efficiency Standards for Australia

*Chris Thompson*

MANY of us may be surprised by the proposal to introduce fuel efficiency and quality standards for Australia. Many more may be surprised to learn that America introduced fuel economy standards 49 years ago in 1975 after the 1973 oil crisis and that Australia is alone in the world, apart from Russia, in not having any standards.

The standards will result in cleaner air, as currently high sulphur fuels are permitted, and cheaper motoring because more economical vehicles will be imported. The efficiency standard requires the car manufacturer meet a limit for the amount of carbon dioxide emitted, and therefore fuel consumed, averaged over all the models.

Initially there will be little change but as the limit is lowered car manufacturers will be encouraged to sell more efficient vehicles to offset their inefficient vehicles. The upside is we will be offered more efficient vehicles, with better fuel economy for lower operating cost. Inefficient vehicles like the Ford F100 will not disappear though. In America, which is guiding Australian standards, the F100 was the highest selling model with the Tesla model Y rapidly catching up.

I recently discovered my ancient 1990s car was not exported to the US or Europe. The car had an older less powerful, less economical engine because, even at that time, Australia would accept substandard cars that could not be sold in other countries. No doubt that has continued to this day.



**“The effect of sulphur dioxide can be seen at Queenstown, Tasmania”**



New fuel quality standards put more stringent limits for fuel on various pollutants such as sulphur, which produces sulphur dioxide (or hydrogen sulphide, a toxic gas which I often smell when a car passes when riding my bicycle). The effect of sulphur dioxide can be seen at Queenstown, Tasmania, where the vegetation was denuded by emissions from the copper smelter.

Standards regulate emissions from vehicle engines, particularly diesel, but also direct injection petrol, which also emit fine particulate matter (for example PM2.5) and nitrogen oxides that are especially bad for health. People living near busy roads are known to have higher rates of heart disease, asthma and low birth weight due to vehicle pollutants.

As more electric vehicles and renewable electrical energy become available emissions will be lowered, although we cannot escape the presence of particulates altogether as they are created from tyre wear.

Of course, it's not just motor vehicles that have emissions. Even gas ranges and stoves emit carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and formaldehyde – but that is a topic for another day.



# Air Pollution and the North East Link Project

(Continued from page 1)

limits apply to NELP, the EPA has no statutory powers to enforce compliance or capacity to intervene. If so, who does have responsibility for enforcing compliance and enabling stronger intervention action on the anticipated air pollution breaches?

## **A threat to the health and wellbeing of children and adults participating in sport or other outdoor activities.**

Recent research has shown that relatively small increases in air pollution levels over a short time frame can lead to significant cognitive declines in children.

The NELP EES modelled air pollution location close to three college sporting fields, Veneto Soccer, Bulleen Sports Oval, Belle Vue Primary School and Freeway Golf Course. This showed that PM2.5 fine particle pollution generated by motor vehicles will breach the EES 24 hour limits near these schools and sporting precincts. These breaches are expected to occur frequently.

NELP has sought to deflect blame for high pollution

levels away from motor vehicles by pointing to 'existing high background levels', due to bushfires, dust storms and gas heaters. In reality, the highest pollution occurs in the winter months when there are no bushfires and dust storms. Cold overnight temperatures can cause a temperature inversion that traps pollution that fails to disperse on low or no wind days.

## **Difficult Questions**

In the light of this troubling data, we need to ask the Government some hard questions. What will the likely effect be on children at these schools and on those using these playing fields? Will it be safe to participate in outdoor activities in these areas? What assurance can the Government give the community that the health of school children will be protected? What protection actions are proposed on these dangerous to health high pollution days?

Go here [www.eastsidernews.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NELP-EPA-Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://www.eastsidernews.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NELP-EPA-Fact-Sheet.pdf) to find references that support claims made in this article, including those regarding cognitive decline in children.

# Planning: Preserving Community Voices

(Continued from page 4)

'greenlight' developments that have enhanced standards and affordability would have shorter approval timeframes than those that only met minimum standards or lack affordability. To tackle the housing crisis, we need a public builder, like the Housing Commission, constructing 100,000 public homes in the next decade at a fair cost. Additionally, a ban on political donations from property developers is essential. Finally, let's enforce the vacancy tax on unoccupied properties of which there are over 8,000 in the City of Boroondara alone, to encourage owners to

rent or sell these units.

In the face of the housing challenge, engaging not marginalising the community is crucial. I'm running as a Greens candidate for local council because I'm concerned about recent planning changes by the State Government, and I want to ensure our community has active progressive representation on this issue.

*From Ashburton, John Friend-Pereira is the Victorian Greens Candidate for Solway Ward, City of Boroondara.*

To access a list of the references John has used as the basis for this article, click [here](#).

**Paul Hamer MP**  
**STATE MEMBER**  
**for BOX HILL**

*Here To help.*



**paulhamermp**



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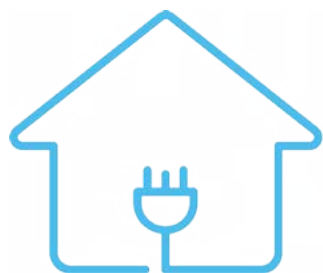


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## Environment, sustainability, climate crisis



# ELECTRIFY BOROONDARA

### What happens in households matters

Swapping gas and inefficient appliances for efficient appliances powered by clean energy will save money and decrease emissions. To achieve the emissions reductions required for a safe climate future,

we need the whole community to join the effort to accelerate our clean energy transition.

For more information on emissions and renewables, go to <https://www.rewiringaustralia.org/> and [www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorian-renewable-energy-and-storage-targets](http://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorian-renewable-energy-and-storage-targets)

To learn more about Electrify Boroondara, visit our website at <https://electrifyboroondara.org/about> To read our detailed guide, go here: <https://electrifyboroondara.org/learn/get-your-home-ready> To read our FAQs about the difference between single phase and 3 phase power and whether you might need to upgrade your switchboard, go here: <https://electrifyboroondara.org/faqs>

**E**LECTRIFY Boroondara is a broad alliance of community groups and individuals dedicated to accelerating our transition to a clean energy future. We are part of a growing movement of innovative communities around Australia that are embracing an electric future.

### Did you know?

Australian households are the biggest source of domestic emissions. In Victoria, 65% of our electricity will come from renewables by 2030 and 95% of our power will be generated by renewables by 2035. However, currently most power for households is generated by fossil fuels.

## Become an Electrify Boroondara Home Energy Guide

**A**RE you a Boroondara resident who is passionate about energy efficiency? Are you keen to help other Boroondara residents improve the comfort of their homes, save money, reduce their carbon emissions and create a safer climate?

We are delighted to be launching the Electrify Boroondara Home Energy Guides training program and are looking for 10 keen volunteers to become our local Home Energy Guides.

Find out more about the program and to apply to become a guide, go here <https://electrifyboroondara.org/home-energy-guides> Thank you to the City of Boroondara council for providing funding so that we can support our community members on the path to all electric homes and a clean energy future.





Photo: Julian Meehan



### Matilda Bowra

THE movement for electrifying everything is gaining momentum but not everyone knows what to do or where to start. That's why we are launching a community survey to help us understand where people are at on their electrification journeys, what barriers they face and what help they would like.

We are a community-led alliance, powered entirely by volunteers and donations and the survey results will be used to tailor our programs, initiatives and communications and ensure we are maximising our volunteer and financial resources as effectively as possible.

The data will also be shared with Rewiring Australia who are collating information from around Australia for research purposes only to assess the state of electrification within communities.

'This short survey will allow us to focus our attention and our supporters towards enabling solutions that meet Boroondara's needs,' says Russell Williams, Electrify Boroondara Advisory Committee Member.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey using the QR code above. Your answers will provide us with invaluable information to help our community electrify.

Electrify Boroondara is a community-led alliance dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. Visit [electrifyboroondara.org](https://electrifyboroondara.org) to learn more. To learn about Rewiring Australia, please go here: <https://www.rewiringaustralia.org/>

Matilda Bowra is Communications Coordinator, Electrify Boroondara

## Book review:

### Rethinking Our World: an invitation to rescue our future



### Barbara Fraser

THE very title of German social scientist Maja Göpel's new book is delightful and appealing, *Rethinking Our World: an invitation to rescue our future* (2023). Her basic aim is for 'a sustainable future for us all' (p. 10).

Maya Göpel is concerned about the increasing human population and our over-consumption of the planet's resources. But she leaves the solution to that for us to ponder. She also urges natural environmental actions such as pollination by bees and not by humans and machines. We need clean energy and not the fossil fuel emissions in our atmosphere where they wreck our

climate. Her book is easy to read and should lead to keen discussions with family and/or friends.

The world's climate emergency is worsening. Top climate scientist James Hansen reports that the 1.5° Paris agreed limit has been reached. He is becoming exasperated especially with the denials and persistence of the fossil fuel industry and calls them fools.

This year our federal government must develop the most effective policies for the climate transition. We need the public to know and understand the problem and solutions. Reading, discussion and caring will help.



# Marshmead: an exercise in sustainability



## **Ivy Sheng**

*Ivy is a Year 9 student at MLC. Here she describes the journey she went through in her thinking while at Marshmead, the school's remote residential campus in East Gippsland's Croajingolong National Park.*

**T**WO weeks ago, I climbed onto a bus at the crack of dawn, clutching a novel, pillow and journal, my heart tight in my throat and palms damp from nerves. Three Year 9 classes were setting off to Marshmead for a two-month sustainability program.

Excitement mingled with worry. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a chance to forge closer friendships and to be part of a sustainable community that uses a circular system to recycle resources. However, two months was the longest I'd been away from home.

### **End of first week**

After days of gruelling repetition interspersed with encouragement, I finally managed to ride a bike for the first time. I'm beyond proud of the mindset with which I approached this and other tasks. I saw these not as 'tasks' to conquer, but as opportunities for growth and challenge.

This first week reminded me of our innate human instinct to gravitate towards the trees, the grass and the tranquillity of the cool breeze. The natural world puts things into perspective; particularly so for the climate crisis – at once so extensive and seemingly imponderable, rendering all else essentially trivial.

### **A meditation**

For me, the Marshmead experience resembled a daily morning meditation where irrelevant thoughts are allowed simply to 'drift off in the breeze', freeing me to

think more deeply and clearly. By allowing me to let go of the unimportant, Marshmead constantly reminded me of what is vital; emphasising the most crucial values and making me aware of the immediate consequences of every choice, for the environment and the community.

While resting one night, I came to realise we humans hold so much power and influence; the young more so. But as we age, the routine of life so quickly gets in the way. We really have everything we need. And we can learn so much from each other's diverse communities: how to live more sustainably, and how better to serve others. I think it's in our nature to be somewhat 'self-regarding' – we can't take that part of humanity away. But what we CAN do, is expand the part of us that feels empathy and compassion, and try to live by that, to hold it at the forefront of our minds.

### **The importance of love**

I believe that without love we cannot fight for or protect anyone or anything. However, I think love can be learned through observation and by talking to those who have lived experience – people whose lives have been impacted, people at the frontline of the big battles such as climate change, and people just like me. Students, activists, social workers, doctors, lawyers, the young and the elderly and everyone in between. We all have a role to play, and with love we can work to achieve our goals.

Just as physical activity at Marshmead is not a chore but a culture, I think of it not as a place, but as a mission. The physical environment here perpetuates this mission, with the transition from diesel generators to solar and battery, for example, accompanying the students on their own missions of self-discovery.



# Wildlife in suburbia – but for how long?

## Planning to protect the natural and social amenity of our neighbourhoods

*John Mosig*

**H**ERE we are, at the backend of an El Niño summer. At least, that's what we've been told. While it's

certainly been a scorcher elsewhere, we've had regular bursts of cooling rain that has kept the subsoil moist and the lawn mowers active. But how long has the Leafy East got before the only trees are along the nature strip?

This summer has been a nature wonderland for us here in Kew. It started with a pair of tawny frogmouths rearing their offspring in the peppermint gum right outside our sunroom window. They nest somewhere nearby most years and hang around our yard till the young'uns are fully fledged.



Tawny Frogmouth

The wet early summer has brought an abundance of insect life, some welcome, some not so welcome. We've even had an orange winged butterfly that I haven't noticed before. It has a furry moth like head and body and can't seem to make up its mind if it's a moth or a butterfly when it settles, but keeps its wings mainly open as does a moth. And returning ladybirds and miniature spiders to the garden is a regular part of preparing the leafy greens and herbs for cooking.

Then there was the dance of the cabbage moths. I know; not everyone took a romantic view of these mothers of the green brassica eating grubs. But you have to admit, it was pretty spectacular to see them in such numbers. And there's plenty of organic sprays around to minimize their impact on the kale.

Recently, we've had a ringtail possum sleeping on the sunroom window ledge amongst the bells-of-summer vine that shades the area. Our family have deliberated over the possible reason she/he has abandoned his/her



Orb Spider

usual abode in the roadside melaleuca. At this stage, a matrimonial breakdown is the clubhouse leader. Maybe it's a summer thing. You'd imagine those stick nests would be stifling even in the mildest of summers.

Right now, the spiders are dominant. Everywhere you look there are spider webs harvesting the smorgasbord of insects the benign season has brought. We've got an orb spider near the back door whose engineering skills are nothing short of incredible. As the warmth of summer gives way to autumn, they'll get a hammering from the paper wasps that build under our eaves. It's an annual realignment, eh?

While this embrace of nature feeds the soul, it has to be asked: how long can it last? Maggie and I aren't doddering, but we've accepted our dotage. No one with the money to buy a house in Kew is going to accept a 120-year-old Federation weatherboard with one, albeit renovated, bathroom and no lock-up car space. One by one, the old free-standing homes will be dropped, the trees removed, and the natural habitat concreted over. These remnant natural worlds will be replaced by two storey piles of air-conditioned space.

With no open ground to sponge up the rain, the flood of urban detritus flushed down into the Yarra will surge, carrying with it the urban chemical residue that this year made half the beaches of Port Phillip too polluted for swimming.

It doesn't have to be like this; nor should it. Somewhere, say 20 years or so ago, municipal planning, based on ecological outcomes rather than rateable value, would have given us by now, exceptionally liveable suburbs. The irony is land prices are based on their amenity. A suburb where birds wake you in the morning, the houses aren't heat banks, and everywhere you walk or ride a bike is shaded would be just as rateable as the ecological timebomb we're building for ourselves today.

*John Mosig*



# KooyongKoot Alliance: a good news update

**Graham Ross**

**K**OOYONGKOOT Alliance (KKA) comprises over 20 Friends Groups, and has established itself as a group that represents Friends groups in the catchment, and as a strong voice for the creek and its flora and fauna.

We were acknowledged recently for our environmental work with an award for Connecting Habitats from the Victorian Environmental Friends Network (VEFN). VEFN advocates for Victorian environmental and friends groups. The award is particularly satisfying as it reflects exactly what the Alliance has set out to achieve: connecting not only communities, but habitats in the Kooyongkoot/ Gardiners Creek Catchment.

Urban Guerrillas, members of KKA, picked up a Highly Commended in the Outstanding Friends Group Award. A wonderful achievement for this young and vibrant group. The remaining Friends and Advisory Groups quietly go about their amazing work in the catchment, most happy to fly under the radar.

KKA was also recently granted \$50,000 from the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation to help support our catchment keeper, Graham Ross, continue the group's work in 2024, as well as providing supplementary funds to support current and future projects and working towards a securing a strategic plan for the catchment.

Another feather in KKA's cap was the award of a revegetation grant of \$94,000 from the Victorian Government's Green Links program. The grant will bring together Urban Guerrillas, Whitehorse City Council, Deakin University and a number of local Friends and community groups to revegetate a portion of the Gardiners Creek Reserve. Special emphasis will be given to providing safe habitat for Tawny Frogmouths, Blue-tongue lizards and Rakali (native water rat) as well as trying to encourage our small birds back to the reserve. Work is expected to start in April with replacement fencing being installed as part of the council's ongoing program for the Reserve.

KKA members, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Bungalook Indigenous Nursery were also successful with their application for an important project to care for Blackburn Lake, restoring and revegetating the sanctuary main inlet as part of the wetland regeneration.

In other news, two new Friends Groups have been established in the KooyongKoot/Gardiners Creek Catchment, AC/BC (Ashburton Creek Biodiversity Crew) and Friends of Wurundjeri Walk. Both are doing wonderful work to improve biodiversity in our suburbs.

*If you need more info please visit <https://kka.org.au/> or contact the KooyongKoot Catchment Keeper Graham Ross on 0407 046 358.*



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Pictured with the award is Graham Ross (KooyongKoot Catchment Keeper), Pam Welsford (Secretary KKA) and Alison Richards (Rewilding Stonnington)





# At the mercy of dog owners

Three beautiful dogs. All have dedicated owners.

One of these dogs has excellent obedience- the envy of many who see her out walking- but feels insecure and anxious in situations with other dogs that she cannot control.

One of these dogs has hip and elbow dysplasia with her first painful symptoms apparent from 12 weeks of age- these conditions now come with chronic arthritis and her pain is managed, but never gone. She will not tolerate rough contact from other dogs- it hurts.

One of these dogs was rushed by two strange dogs the very first time they left their home for a walk and was so terrified, that she screamed, urinated and defecated as her owners tried to get her away and back to the car. She has since had extensive training and socialisation- but needs time to get comfortable with new dogs.

If you are a dog owner, these three dogs and many more like them are now at your mercy. When you walk your own dog, they need you to consider them. These dogs need space. They need time.

Their owners know this and will seek to provide it, but they need your help- they cannot provide what their dogs need when other owners do not exercise control over theirs.

If your dog rushes them, chases them, jumps on them- they will be unable to cope and will freeze, flight or fight. All of these outcomes increase the likelihood of more intense reactions in the future. Your dog rushing them might be the third one to do so- that week, that day, or in the last 10 minutes.

How can you tell with certainty whether the dog you see up ahead needs space and time? YOU CAN'T. Don't make decisions for other people's dog that you do not know. Make the decision that you will keep your dog under effective control until you've been able to-

- Ask the owner if their dog would like to interact with yours.
- Observe whether the dogs would like to interact- turning their head away, moving away, stiffening, hard staring, lip licking are all signs the dog does NOT want to interact with yours, even if the humans involved think they do!






By doing this, you protect two dogs (and owners!) from bad experiences. Don't hide behind a version of the "but my dog is friendly" mantra. One dog's freedom must not compromise another's safety. You have the power. They are at your mercy.

With Love,  
Mac, Morgan and Maloo



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# Melbourne Recorder Orchestra

*Phil Ritchie*

THE Melbourne Recorder Orchestra (MRO) was founded in 1988 with 14 members and has been in continuous existence ever since. Members, who are amateur recorder players seeking to improve their skills, meet weekly to explore the special sound produced by a large group of recorders. The orchestra's meetings take place at the Methodist Ladies' College (MLC), Kew usually in Flockart Hall on Tuesday evenings.



Melbourne Recorder Phil Ritchie.

The repertoire, often written specifically for the recorder, consists for the most part of music from the Renaissance, Baroque and contemporary times. The playing year for the 25 to 30 members normally extends from the start of February to the end of November and concludes with an annual concert. Voices range from Sopranino to Contra Bass and current membership fees are \$645 for the year.

Since 2011 the orchestra's conductor and Musical Director has been Rachel Snedden. Rachel, who has a Bachelor of Music in Early Music (Recorder) from Melbourne University, started teaching in 1995 and has been very active in both recorder education and participation ever since. Rachel provides a wonderful annual repertoire for the MRO, which challenges technically while providing a great sense of excitement and achievement. Orchestral management, meanwhile, is undertaken by a committee of six players.

Broadly, the requirements for membership of the orchestra are the ability to sight read to a moderate level, to play smoothly, to play in tune and in time with the conductor, to be prepared to play in a group and to practise at home regularly.

If you are interested in joining us for a few trial sessions just let me know and I will give your email address to our new members liaison person who will get in touch with you directly. If you are not interested in joining us but would like to be added to our concert mailing list, I can arrange that.

To find out more, contact Phil Ritchie, President Melbourne Recorder Orchestra Inc by emailing [ritchiepj@bigpond.com](mailto:ritchiepj@bigpond.com) or by phoning 03 9525 9606 and leaving a message.

## 21st Annual Recorder Students' Spectacular

*By Alec*

ON 19 November, the annual Recorder Students' Spectacular was held at the Methodist Ladies College, Kew. Eighty players from around Melbourne with different levels of experience ranging from a year to many decades performed.

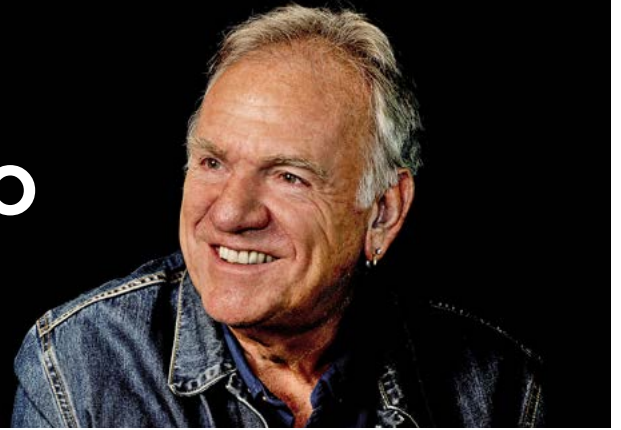
The program began with two small, high school-aged ensembles playing five different sizes of recorder, before the adult ensemble played. Next, more advanced students played solos and duets from notable

composers such as Telemann and from medieval to modern music. Then the younger, primary school aged performers played in small groups arranged by level and piece.

Finally, it was time for the massed item, a great chance for students of all ages, some of whom have never met each other, to join forces and play as one. And then it was time for snacks!

*Alec is a 14-year-old student who performed in the 21st Recorder Students' Spectacular.*

# McTell makes a welcome return to the Streets of Oz



**Mike Daly**

**R**ALPH McTell, that engaging English singer/guitarist, has been touring Victoria recently. Like countless other local and overseas performers, his visit culminates in the annual Port Fairy Folk Festival (March 8 to 11) followed by a stint in New Zealand. I've seen McTell perform several times, interviewed him on a couple of occasions and always admired his relaxed, friendly approach to the media. Our last meeting was more than 30 years ago, when he talked about 'The Boy with The Note', his BBC radio program and CD inspired by the work of celebrated Welsh poet Dylan Thomas.

'I don't put myself in the same creative company as Thomas, of course', McTell explained. But he perceived definite parallels between composing poetry and songs. 'What has always intrigued me about poetry is the compression of a much larger idea within a disciplined line structure, conveying perhaps more than one meaning at the same time.'

McTell's most celebrated song is, of course, 'Streets of London', hanging around his neck like a golden albatross. This much-loved (and much-covered) ode to the city's homeless was actually originally conceived during a busking stint in Paris, with the melody inspired by Pachelbel's 'Canon'.

Released in 1974 (six years after his debut album 'Eight Frames a Second'), 'Streets' propelled him

to stardom, an Ivor Novello Award for songwriting and a career that shows no sign of fading. It's a firm favourite with fans and he's happy to sing it for the umpteenth time. I recently saw him interviewed on TV and, yet again, he performed it on request.

The veteran performer has played just about every major venue, including the Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House and Montreux Jazz Festival, in addition to children's TV programs.

One good reason for McTell's longevity as a performer is his flair for reinvention. Not content with an impressive back-catalogue of songs, he decided to fine-tune his blues guitar technique (a first-love, he admits) with a dazzling finger-picking repertoire that includes blues and folk icons such as Blind Blake, Mance Lipscombe, Rev. Gary Davis, Big Bill Broonzy, Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan. The afore-mentioned legends can be heard on his 2006 CD, 'Gates of Eden'.

For McTell, songwriting is still a joy, not a chore. 'I can remember that indescribably good feeling from years ago, when you'd put the pencil down, sit there with the guitar and play through a song for the very first time', he said.

'Every now and then you know you've written a good one and nobody has to tell you.' But at 79, he admitted with a laugh, 'It's a damn sight harder to write as you get older'.

Details of Ralph McTell's *Streets of Oz* tour can be found on his website: [www.ralphmctell.co.uk/](http://www.ralphmctell.co.uk/)

a place to celebrate, entertain, create and connect



**T**HE City of Whitehorse is proud to announce that Whitehorse's new performing arts centre, The Round, is open for business. The new theatre is highly accessible, flexible and contemporary. It provides an expanded array of arts and cultural opportunities for the entire Whitehorse community to enjoy for generations to come.

Discover the latest shows and events coming to The Round here: Become a subscriber here: <https://www.theround.com.au/whats-on> Become a subscriber here: <https://www.theround.com.au> and enjoy exclusive benefits including flexible bookings, the ability to pay in instalments and early access to the best seats in the house.



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**4:00pm-6:00pm**



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### From the Editors

SINCE its first edition in September 2020, *Eastsider News* has provided a platform for its local communities to share stories, news and discussions of topics that affect the lives of people who live and work in our region.

*Eastsider News* is a free, digital newspaper that relies upon content generated by its local communities. It does not employ professional journalists but regularly calls on its supporters to contribute news items, stories and other material. We ask that contributions reflect the diverse nature of our local population, report on matters that affect the lives of that community and are timely, well written and interesting.

Much of the material we publish is informative and descriptive, reporting on events and activities of individuals and organisations. Some, however is more opinionated and argumentative. We consider such material part of our remit to ensure that our institutions and decision makers are transparent, open to scrutiny and remain accountable to their community. We expect, however, that the discussion remains factually based, respectful and inclusive, and should not degenerate into name calling and inflammatory language.

*Eastsider News* is committed to a set of editorial values that will determine the nature and format of the material we publish. We ask our contributors to take note of these values and to incorporate them into their output.

*Eastsider News* is community-based and not-for-profit. It seeks to facilitate democratic, community level dialogue and debate that is respectful, inclusive, impartial and based on the honest, fair and accurate

assessment of facts. It seeks to share accurate and reliable information and knowledge, and to provide good quality input into public decision making. It respects the privacy of individuals.

It is our goal to publish content that reflects the views of the local community in a fair, unbiased and non-political manner. We do not endorse any particular political party, candidate or agenda.

Language that is provocative, misleading or pejorative will not be accepted. All assertions and claims should be evidence based, verifiable and capable of being supported by independent and valid references.

We provide the opportunity, within reasonable limits, for members of our community to express their opinions within *Eastsider News* either in the form of a letter to the editor (no more than 250 words) or as an opinion piece (no more than 500 words).

We encourage our readers to respond to the opinions expressed in these contributions. We insist, however, that your response be polite, well argued, based on fact and that all claims can be supported by valid references. Provocative and pejorative language and assertions are no substitute for clear, logical discussion based on clearly enunciated concepts and verifiable fact.

We reserve the right to edit any contribution to meet our length requirements, to clarify meaning, to remove inappropriate or provocative language.

We stress that the opinions expressed within any article are solely those of the individual author and do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of the Editors, Independent Community News Group Incorporated, or any other organisation.

### The Editor: Climate Action in Boroondara

**Ray Peck, Hawthorn**

WE have come a long way since the previous Boroondara Council refused to declare a climate emergency in 2020. The current council declared one in 2021 joining 2,351 jurisdictions and local governments globally covering 1 billion citizens. The motion for the declaration was passed by seven votes to four, with Cr Gault moving, Cr Gillies seconding and Crs Addis, Biggar, Franco, Hollingsworth and Thompson also supporting the declaration. Those opposing were Crs Sinfield, Parke, Watson and Stavrou.

In Australia, according to Climate Emergency Australia, over 100 of Australia's 566 councils have declared a climate emergency and are calling for a rapid shift to a more resilient, zero-carbon society.

But what does this mean in practice in Boroondara? The plan to implement the council's Climate Action

Plan was developed and put out for community consultation last year. The most common concerns raised in the feedback were: desire for more detail and action timelines; inadequate budget and urgency; more reporting and interim targets for actions; more to be done on active transport; more to be done in the biodiversity/tree space; and more public EV chargers.

Inadequate budget was a common response because the allocation of \$1 million in a budget of \$261 million to implement the plan is less than half of one percent. This doesn't indicate a sense of emergency.

With a new council being elected in October this year, interested residents can check out the Council's progress at the Climate Action Plan Hub at [climateactionplan.boroondara.vic.gov.au/](https://climateactionplan.boroondara.vic.gov.au/) It will be interesting to watch which councillors are champions for climate action over the next six months.





# Growing up in Surrey Hills: Summer

*To be once more a little child  
For one bright summer day.*

*Lewis Carroll*

**Gillian Bell**

THE summer air was already warm when I tiptoed out of the bedroom I shared with my brother and sister and made my way outside. Bees were buzzing about the flowering bean plants and the white clover on the lawn. My bare feet tingled with the remembered pain of a recent sting.

The summer garden was heavy with fruit. The blood plums hung like Christmas baubles on the gnarled plum tree, and figs were slowly turning purple with the promise of sweetness. The hens crooned softly in their cages.

It was the start of the school holidays, and the whole of summer stretched before me. I perched on the garden swing and opened my book. I was just finishing *We of the Never Never* and had been immersed in the scrub and red earth of the faraway Northern Territory. I was fascinated by tales of Aboriginal people and their almost supernatural powers of tracking. I had a secret project to make my feet as tough as theirs. I had been practising walking on footpaths baked by the midday sun and on prickly grass, but my feet remained stubbornly tender.

I said a sad farewell to Elsey Station and closed the book. Inside at the breakfast table, my sisters and brother were already eating their cornflakes sprinkled with sugar and topped with full-cream milk from the floral jug. Dad had already left for work.

I was full of delicious anticipation at the thought of my reading for the morning. I had a treasure heap of books from the Box Hill travelling library, which lumbered along Riversdale Rd to Wattle Park on Thursday afternoons. I would browse through the shelves, sniffing the exciting odour of the books. I had recently graduated from Enid Blyton to Edith Nesbitt, and this morning I was about to enter the exotic world of the Phoenix and the Carpet.

Dishes dried and bed made, I headed outside again, book in hand, to my very favourite spot to read – the oak tree. This was my own Faraway Tree, a threshold to magic. I swung up to my reading branch and settled my back against the trunk. I gazed up at the scalloped edges of the soft green leaves, bobbing gently in the warm breeze. Inside the house, Mum would be

closing windows  
and drawing blinds  
against the first real  
heat of summer.

We children moved easily through the heat but our mother fought it, becoming flushed and irritable with the effort. Gus, our black and white cocker spaniel, would spend hot days sprawled on the cool concrete floor of the outside laundry.

Lunch was a simple meal of bread – slices cut from the white loaf delivered that morning – and Kraft cheese or peanut butter.

In the afternoon my older sister and I played stilts in the street. Dad had attached footrests to two simple wooden poles and we practised walking tall like the grown-ups. The day was growing steadily warmer and my skin became flushed and prickly, but there was no thought of sunscreen or of taking shelter.

In those far-off days the neighbours were extended family. As five o'clock approached I trotted into the Longs' house to watch the wonder of a flickering black-and-white TV. My favourite shows were *Whirlybirds*, starring law enforcers in a helicopter, and *Superman*, starring a chunky-looking Clark Kent. Kind Mrs Long never complained about the extra children underfoot while she was trying to get dinner.

Our evening meal made little concession to the heat. Tonight, it was golden salted cod in a cheese sauce with mashed potatoes, and apple crumble for dessert.

In the long evening I took Mum's old bicycle and rode dreamily up and down the street. In all my activities that day I had been rehearsing adulthood: growing taller, travelling away and finding adventures. Now my heart yearns for that golden day.

The cicadas started their shrill call as dusk fell and lights came on in the neighbouring houses. I wheeled the bike into the garage and said goodnight to the setting sun. Another exquisite day of my childhood had passed.







# Bungalook Nursery

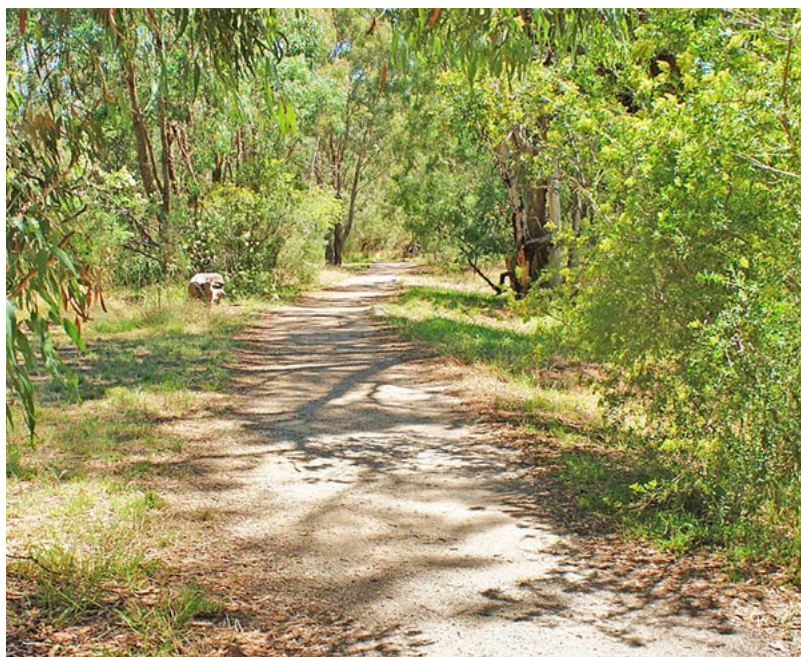
*Margaret Witherspoon*

**C**OMMUNITY nursery, Bungalook Nursery is located in Fulton Rd. Blackburn South. Entirely run by volunteers, the nursery supplies plants that are indigenous (local native) to our local bushland parks, Whitehorse City Council, schools and community organisations and an increasing number of home gardeners.

With the year having commenced, maybe now is the time to plan your forthcoming autumn and winter planting in your garden from our wide range of quality stock, at only \$2.00 per tube (discount to schools etc.) You are welcome to come and browse and chat to our volunteers.

Growing our local plants provides food and shelter for our birds, animals and all kinds of little critters. Of course, the educational and environmental benefits are many. For more details phone 0473 122 534, email [wcipp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wcipp@yahoo.com.au) or visit our website at <https://bungalooknursery.com.au>

## Friends of Wurundjeri Walk: a call for volunteers



*Sabastian Aurisano*

**W**URUNDJERI Walk is a park in Blackburn South. It extends from Christies Road near Middleborough Road to Finch Place and Bond Avenue near Blackburn Road. It has existed since 1988. Before then, it was a Freeway Reserve for a freeway that was never built.

### **Come and volunteer with us.**

The old Advisory Committee that had existed since 1988 is no longer. In its place, the Friends of Wurundjeri Walk was established to be the new parkland group to cover the Wurundjeri Walk.

Credit goes to Whitehorse Council for setting us up and also to Kooyongkoot Alliance for their assistance and their support and advice.

Email your interest in becoming a Friend of Wurundjeri Walk at: [friendsofwurundjeriwalk@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwurundjeriwalk@gmail.com)







# Cats: cute and furry killing machines

**LWT**

**I**N Australia, there are 4.9 million pet cats, and up to 6 million feral cats spread across 99% of the continent. Whether you are a cat-lover or not, we can no longer turn a blind-eye to the devastating impact that cats have on the environment.

Boroondara City Council is soon to table a petition to consider introducing a cat-curfew. In light of the science telling us just how devastating cats are to native wildlife, it is now being argued that the inaction of City Councils to introduce and enforce cat-curfews is in itself an act of environmental irresponsibility.

Currently, there is no cat-curfew in Boroondara. While exact numbers of cats in the Boroondara area are not available, we can use local council and RSPCA statistics to calculate that there are at present over 77,000 pet cats in the Boroondara area. Without a curfew, all of these pet cats are potentially free to roam, leaving the native

**A foe of our feathered friends.**



wildlife of the area extremely vulnerable to predation.

In 2020, the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program published data telling us that pet cats in Australia are killing, on average, 110 native animals each per year. We can take these figures to calculate that in Boroondara alone, pet cats are collectively killing around 8.5 million native animals each year on our doorstep. If feral cat numbers were known, this figure would be substantially higher, for they kill 75% more than domestic cats. For anyone who loves native flora and fauna, this situation, whilst unabated, is nothing short of a disgrace.

As well as devastating wild life, many people do not realise that cats are the primary host of a parasite that causes the disease toxoplasmosis. This parasite is contracted by ingesting food or water contaminated by cat excrement, where it takes up residence in the human brain. While cats roam, they are also free to share this parasite in the gardens and vegetable patches of unwitting locals.

Disturbingly, due to the prevalence of cats in human societies, one in three people world-wide already host it. There is also a growing body of evidence that this parasite is linked to serious neurological disorders, including schizophrenia, explosive rage disorder, suicide, mood swings, depression and anxiety. Of interest, a disproportionately high number of people who die in traffic accidents are found to be infected with this parasite. It can also kill human foetuses.

No matter how cute they may appear, cats are predatory by nature, a spreader of dangerous parasites and elite killing machines.

If you would like to read the full article, it is available on the Eastsider News website here: <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/boroondara/a-cat-curfew-in-boroondara/>



# Creeping threats to our parklands



**Myrtle Park – under threat from increased use by organised sporting bodies.**

*Ian Hundley*

**P**ARKS are public lands, typically comprised of natural, semi-natural or planted areas where people may go to walk, play and relax. Parkland has a critical part to play in large growing cities like Melbourne for the health and enjoyment of residents and in maintaining the environment.

In Boroondara, there are 3.4 hectares of open space per 1,000 people, which includes a smaller proportion of parkland. The median figure for open space for the Greater Metropolitan Area as a whole is almost twice this amount: 6.6. hectares per 1,000 people.

It has been found that city living can involve a quite profound detachment from nature with adverse consequences for human health. Parks are, and will remain, the only way to access nature for the majority of people in the modern urban environment in which we live.

There are a number of identifiable threats to our parklands, made more disconcerting by the fact that it is being manifested in a process of steady attrition, rather than by large, discrete events.

This includes the professionalisation, commercialisation and commodification of competitive sport, right down to local level. What was once, for the most part an amateur past-time, now has the attraction of very large incomes for those who manage to clamber to the top. Many of the corporate sporting bodies are very wealthy. They should pay for their own facilities to cater for the commercial expansion of their activities that

they crave.

Behind the scenes political lobbying by organisations such as the AFL and professional cricket-affiliated bodies to repurpose or intensify the use of Council-controlled parkland for organised sport is a particularly important and destructive element.

This is what is going on at present in Boroondara's development of a 'masterplan' for Macleay and Myrtle Parks in Balwyn North. Engagement with park users and residents is virtually non-existent whilst Council dealings with tenant sporting clubs proceed behind closed doors.

Parks are also being hacked at or eliminated for roads projects. This is occurring because state and local governments continue to preference chronically space inefficient and environmentally destructive road transport over public transport. A quarter of the Koonung Creek Reserve in Balwyn North is to be commandeered in this way by the Allan Government's North East Link Project.

It is not generally known, but schools are also making increasing demands on parkland for sporting activity. This is principally because in recent decades schools have been constructing many more buildings and other facilities, including car parks, on their campuses. This construction activity has been disproportionately greater than increases in student numbers. Notably, unlike the rest of us, schools do not pay council rates, which means they are increasingly freeloading off (primarily) council open space.

The push back against these adverse trends for the future of our parklands is urgent. At local government level, councillors need to declare their opposition to, and campaign against, future excising of parkland for non-park purposes.



**Koonung Creek Reserve, Balwyn North – One quarter to be lost to the North East Link Project.**





John Butler Maling

# What's in a name?

## A culture skirmish in Boroondara

"Boroondara" is a Woiwurrung word often translated as "a shady place".

*Leigh Naunton*

**J**OHN Butler Maling was the first settler landholder in what is now called Surrey Hills, and one of the longest-

serving councillors in the history of Camberwell. He served as president of the Shire of Boroondara three times and as the City of Camberwell's first mayor in 1905 to 1906. Maling Ward and Maling Road are named in his honour.

A Council-owned house in Canterbury Rd next to the Canterbury Gardens is slated for occupation by two local historical societies. They asked Council to call it the Maling Heritage Centre. So Boroondara Council under its rules and Victoria's, had a public consultation, in this case via its website.

Boroondara Reconciliation Network spotted this and after getting permission from her family, proposed and encouraged others to support the name of an esteemed woman Aboriginal leader with strong Boroondara connections. This was in line with the State naming policy of giving priority to women and Aboriginal people. It, however, created an appearance of tension on the consultation platform between those who had put up the name Maling and supporters of the alternative.

A further problem arose because Council's naming policy requires consultation with the Traditional Owner body, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC), only when an Aboriginal language name is proposed. Despite this, after a bit of to-and-fro, Council staff organised a meeting with WWCHAC elders and told them about the Maling proposal, but not about the alternative.

This was, it is said, because their policy only allows them to consult about the formally proposed name, not about any alternative suggested name. Nor did they say that John Maling was the first settler landowner and thus arguably an agent of the dispossession of the Wurundjeri people of their country – although to be fair this may not have been known or understood by Council staff.

We believe that this sequence of events has led to some more work on Boroondara Council's naming procedure and perhaps in time, policy. When the naming policy was adopted in February 2023, an amendment was moved for the WWCHAC to be consulted about all naming proposals, but lapsed for want of a seconder. However, we believe that Council staff will in future inform the WWCHAC of any naming proposals that Council receives.

The matter of the specific name will go from Council staff in a proposal to Council, perhaps in March.

Leigh is the Secretary of the Boroondara Reconciliation Network. Email them at [reconcileboroondara@gmail.com](mailto:reconcileboroondara@gmail.com) Their Facebook page is [here](#). Go to the following links which discuss the history of the [Shire of Boroondara](#) and the [City of Camberwell](#)



# Pedestrian Safety: Blackburn Square Shopping Centre

*John Young*

THE recent re-development of the Blackburn Square shopping centre in Blackburn North has, in my opinion, resulted in significant risk to pedestrians navigating the eastern vehicle access ramp on Springfield Road at the centre.

Pedestrians walking along Springfield Road in either direction must pass vehicles waiting to turn left or right when leaving the centre, as well as traffic entering from an easterly direction and traffic turning right from a westerly direction on Springfield Road; in effect from four directions simultaneously. There is no signage at the ramp giving warning to take care or to give way to pedestrians whether inbound or outbound.

To make matters worse Blackburn High School, with about 1300 students, is right next door to the shopping centre with students often waiting for buses at nearby stops on both sides of Springfield Road. Old Orchard Primary School is also in the vicinity.

Shopping centre management and design engineers have failed to install what would be a very useful pedestrian access ramp at the eastern end of the shopping centre adjacent to the vehicle ramp. This area is now occupied by more car parking, a testament to our car-centric society.

A representative of shopping centre management recently told me that pedestrians are expected to use the pedestrian ramp near the bus stop. This fails the basic test of human fallibility and behaviour, especially when involving children. I have seen several pedestrians using the ramp to access the shopping centre but short of 'ticking off' pedestrians, best occupational health and safety practice is to 'eliminate' or 'engineer' out the hazard, not to attempt to modify human behaviour.

**Blackburn Square.**



## **What needs to be done**

The shopping centre has a legal and moral duty of care to the public within its area of control. It should be required to install a Disability Discrimination Act compliant access ramp adjacent to the eastern vehicle ramp in Springfield Road. This avoids the need for westbound pedestrians to dodge traffic on the ramp in order to access the shopping centre via the provided pedestrian ramp near the bus stop.

The City of Whitehorse has provided school crossing supervisors outside the high school and at the Springfield Road / Surrey Road intersection but nothing at the vehicle access ramp. Why not?

Consideration should also be given to the installation of traffic lights at this ramp synchronized to the traffic lights at Williams Road. I appreciate, however, this may be technically difficult. Traffic on Springfield Road and at the shopping centre vehicle access points are extremely busy at school pick up time; the worst possible time for children's safety.

## **Why change is imperative**

Several fatalities and serious injuries in this area over recent years confirm the high level of risk this situation represents to pedestrians. Factors contributing to the risk, especially for children include inappropriately high speed limits and the reduced visibility of pedestrians for drivers of excessively large and increasingly popular SUV vehicles.

*Please go here to read a longer version of this article in which these factors are discussed in more detail:*

<https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pedestrian-Safety-Risk-at-Blackburn-Square-Shopping-Centre-long-version.pdf>





## Interest groups



# Doncaster Camera Club: Outing to Docklands

*Pamela Rixon*

**D**ONCASTER Camera Club has several Special Interest Groups which cater for specific photographic interests of members. One of these groups is the Scenic Group, which has regular photographic outings to places within an easy distance of the Eastern Suburbs. We focus on landscape and urban photography.

Through our photography we have learnt to appreciate that there is plenty to challenge and interest photographers within easy reach of our homes in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne.

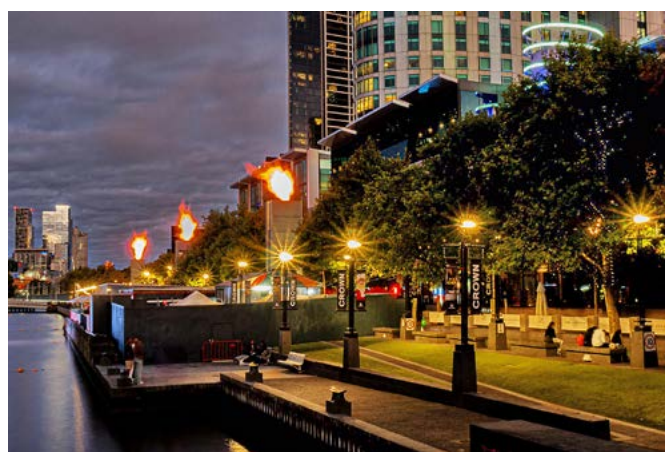
Recently we organized an evening outing to Docklands. There was a wide range of subjects to photograph, including bridges, buildings, people, the Yarra River and sunset. These outings also provide opportunities for people to socialise and learn from each other, and also to get creative in the capture or post processing of their images.

The group which included several new members came away with a wide variety of photos and some very impressive images. We hold a follow up Zoom session where we share and discuss the images taken during the outing. It is always amazing to see the different things people find to photograph in the one location.

The photos published here are from some of our newer members. Enquiries and visitors to Club meetings and activities are always welcome.

Do check out our website and social media pages for more information and photos. To contact Doncaster Camera Club phone the President, Michael Walker on 0412 252 387 or the Secretary, Pam Rixon on 0421 813 531, email [doncastercameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:doncastercameraclub@gmail.com) or write to Pam Rixon, Secretary DCC, PO Box 2043 Box Hill North VIC 3129.

To see more of our work, go to Instagram at [doncaster.camera.club](https://www.instagram.com/doncaster.camera.club), Facebook at [doncaster camera club – Melbourne](https://www.facebook.com/doncaster.camera.club), or our website at [www.doncastercameraclub.org.au](http://www.doncastercameraclub.org.au)



**PHOTOS (from top): Webb Bridge by Roger Godfrey; Docklands by Joanna Fu; Flame On By Martin Lewis.**



# Generosity Knows no Bounds



Isabel (centre), as Life member of Balwyn Cricket Club.

### Sal Dugan

**A**LTHOUGH many *Eastsider News* readers may not have come across Isabel Harkensee OAM, it's equally true to say that many have. Apart from raising and being devoted to her five children, she was simultaneously devoted to volunteering her time and expertise to an impressive number of local organisations.

Amongst them was the BassCare Meals on Wheels, from which she received her 25 Years of Service Certificate. Apart from delivering meals, she and her fellow volunteers kept an eye out for uneaten meals indicating the possibility of malnourished recipients, as well as spending the time of day with those in need of company.

The Kew Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) also benefited from Isabel's generosity. The CAB is where residents come to solve basic consumer rights issues, from littering offences and fence disputes to providing food vouchers and trying to find accommodation for the homeless. The CAB volunteers were not expected to solve these issues, but they offered sympathy and pointed people in the right direction to have their problems resolved. Sadly, many people came in simply to have a chat, to make contact with another human.

Isabel's four sons were keen cricketers, so early on in her career of volunteering she, along with her mother

and husband, provided afternoon tea at the club on Saturdays, making thousands of scones and serving gallons of tea for over 30 years. St Barnabas, now the Balwyn Saints Cricket Club, honoured her with a Life Membership. Just as well, for she retains her interest in the club, given her 12-year-old great grandson is now a playing member.

Isabel also became involved with both the Balwyn North Senior Citizen's Club (for about 30 years) and the Burwood branch of the CWA (for 10 years) serving as President for both organisations during her time with them.

It is an exhausting list of achievements, but that's not all. Isabel is a long-serving and current member of the Box Hill RSL's Women's Auxiliary, where she and others now devote their time fundraising to provide doonas, towels, small kitchen items and toiletries for units being developed for veterans at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital site.

It is possible that Isabel regards her time at the 2008 Melbourne Commonwealth Games as the highlight of her volunteering life. She was one of thousands who applied and were accepted to act as volunteers for the Games. Her children wryly said, 'Oh dear, you'll be stuck with the rifle range', but no, she was one of the few selected to present the medals. A real thrill, and as she put it, 'that's the closest I'll ever get to a gold medal'.

After over 40 years of non-stop volunteering, Isabel is slowing down just a little. Not surprising, given she had a stroke during the 2021 lockdown, spending quite some time in hospital, after which there was speech therapy and rehab to endure. Fabulous that she has managed to conquer that. Fabulous too, that she now enjoys her weekly yoga class, lunchtime music and other events held by Boroondara Council, and her War Widows' meetings at the Box Hill RSL where she has joined a knitting group making blankets and knee rugs to be donated to worthy causes. Oh, and she has also joined Boroondara's Sing for Recovery, a choir for stroke victims, which meets weekly and is conducted by Box Hill musician, John Keuneman.

Apart from five children and eight grandchildren, Isabel has eight great-grandchildren ranging from seven months to 13 years. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a massive contribution to the local community makes Isabel Harkensee one very special person. It is little wonder she received an Order of Australia Medal in the 26 January honours' list!



# Volunteer Gets a Gong

*Ross Gillespie*

CONGRATULATIONS to Su Dempsey, a fifty-year veteran in volunteering. Her contributions to a long list of causes over many years was recognised at a presentation ceremony on Sunday 26 November 2023 at Blackburn Lakes Visitor Centre, where she received the annual CROWAG Volunteers Award for Lifetime Achievement.

A guest in the crowd commented very approvingly, 'Gee, if anyone deserved an award, that lady did!' Simone Taylor, from the Jeffrey Street Residents Association was one of Su's nominators and described her as an 'unsung hero' in Whitehorse. This award will recognise her hard work, service and dedication to the community and environment.

In receiving the award, Su expressed her deep appreciation for all of the volunteers with whom she has worked; the people behind the scenes who help make our communities tick.

In her presentation speech, Anne Payne OAM (CROWAG, BLS and Tree Society Committee member) spoke of Su's lifelong involvement in volunteering. After coming to live in Blackburn in 1976, Su joined the Jeffrey Street Residents Association and has been a working bee stalwart ever since. She has organised many community events, night-time possum prowls for kids and helped to educate residents about the value of trees, biodiversity, canopy, bird life and so on.

As area manager for Neighbourhood Watch for 34 years, Su produces and arranges delivery of its monthly newsletter. Her work for the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary (BLS) and its advisory committee began in 1985, when she helped set up its ongoing education program. Hundreds of pre-schoolers, primary and secondary students and adult groups have taken part in environmental education sessions at BLS over 40 years. She coordinated the BLS Visitor Centre's very busy roster from 1993 to 2001 and recently completed 19 years as the BLS Treasurer. Her more creative talents shine when producing "What's On at BLS?" signs and



**Simone Taylor, David Morrison, Anne Payne OAM, Su Dempsey and Peter Dempsey at the CROWAG Volunteers Award Ceremony Nov. 2023.**

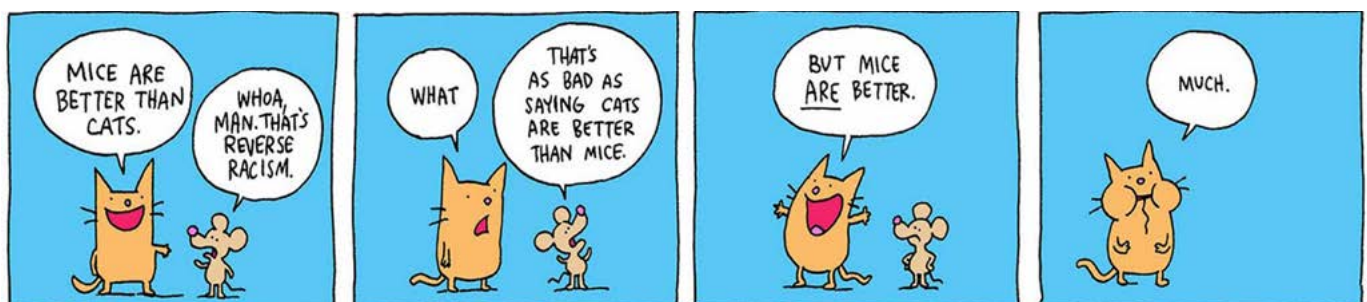
many environmental and educational brochures so essential to the sanctuary's work.

One of Su's passions is to reduce the amount of litter that enters our storm water system and ends up in Blackburn Lake or Port Philip Bay. She set up a catchment system for BLS with local schools and the Scouts helping and has been a team leader with Melbourne Water Watch at BLS since its establishment in 2000.

This was followed by the formation of the KooyongKoot Alliance (Gardiners Creek) to improve the health of that creek. Su also volunteers with the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and since 2013 has sat on its Council. She has also been involved with the Victoria Police Community Support Register since 2017.

The annual CROWAG Volunteers Award seeks to support volunteerism in Whitehorse and to recognise the commitment of local volunteers. In 2022 David Berry, the longstanding President of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society won this award in the category Environment and Biodiversity.

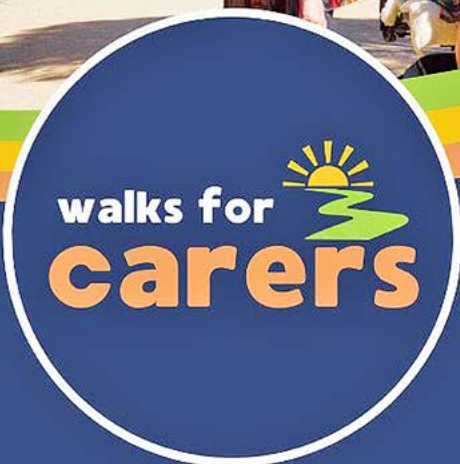
*Ross Gillespie is President, CROWAG Committee of Management. Contact him at [crowag.inc@gmail.com](mailto:crowag.inc@gmail.com)*







## Local organisations



## Walks for Carers – Neighbourhood Carers Club



NEIGHBOURHOOD Houses Victoria seeks to support unpaid carers of a loved one with a disability, mental illness or aged person. Our carers get together once a month at their local neighbourhood house or centre, go for a walk, and chat about all things related and unrelated to being a carer over a cuppa. Our priority is improved carer wellbeing through social connection, informal peer support and information re carer services.

### **Burwood Neighbourhood Carers Club**

The Burwood carer support group meets at Burwood Neighbourhood House at 1 Church St Burwood. They meet on the first Monday of every month at 10am (excluding public holidays) from Monday, 4 March.

To find out more about Burwood Walks for Carers, please click here: <https://www.nhvic.org.au/burwood-walks-for-carers>

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is the peak body for the Neighbourhood House sector. To locate a Neighbourhood House or a Carers Club close to you, go here: <https://www.nhvic.org.au/find-a-neighbourhood-house>

*Not Just a Carer* is a short film produced by Neighbourhood House Victoria exploring the plight of a carer. To watch this film, go here: <https://www.nhvic.org.au/neighbourhood-carers-club>

where carers are always welcome

neighbourhood  
carers  
club



Neighbourhood  
Houses Victoria



# The Coming of Café Kevin

*Sal Dugan*

**M**OST remember Kevin Heinze from watching *Sow What*, ABC TV's inaugural gardening program, or from listening to his long-running ABC radio gardening chat show, during which he answered thousands of questions offering sound advice from the easily answered to the seriously difficult problems faced by his listening public.

Initially he simply aimed to encourage us to get gardening, but over time, especially following the death from cancer of his eight-year-old daughter, he turned his mind to fund raising. He and wife Jill held an open day at their Montrose garden in the mid-70s, the first of many fundraisers, eventually contributing close to half a million dollars for cancer research.

A trip to the UK inspired Kevin to develop a garden centre that would bring people with disability together in the open air to learn about all aspects of gardening from nurturing seedlings to marketing fully grown plants. With massive support from the Doncaster and Templestowe Kiwanis Club and the then Doncaster and Templestowe Council (now Manningham), the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre opened in 1979. Now known as Kevin Heinze Grow, and supported by volunteers and participants, it still operates from its original site at 39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster.

I was there for the first time recently, for the launch of its newest initiative, Café Kevin. Café Kevin turns out to be a large van fronted by raised garden beds. It is entirely decorated with a floral mural designed and installed by Melbourne artist Angharad Neal-Williams, who has been working with public art projects for close to 10 years and, in this case, was assisted by numerous KHG participants.

The launch was well attended. Rob Curtain (Secretary, KHG Committee of Management) revealed that the project had been several years in the making. There was the need to adhere to compliance laws, to fund the purchase of the purpose-built van, to install newly purchased kitchen equipment: fridges, microwaves, cups and of course the all-essential coffee machine. Not to mention sorting out the electrics, the plumbing; you know all about it, surely. Nothing happens quickly, but when it comes to fruition, it's fabulous.

Congratulations to all involved. Sponsors were numerous: Manningham City Council, the East Doncaster and the Templestowe branches of the Bendigo Bank, Doncaster Rotary. And, before us all, the presentation of a massive (in both senses of the word) cheque from the East Doncaster Cricket Club! Thanks too, to the volunteers and participants who



Artist  
Angharad  
Neal-Williams

helped run the occasion and allowed us to savour some of what we can expect from future visits to the Cafe.

Café Kevin was officially launched by Manningham Mayor, Carli Lange, a regular visitor to Kevin Heinze Grow for many a year. Now, she will be able to enjoy a cuppa and a cake, or perhaps lunch if there's time. And so will we all!

Don't drive past, take time out and drop in to explore all that Kevin Heinze Grow has to offer. It's a surprisingly large acreage down a nice country-like driveway. Make a special effort to visit, for the plants, produced by participants in the KHG therapeutic horticulture program, under the supervision of qualified horticulturists and keen volunteers, look strong and healthy. I bought four pots, and will be back for more.

Café Kevin is at 39 Wetherby Rd, Doncaster and is currently open on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10am to 1.30pm. The Nursery is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 2.30pm. To find out more, go to their website at [kevinheinzegrow.org.au](http://kevinheinzegrow.org.au)





# Probus Mont Albert

*Attention all semi-retired or retired men and women*

**Roger Kibell**

**I**N late October 2023, 30 excited Probus Mont Albert members set off for a two-week trip to a country many of us have never contemplated visiting. After our adventure in Japan, however, these 30 people came back singing the praises of Japan as a travel destination. 'The trip to Japan was fabulous! Much better than we expected', enthused Anita and Jim. The same happened after we came back from our trip to Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro.

Such extended trips away are but two of the 24 or so activities you could enjoy by joining the Mont Albert Probus Club.

## **But why join a club?**

Approaching retirement can bring an unspoken concern about how you are going to fill in the free hours you longed for when you were employed. The same concern might niggle about companionship. At work you had friends, but most were just that, 'work friends' and invariably, keeping up contact with them all when you have different lifestyles and demands on your time, can be tough.

The answer is to join a group of men and women who have decided to fill their retirement with fun, friendship and stimulation. Probus clubs can answer these needs. 'I never realised how important it is at our stage in life to have so many supportive people around me', said Carole whose words can be echoed by members across the club.

Many potential members are concerned, understandably, that the club is going to be a nightmare of fund-raising, overbearing bureaucracy and endless trips of old people on buses. Fear not!

Probus clubs are, by constitution, not-for-profit, forbidden to raise money, affiliate with any political party or religion and club meetings only happen on a Friday morning, once a month. Bus trips are infrequent and most activities are reached by car or public

transport. Many are held in members' homes.

Activities are suggested and run by members. We have a committee to handle all the administrative requirements but our members are expected to take turns helping to run the club. Without members 'doing their bit', we wouldn't have a club. The fact that we have been active for three decades proves that organising activities isn't too onerous.

You can check out all the activities on our website but I'll just give you a 'taste' of some of our offerings.

I've mentioned our extended trips away but we also have cabin and caravan getaways, outings to places around Melbourne and its outskirts, coffee shop gatherings, dinners and lunches out, book clubs, discussion groups, card and mahjong sessions, walking and rambling groups, garden and art gallery tours, footy tipping and several one-off activities that are suggested each year. If you have a passion or suggestion, you can raise it.

## **We run the club; it doesn't run us.**

When my wife and I agreed to attend a monthly meeting, we did so out of politeness, not expecting to have anything in common with the members. Our arrogance was rapidly dismissed. We found a group of 120 members with varied social, political, cultural, work experiences and all were there to lead more fulfilling lives after retirement. After thirteen years, nothing has changed. We are all retired from 'work' but definitely not from life.

If you think we're worth a try, here are a few nuts and bolts that might help. We meet at 10am, every second Friday of the month in the Function Room of the Box Hill Golf Club, 202 Station Street, Box Hill South, 3128.

You will need to contact our Membership Convenor, via our contact page, to arrange an appropriate time to visit and to discuss some administrative details. To do this, go to our website [www.montalbertprobus.com/](http://www.montalbertprobus.com/) or email at [montalbertprobus@gmail.com](mailto:montalbertprobus@gmail.com)

You won't regret it.





# Rotary Box Hill Community Grants

**Applications for 2024 are now open**

EACH year the Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood supports local community groups within our locale through our Community Grants Program. Grants assist local groups to provide necessary services that benefit our local community.

Over the last 21 years Rotary Box Hill Burwood have been proud to support over one million dollars worth of projects locally and internationally. Eligibility for funding through Community Grants is dependent on the organisation being an existing group delivering community service within the City of Whitehorse, with priority given to those in Box Hill and Burwood neighbourhoods at the discretion of the Grants Committee. The group should be incorporated and have published an annual report and accounts within the previous 12 months.

Preference will be given to projects that support Rotary's seven areas of focuses. Funding is to be for a specific program, project, or piece of equipment, but not for normal recurrent expenditure items.

## How to apply:

For more information on grant conditions/criteria and to complete and submit your application: <https://www.boxhillburwoodrotary.org.au/community-grants/>

If you have any queries regarding the Community Grants initiative or wish to submit an application by email, please contact: Rotarian Tim Lynn by email at [community.grants@boxhillburwoodrotary.org.au](mailto:community.grants@boxhillburwoodrotary.org.au) or by post at Community Services Coordinator, Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood, PO Box 59, Box Hill 3128



## Helping Families be Safer

*Dorothy Gilmour, Rotary Hawthorn*

ROTARY Club of Hawthorn is the home to the Rotary SAFE Families model for the prevention of family abuse to women, men, children and our elderly. The prevention model also includes informing community leaders from our many CALD communities (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse). Our model is theoretically researched and endorsed by Victoria Police and many other wonderful organisations.

### You can make a difference to family violence

By knowing and using the 3Rs of the prevention model, you could save a life or free a child from experiencing lifelong trauma and suffering. We must change the story that was too often told to us in the past. Either abuse was not to be spoken about, or lots of excuses were offered such as I must not become involved, or it's not my business. This often was led by ignorance and not knowing what to do.

An important voice in changing attitudes is that of Rosie Batty who says, 'I want to tell people that family violence happens to anybody, no matter how nice your house is, no matter how intelligent you are.'

### The Rotary SAFE Families model

The Safe Families model informs and provides techniques that can be simply applied to any form of abuse. It is based on three Rs:

- Recognise signs of abuse
- Raise your concerns safely with victim
- Refer victim to 000 (emergency) or any of the myriad of support organisations OR make the call yourself.

Abuse is difficult to talk about, but feel the fear, and talk about it anyway.

To hear more of Rotary SAFE Families work and reach out to communities, or to host a free workshop, please contact Dorothy Gilmour, the co-founder and chair of Rotary SAFE Families by email at [info@rotarysafefamilies.org.au](mailto:info@rotarysafefamilies.org.au) Check out our website at <https://rotarysafefamilies.org.au/>



# Twins, Triplets or More?

## Your Local Multiple Birth Community Understands the Challenges and Joys of Raising Multiples

*Sarah Lavis*

**E**ASTERN Area Multiple Birth Association (EAMBA)

provides communication, support and services to parents of multiples (twins, triplets, quadruplets or more) within the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. We have 120 member families in the Maroondah, Yarra Ranges, City of Knox, Whitehorse and Manningham areas. Our funding comes from membership fees, donations, fundraising and grants.

We are 100% volunteer run.

### Our mission

Our mission is to provide multiple birth families with the opportunity to connect and engage within a supportive community. We aim to bring a sense of belonging, provide practical advice and resources, and give emotional support for those raising multiples. We do this through a Facebook group, member only events, parents' dinners and gatherings, weekly playgroups and more.

### Multiple birth families face major challenges

In Australia, the number of multiples born each year is relatively small, accounting for 2% to 3% of all births. Twins make up the majority of multiples born (98%) with the remaining 2% being triplets, quadruplets or other higher order multiples.

In March 2023, the Australian Multiple Birth Association released its Multiples Matters report. It showed that multiple birth families face a significantly greater set of challenges compared to those with singletons.

Challenges include the costs of twins and higher order multiples which were almost five times and 13 times, respectively, higher than those of a singleton up to the age of one year. Furthermore, pregnant women with multiples are more prone to virtually every pregnancy complication. The rate of premature birth and admission to Special Care Nurseries or Neonatal Intensive Care Units amongst multiples is 68%, with 50% having hospital stays of six days or more.

Mothers of multiples have a lower breastfeeding rate, and are more likely to discontinue breastfeeding earlier than mothers of singletons. Amongst parents of multiples, 68% will experience mental health challenges in their first year. They are also nine times more likely to experience disabling exhaustion; and 67% said childcare was not affordable for their family.

### My EAMBA story

I joined EAMBA in late 2020 when I was pregnant with my twins. After experiencing a very traumatic birth resulting in a NICU stay and eight nights in hospital, I was struggling to get out of the house and find a new normal.

I was encouraged by another member to come to an EAMBA event and she even offered to drive me there as I was unable to drive due to my recovery. I went to the EAMBA Mother's Day event where I was able to connect with other twin mums. I met Sarah Hatfield at that event and she became one of my best friends.

Sarah's twins are seven weeks older than mine. She is also an ex-pat and lives in the same suburb as I do. We kept each other sane during the 2021 lockdowns and our children are close friends. We both joined the EAMBA committee at the same time too. I am forever grateful for this connection and for the club. It is a blessing to watch our children grow up together and share the twin motherhood journey.

### Multiple Birth Awareness Week: 17 March to 24 March

To find out about Multiple Birth Awareness Week (MBAW), go here: <https://www.amba.org.au/mbaw>

To learn more about EAMBA and its work, go here: <https://www.amba.org.au/mbaw> The Multiples Matter report is available here: <https://www.amba.org.au/>

*Sarah Lavis is President Eastern Area Multiple Birth Association*

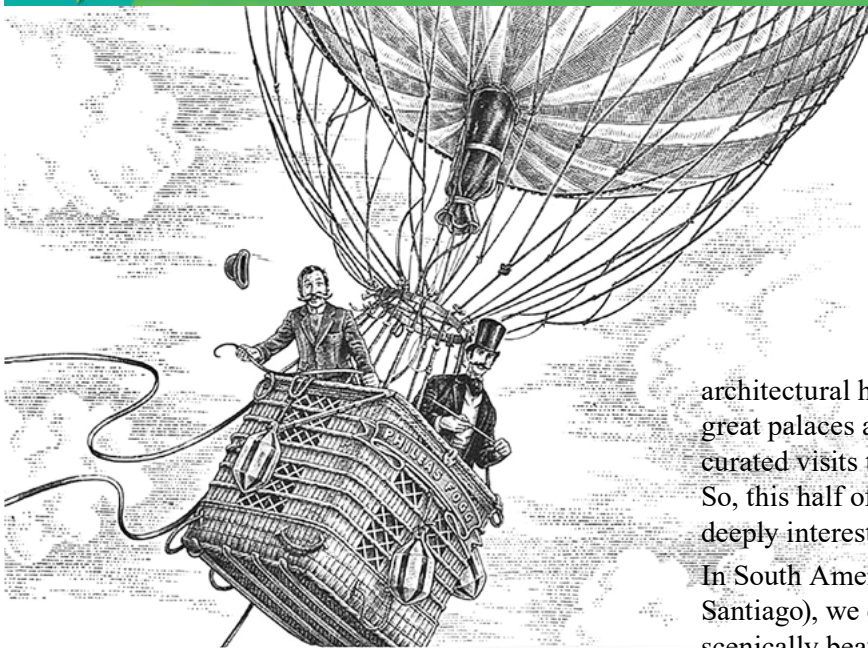
**EAMBA playgroup with Sarah, Ellen and Kathryn**







# Around the World in 56 Days



**Carmel McNaught**

*This piece is a summary of a longer piece that contains lots more delightful detail. We encourage you to go to [www.eastsidernews.org.au/travel/around-the-world-in-56-days/](http://www.eastsidernews.org.au/travel/around-the-world-in-56-days/) to capture the full experience.*

I wrote this piece to capture the essence of an amazing, whirlwind, round-the-world, 56-day trip that David and I did recently. We had two travel ‘needs’ – seeing our beloved daughter Liz and family in Italy as it had been five long years since we were together; and going on a Covid-deferred trip to Antarctica. As a round-the-world ticket is cheaper than flying direct to South America, we did both!

Our itinerary: a village on Lake Como; places in Europe we had not visited before (Liechtenstein, Warsaw, Budapest, Brussels and Luxembourg); England to see several dear friends; Frankfurt; Buenos Aires; then to Ushuaia and embarkation on our expedition ship for 20 wonderful days in the southern polar regions. We finished the trip in Santiago. Each day was fantastic and the whole trip exceeded all our expectations.

So, highlights? The first was the joy of our family reunion. The initial hugs with Liz, Rob and their seven-year-old twins were magical. The many stories we have heard about their life in an old villa in a small, picturesque village on the shores of beautiful Lake Como came to life. So much laughter, long walks, the local sights and the splendid local café for the morning coffee ritual.

We were lucky with the weather. Wintry Europe was mostly sunny; even England’s weather was mostly fine, and we had calm seas in Antarctica. In Europe we were unashamedly tourists: Art Nouveau and Art Deco

architectural heavens, snow-covered mountain vistas, great palaces and museums. Our friends in England curated visits to places we had not previously explored. So, this half of our epic adventure was rich, joyous and deeply interesting.

In South America (Buenos Aires, Ushuaia and Santiago), we explored interesting architecture in scenically beautiful cities. However, the uneasy tension between colonial history and indigenous rights was fairly apparent and we were saddened by obvious homelessness and by quite significant air pollution in Buenos Aires and Santiago.

The experiential highlight of the whole trip was our 20 days on the Sylvia Earle, a new and small expedition ship (118 passengers), giving us an immersion in a near-pristine environment. We had superb celebrations on both Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve and engaging conversations at every meal with interesting folk. Our itinerary was the South Shetlands, the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the Falklands (Malvinas). Imagine several hundred thousand penguins on a beach happily mingling with hundreds of seals; imagine the rich abundance of ocean fish that supports these huge populations. We were able to walk close to the penguins and seals. Huge albatrosses and petrels often hunted in the ship’s wake. Shags (cormorants), shearwaters, prions and other birds were wonderful to watch, as were several close encounters with whales. All this in the majestic setting of the towering cliffs, awe-inspiring glaciers and snow-covered peaks of the Antarctic mainland and islands. In addition, the history of Antarctic exploration was incorporated into our trip.

Our remaining wilderness areas are precious; we saw both beauty and tragedy. The melting of the Antarctic ice is tragic, highlighted by viewing the largest iceberg that currently exists (named A23a). We adhered to strict biosecurity protocols at every landing. However, several possible landings were cancelled because of the presence of avian influenza which particularly affected the seal populations. Hopefully, this summary will whet others’ appetites for exploring this wonderful world.



## Cellophane Noodle Salad

from Elizabeth Chong's book *Tiny Delights*

This recipe is extremely simple to prepare and is most refreshing on a summer's day. The colours and textures are very interesting all the way through – slippery noodles, crispy carrots, cucumber, apples and nuts, all mixed together in a tangy fresh sauce. It looks very pretty. Serves 2.

### Ingredients:

60g cellophane noodles (sometimes called 'glass' noodles)

90g carrots, julienned

1 continental cucumber, unpeeled and julienned

1 small apple, julienned (skin on)

1 small pear, julienned (skin on)

60g Chinese sweet pickles, julienned

30g peanuts, skins on

For the dressing: Mix together

2 tbs sesame oil

2 tsp vinegar

½ tsp salt

1 tsp sugar

### Preparation:

Place the peanuts on a tray and toast in a moderately hot oven for 10-15 minutes.

Soak the noodles in warm water until soft (about 20 minutes). Drain and cut into approximately 10 cm lengths.

Combine the noodles with the carrots, cucumber, apple, pear, pickles and peanuts in a bowl. Chill in the refrigerator.

Arrange on a serving plate. Pour over the dressing.



Science, education



# RINGWOOD

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

### Lynn Blackbell

U3A Ringwood is a community organisation that offers a variety of educational and recreational activities for people who are over 55 and no longer working full time. We are a small and friendly group that gives our members an opportunity to pursue their interests and hobbies in a friendly and supportive environment.

Some of the benefits you will get by joining U3A Ringwood include:

- learning new skills or enhance existing ones, such as languages, computer, art, music, history and many more
- keeping your mind and body active and healthy, by participating in activities such as yoga, tai chi,

exercise, table tennis and line dancing

- meeting new people and making friends, by joining discussion groups, excursions, wine appreciation and social events
- enhancing your retirement and have fun without ongoing high weekly fees.

U3A Ringwood is one of the first U3As in Australia and has been operating since 1986. It is located in two convenient positions, one on Mullum Mullum Road Ringwood and one on Tortice Drive Ringwood North.

We have 270 members and over 40 courses all offered at a once-a-year cost of only \$65.00. If you are interested in joining you can visit our website at [www.u3aringwood.org.au](http://www.u3aringwood.org.au)/ ring 0481591224 or email [info@u3aringwood.org.au](mailto:info@u3aringwood.org.au)

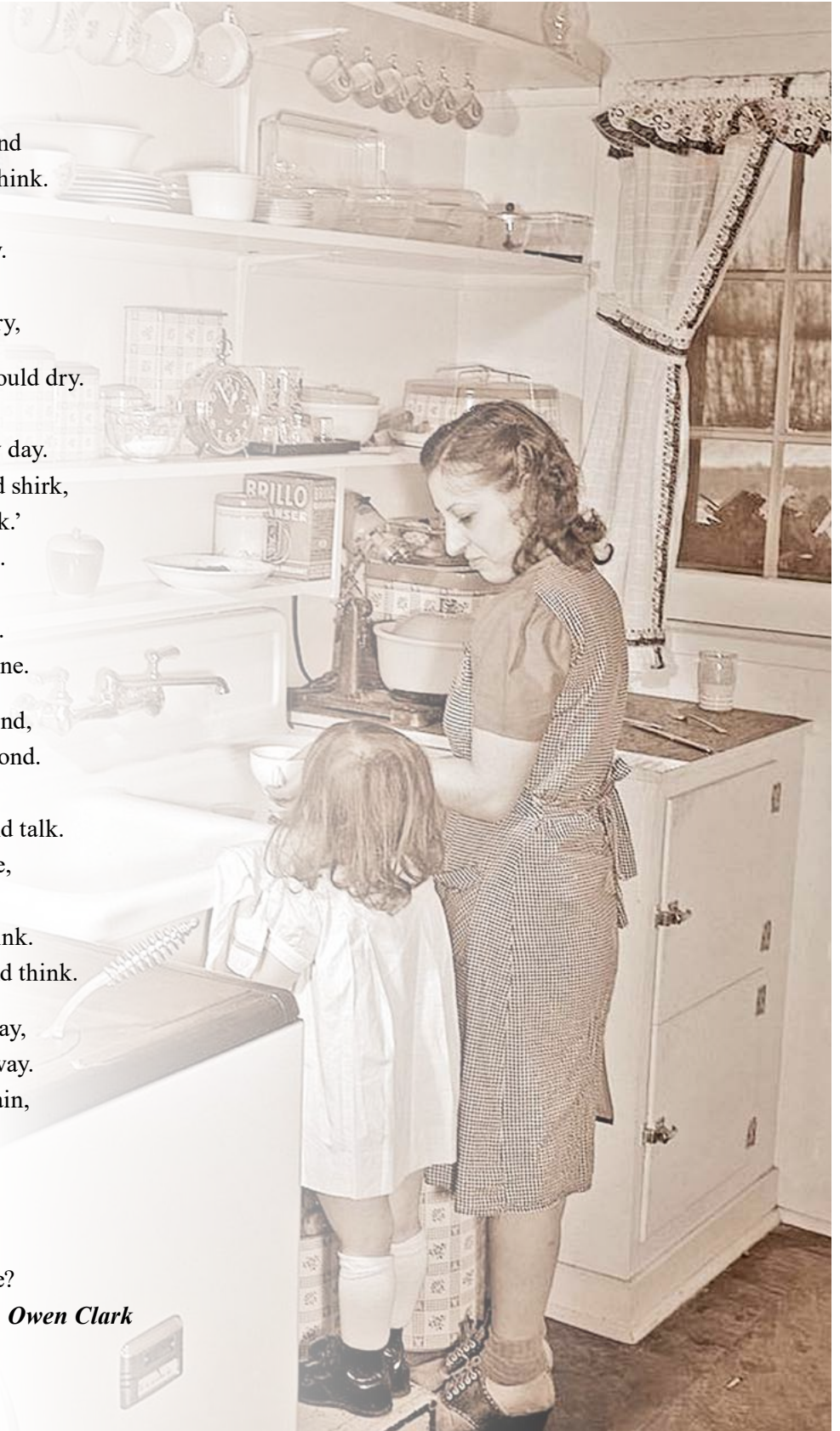




# washing dishes

I wonder if moderns understand.  
That we washed dishes all by hand  
With no machines, you have to think.  
Of washing dishes in the sink.  
'I want to wash,' was a quick cry.  
Another then would have to dry.  
There could be such a hue and cry,  
  
Of who would wash, and who would dry.  
And to remind you let me say,  
This happened three times every day.  
And men would often shrink and shirk,  
And say, 'This is a woman's work.'  
Often children dodged to spoil it.  
'I have to go to the toilet.'  
They didn't think that it was fun.  
But work always that must be done.  
  
Others though have memories fond,  
It was a time when they would bond.  
It wasn't just a chore or work.  
They had a time when they would talk.  
Communicate and with no phone,  
Together they were not alone.  
They talked things over by the sink.  
They then would contemplate and think.  
  
Somethings lost in the world today,  
Machines, they took this time away.  
Children still grizzle and complain,  
Emptying that machine again!  
Instead of washing in the sink  
Today is easier, don't you think?  
Still, dirty dishes must be done,  
Does this come back on only one?

*Owen Clark*





## Take a good look at the old

When you are alive and young,  
You may think it will not come.  
One day you too will be old,  
And part of the old age fold.  
Spare a thought for those who are,  
There are signs they've travelled far.  
Look and see what you'll become,  
When you cannot jump and run.

You could perhaps find a clue,  
As to what you think you'd do,  
When you can't tie up your shoe  
And are wobbly on your feet.  
All you want to do is sleep,  
And not venture to the street.  
How do these aged cope with this?  
Is all they do, sleep, and sit?

You don't like to gawk and stare,  
And shrink from all the grey hair.  
If you listen, you will see,  
Something of the mystery.  
See how these folk worked Life out,  
How they coped with all their doubt.  
Can you learn from what they say?  
That will help you in your day.  
When you will be old and grey.

*Owen Clark*



## An urgent plea for help: a lost walking stick

**W**E have received an urgent plea for help from a member of our community. We hope you can help him.

Russell tells us that he accidentally left his walking stick behind outside the motel at Kew Junction on Saturday, 30 December at 7am. He rang the motel at 8am to find the stick was gone.

This is no ordinary walking stick and is absolutely essential to Russell's mobility as he has PSP (progressive supranuclear palsy). This is an expensive, high tech walking stick with a nexstride laser and metronome attached.

Russell is left bewildered that anyone would steal this indispensable walking stick that is so essential to his everyday life. Hopefully it can be returned to him, no questions asked. As part of his life with this devastating disease, Russell has given much support to others dealing with this challenge. We only hope that he can be helped in return.

If you can help find this walking stick, please contact us at [eastsidernews1@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidernews1@gmail.com) or call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 and mention our plea for help.





**Wednesday 13 March, 7.15am**

**Box Hill celebrates International Women's Day**

ORGANISERS of Box Hill's International Women's Day Breakfast invite you to join them on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at the Box Hill Town Hall. The breakfast celebrates the women of Whitehorse and beyond, and gives local families and businesses an opportunity to acknowledge their own people. Registration is from 6.45am for 7.15am start.

The breakfast is always a magical morning, as guests receive their shot of caffeine and some uplifting ideas from exciting speakers. With 300 people attending, the morning has a buzz and energy you can't get from coffee alone!

The event is funded through ticket sales and incredibly generous sponsors. The money raised goes to support a local women's charity. All organisers and committee members are volunteers.

A collaboration of Whitehorse Rotary Clubs, including Box Hill Central, Mont Albert & Surrey Hills, Nunawading, Forest Hill, and Box Hill Burwood organise the event. They receive ongoing support from Whitehorse City Council to use the beautiful Box Hill Town Hall as a venue.

The cost of a ticket covers a fully catered breakfast, including coffee and tea service, as well as inspiring, high-profile speakers. This year's line-up includes Dr. Niki Vincent, Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector and Dr. Helen Keleher, author, researcher, and Adjunct Professor at Monash University

To learn more about the speakers, the event or to purchase tickets, navigate to <https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/IWDB2024/home.html>

**Ashley Coleman-Bock, the Youth Board Chair at the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central**

**Friday 15–Sunday 17 March;**

**Friday 22–Sunday 24 March**

**Oliver!**

NOVA Music Theatre proudly presents Lionel Bart's much-loved musical extravaganza. Times and booking details <https://www.theround.com.au/whats-on/nova-oliver> Adult \$55 Conc. \$52 Child (U14) \$45 Family of 4 \$45 (per tix) Groups 10+ \$49 (per tix).



**Thursday 14 March, 6.30pm**

**Duty of Care – a Town Hall meeting with Dr Monique Ryan**

JOIN Dr Monique Ryan, Member for Kooyong at her next Town Hall meeting at the Hawthorn Arts Centre on Thursday 14 March.

With her will be climate campaigner and student Anjali Sharma and the Member for Goldstein, Zoe Daniel.

Anjali has led the campaign for a Duty of Care Act – a new idea that would require the government to consider the effects its decisions have on future generations.

The Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023 seeks to amend the Climate Change Act 2022 to require decision makers to consider the wellbeing of current and future children when making certain decisions that are likely to contribute to climate change, including decisions that will increase scope one, two or three emissions.

For more information on the event, please click here: [https://www.moniqueryan.com.au/kooyong\\_town\\_hall\\_20240314](https://www.moniqueryan.com.au/kooyong_town_hall_20240314)

To learn about progress on the Bill, please click here. [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/DutyofCareBill](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/DutyofCareBill)

**Thursday 14 March at 8pm**

**Vermont Garden Club**

COME to Vermont Garden Club's next meeting to hear guest speaker Marilyn Wilson speak about begonias.

The club meets every second Thursday of the month (except January) at the City of Whitehorse Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill (free off-street parking).

Highlights of the meeting include a trading table, a display bench, demonstrations, a guest speaker, raffle; info. about open gardens/shows & lots more, all followed by a delicious supper after the meeting.

Future guest speakers include

- 11 April, Geoff Lay will give an introduction to fungi
- 13 June, Halley will speak about bees
- 11 July, Noelle Scotts will cover vegetables and fertilisers.

Visitors are very welcome (gold coin donation please). For further information and/or to advise your intention to attend, please notify our secretary Louise by phone on 9878 1702 or 0401 431 239; or by email at [vermontgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:vermontgardenclub@gmail.com)

The annual membership fee is \$25 single or \$35 family. Members receive a monthly e-newsletter.

**Saturday 16 March and Sunday 17 March**  
**10am – 4.30pm**  
**Open Gardens Victoria – Jenny’s Garden**  
 1a Church Street Canterbury

JENNY’S Garden is a wonderful established Boroondara garden that has been tended and cultivated by a mother-daughter team for nearly 60 years.

Located just a 10-minute walk from the historic Mailing Road shopping strip, the garden was quite neglected when Jenny Bear and her mother Glenyce arrived in 1966. These days, it exudes an old-world charm, filled with plants that evoke a bygone era. The front garden is dominated by a very large *Strelitzia reginae* (Bird of Paradise) that came with the house and is interspersed with *Lepechinia salviae* (Chilean Pitcher Sage), with its familiar large spikes of purple-pink flowers.

The oldest area of the garden, Glenyce’s Shrub Border, is named for Jenny’s mother, who passed away in 2013. The mini orchard has three varieties of apples, a very old pear, a quince, a nectarine and a Eureka Lemon. Jenny’s favourite part is the vegetable and potager garden with perennial plantings of rhubarb, culinary herbs, and asparagus and seasonal produce.

St Paul’s catering group will be providing morning and afternoon teas on both days. A small number of plants will be for sale. Get your tickets at the gate or via TryBooking at <https://opengardensvictoria.org.au/Jennys-Garden> Adults \$10, Tertiary students \$6 (with ID), under 18 free.



**Sunday 17 March, 2pm – 3.30pm**  
**Box Hill Historical Society – One house.**  
**One family. 100 years**

The Bert Lewis Room (Meeting Room 1), 1st Floor, Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Rd

LIZ Downes will present a very special Mont Albert story of her family who have occupied the same home for a century, and the ways the family, house, and district changed across the century.

Visitors are most welcome. Admission is via a gold coin donation. Enquiries 03 9285 4808. To find out more about the Society or to enquire about membership, go here: <https://www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

**Sunday March 17, 5pm to 6.15pm**  
**Cantata The Crucifixion by John Stainer**  
 Holy Trinity Anglican Church,  
 177 Union Road, Surrey Hills

THIS well-known Cantata is regularly performed in Lent and is a meditation on the events of Easter Week. It will be presented by the Holy Trinity Evensong Choir with the Friends of Anglican Music.

Tenor soloist is Richard Thomas, baritone soloist Barry Fry. Conducted by Derek Jones with organist Richard Hoy. Phone: 9890 2165 or 9894 2335. Website: <https://www.holytrinity.sh/>

**John Stainer (1840-1901), English composer and organist.**



**Sunday March 17 to Saturday 24 March**  
**Multiple Birth Awareness Week**

MULTIPLE Birth Awareness Week (MBAW) is a national campaign to raise awareness around, and draw attention to, the unique realities for multiple birth families in Australia – and how advocacy, positive education and engaged communities can contribute to enabling positive health outcomes for families with multiples.

MBAW takes place 17–24 March. This year’s theme is ‘Multiples: Unfiltered.’ The Australian Multiple Birth Association has sourced stories from across Australia. Multiple birth families have unique stories to tell beyond double trouble and cute photos. Find out more here: <https://www.amba.org.au/mbaw>



**Saturday 23 March, 10am to 2pm**  
**Balwyn Evergreen Centre – Open Day**  
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn

**B**ALWYN Evergreen Centre, a community centre dedicated to ensuring that older individuals stay active, healthy and socially connected, is hosting its inaugural Open Day on Saturday 23 March 2024.

The Open Day promises to be an exciting opportunity for the community to come together, connect, and enjoy a day filled with entertainment, activities, and cultural experiences. Tina Hogarth-Clarke, CEO of Balwyn Evergreen Centre, says, "We are delighted to invite the community to join us for our Open Day. It's a chance for us to showcase the vibrant spirit of our centre and extend a warm welcome to all."



**ABOVE: Exercise programs**

The Open Day will feature a diverse range of activities and attractions, including:

- Exercise class demonstrations – experience the vitality and energy of Evergreen's exercises classes firsthand with live demonstrations throughout the day
- Community Partner Expo and Performances – Gain insights and inspiration from our partners and enjoy performances from groups such as Tai Chi, children's dance and Chinese dance, as well as market stalls
- Raffle with fantastic prizes – Enter our raffle for a chance to win exciting prizes generously donated by local businesses and supporters
- Traditional Indigenous smoking ceremony – Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of Australia with a traditional Indigenous smoking ceremony accompanied by insightful cultural talks
- BBQ and Devonshire Tea – Indulge in delicious food and beverages available for purchase, including a mouth-watering BBQ and delightful Devonshire Tea. The success of this event also relies on the support of the community.

The Balwyn Evergreen Centre looks forward to welcoming you to this special event and sharing the warmth and camaraderie that define our community.

For more information about the Open Day, please contact the Balwyn Evergreen Centre at 9836 9681 or email [office@balwynevergreen.org.au](mailto:office@balwynevergreen.org.au) or go to their website at [www.balwynevergreen.org.au/](http://www.balwynevergreen.org.au/)

**Easter, Thursday 28 March to Sunday 31 March**

**St Francis Xavier – St Clare, Greater Box Hill Parish**

**Holy Thursday, 28 March**

5pm. Low Mass at St Francis Xavier

7.30pm. Mass of the Lord's Supper (Adoration then Night Prayer) at St Clare

**Good Friday, 29 March**

10am - Stations of the Cross (Youth) at St Francis Xavier

3pm - Liturgy of the Passion at St Francis Xavier

**Holy Saturday, 30 March**

4pm – Reconciliation at St Francis Xavier

9am – Holy Saturday and Reconciliation at St Clare

7.30pm – Easter Vigil at Dusk, St Francis Xavier

**Easter Sunday, 31 March**

Usual Sunday times.



**Sunday 7 April, 10am to 2pm**

**Glen Waverley Bowls Club – Try Bowls Day**

Central Reserve, 690 Waverley Road

COME and give lawn bowls a try. A family friendly open day for all ages and abilities. Everyone's welcome to join our friendly locals, meet new friends and have heaps of fun. Free coaching and all equipment provided. Bookings: 9561 3227 or [mail@glenwaverleybowlsclub.com.au](mailto:mail@glenwaverleybowlsclub.com.au)

**Wednesday 10 April, from 7.30pm to 9pm**

**Lighter Footprints – The Forest Wars**

Balwyn Park Centre,  
206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn

COME to the Melbourne launch of Professor David Lindenmayer's new book *The Forest Wars*. Join him and Dr Monique Ryan MP for Kooyong in conversation about Victoria's forests and what is still happening to them. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with these two distinguished speakers and join the conversation on the future of our forests.

Register for this event by booking one seat for each attending person at [lighterfootprints.org/events/](http://lighterfootprints.org/events/)

You can also register for the Lighter Footprints newsletter at [lighterfootprints.org/](http://lighterfootprints.org/) and join a working group at [lighterfootprints.org/take-action/](http://lighterfootprints.org/take-action/)

**Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm to 9pm**

**Lighter Footprints – Your 2030 Home and Neighbourhood**

Balwyn Park Centre,  
206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn

BIG changes are coming to the way we generate, use and store energy at home. Are you 2030 ready? This event will cover vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology and the issues you should consider when purchasing an electric vehicle; virtual power plants (VPPs) – where many household batteries create the effect of a massive battery; and sustainable cities.

Register for this event by booking one seat for each attending person at [lighterfootprints.org/events/](http://lighterfootprints.org/events/)

You can also register for the Lighter Footprints newsletter at [lighterfootprints.org/](http://lighterfootprints.org/) and join a working group at [lighterfootprints.org/take-action/](http://lighterfootprints.org/take-action/)



**Thursday 18 April, 8pm to 9pm**

**ADFAS Melbourne – Marvellous Melbourne: stained glass in Melbourne's homes**

Lido Cinema 1,  
675 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

MELBOURNE'S gold rush stained glass windows and the difference in the 20th century homes. Presented by Bronwyn Hughes OAM, an art historian with specific interests in stained glass of the 19th and 20th centuries, and prior to her 'retirement' lectured in glass at Monash and Melbourne Universities and Holmesglen Institute over several decades. More recently she has contributed to development of new courses in glass design and making at Melbourne Polytechnic.

Guests of members and visitors are most welcome. The evening closes with a light supper. Cost \$30 per lecture. Bookings: contact: [adfasmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:adfasmelbourne@gmail.com) or Veronica Rickard mobile: 0408 113 669.

**Saturday 20 April, from 7.30pm**

**Music for a Warming World**

Manningham Uniting Church  
& Community Centre,  
109 Wood St, Templestowe



JOIN us for a unique, powerful and entertaining musical event that takes us beyond climate awareness and into the most important questions we now face: How can we live with the new future of climate and planetary disruption?

Music for a Warming World explores the planetary crisis, now an inescapable reality, with live music, storytelling, and offers a multi-media visual experience. Climate change is shaping every part of our lives and will do so for generations to come. In a very unpredictable future, we need art more than ever to help us navigate this unfolding new world.

Led by academic and musician Simon Kerr and featuring the extraordinary music talents of professional musicians Mal Webb and Kylie Morrigan, Music for a Warming World brings science, joy, grief, and positivity to life. It may make you cry. It will make you laugh. It will help us understand climate change and be better prepared for what is coming. Most of all, we will experience the fact that we are not alone. We are stronger together.

The show runs for approximate 90 minutes and includes audience participation at times. Refreshments are included. For more information and to book, go to <https://manninghamuc.org/warmingworld> or phone 9846 2012 To learn more about Music for a Warming World, go to [www.musicforawarmingworld.org/](http://www.musicforawarmingworld.org/)



**Sunday 21 April, 2pm**

**Box Hill Historical Society – Box Hill South:  
views from the sixties**

The Bert Lewis Room (Meeting Room 1),  
1st Floor, Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Rd

**S**ISTERS Pam and Lynette Millist grew up with their family above a shop in Canterbury Road, and will share their memories of the lives of local tradies, retailers, schools, and the world of Box Hill South in general.

Visitors most welcome. Admission: gold coin donation.  
Enquiries 03 9285 4808. To find out more about the Society or to enquire about membership, go here:  
<https://www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

**Saturday 27 April, 7.30pm**

**Camberwell Music Society  
Second concert for 2024**

Camberwell Uniting Church,  
314 Camberwell Road, Camberwell

**T**HE main works on the program will be Beethoven's Piano Trio in B flat, Op. 11 Gassenhauer; Debussy's Piano Trio in G, and Chausson's Piano Trio in G minor, Op.3.

The musicians will be Wilma Smith, violin, formerly leader of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; Yelian He, cello, a multiple prizewinner of cello competitions here and overseas; and Yasmin Rowe, piano, who has played at the Wigmore Hall, London, and the Melbourne Recital Centre, among many other prestigious centres.

Tickets can be bought at the door or on-line at [www.trybooking.com/events/1123468/sessions/4182107/sections/2103024/tickets](http://www.trybooking.com/events/1123468/sessions/4182107/sections/2103024/tickets)

**Thursday 2 May, 1pm to 3pm**

**Glen Waverley Bowls Club –  
Learn to Bowl Program**

Central Reserve,  
690 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley

**J**OIN us for a fun 4-weekly program starting 2 May. Learn how to bowl with the experts, meet the locals, start new friendships or even form teams and get competitive. Free coaching and all equipment provided.

Dates: Thursdays 2, 9, 16 and 23 May

Bookings: 9561 3227 or [mail@glenwaverleybowlsclub.com.au](mailto:mail@glenwaverleybowlsclub.com.au)



## The Indefinite Article

### ***“A” European or “An” European?***

**L**OTS of people get this wrong because of a commonly quoted, but incorrect, rule. And that rule is: if the next word begins with a consonant, use “a”; if the next word begins with a vowel, use “an”.

This is wrong – it’s close, but it’s wrong!

The *actual* rule is: if the next word begins with a consonant **SOUND**, use “a”; if the next word begins with a vowel **SOUND**, use “an”.

Most of the time it’s pretty obvious: a cat, a dog, an apple, an orange . . . but sometimes you really have to listen out for that initial sound. So “European” starts with a “Y” sound – a consonant sound.

The letter “H” sometimes trips people up, because back in the 18th century it was barely pronounced, so people would say “an historic” or “an habitual” – and some style guides still cling on to that today. But spoken language has evolved – now the “H” is pronounced more prominently, becoming more consonantal, hence “A hotel”, not “AN hotel”.

*Now, isn’t that an useful thing to know?*



## In the next edition

THE deadline for articles for the May edition will be late April 2024. But don't wait till then. We love hearing from you at all times; whenever you are inspired, please send us your contributions, written and visual to [eastsidernews1@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidernews1@gmail.com)

We encourage you to send us photographs and images that relate to your contribution. Send them as a separate TIFF or jpeg file and to get adequate resolution, please try to make them at least 250dpi and preferably larger at 300dpi or more.

## 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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## Volunteer to keep Eastsider News on the road

The mighty *Eastsider News* team has many opportunities for you to become involved in the production. If you have editorial, organisational, networking or IT skills, we'd love to hear from you. All positions are voluntary and unpaid.

If you value *Eastsider News*, please consider becoming part of the team. Email us at [eastsidernews1@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidernews1@gmail.com)

## Your opportunity to get published

We encourage our readers to also become writers for *Eastsider News*. Guidelines are available on our website at <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/guidelines/> When writing your article, please consider our editorial values at [www.eastsidernews.org.au/editorial-values/](http://www.eastsidernews.org.au/editorial-values/).

If you have any queries, email us at [eastsidernews1@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidernews1@gmail.com)

## Guidelines for writing articles

Guidelines for writing for *Eastsider News* are on our website at [www.eastsidernews.org.au/](http://www.eastsidernews.org.au/). All contributions should be emailed to [eastsidernews1@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidernews1@gmail.com) We will always acknowledge receipt.

In summary, we prefer articles of no more than 600 words or 250 words for letters to the editor. Submit your article

as a word document and images as a jpg. Editors will usually accept material as written, but may make changes to improve clarity, readability, or focus. Please be respectful, non-defamatory and factual in your writing and choice of topic. As a community newspaper, we seek material of local interest or with a broader context if relevant.

## Quizling Answers

1. Rhone (roan/heron)
2. Minnesota (Estonian)

## Credits and contacts

*Eastsider News* is the trading name for Independent Community News Group Incorporated. The primary contact point for ICNG and *Eastsider News* is [eastsidernews1@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidernews1@gmail.com)

The current *Eastsider News* management team comprises Anne Young, Mike Daly, Sal Dugan, Glenys Grant, Chris Gray, Leigh Naunton, David Strang, Caroline Leslie and Joy Mettam, all volunteers. Someone who has also contributed much to ensure our continuity is Chris Young.