



Victoria's Housing Crisis and 'Future Homes'

David Berry

THE current housing crisis is adversely affecting renters, prospective first home buyers and socially disadvantaged people with many causes identified.

A recent Victorian Government initiative, 'Future Homes', encourages developers to build more medium-density 3-storey apartments in Melbourne. The developers must utilize government-generated plans, their fees are reduced, planning approvals are fast-tracked, councils lose planning controls and the community appeal process at VCAT is curtailed.

'Future Homes' applies across Victoria and permit applications can be made in a General Residential Zone (GRZ) if the site is within 800 metres of a passenger train station or an activity centre.

Heritage Overlay or Neighbourhood Character Overlay areas are ineligible. Development sites that require a permit under Environmental Significance, Significant Landscape, or Design and Development Overlays are eligible, but designs need to respond to the requirements of the overlay. For example, in the City of Whitehorse the eligible suburbs for 'Future Homes' development include large swathes of Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Box Hill North, Blackburn North, Nunawading,

Mitcham, Blackburn South, Forest Hill, Burwood East and Bennettswood.

Design requirements

The three-storey apartment designs include three requirements relevant to open space, trees/vegetation, and access to natural light:

- Gardens: Generous landscaped areas and canopy trees and room for deep soil planting
- Communal open space: Generous, accessible and a nice space for residents to foster a sense of community
- Solar access to communal open space: communal open space that is not significantly overshadowed and receives sunlight

Please note the qualitative descriptors used in these requirements including 'generous', 'accessible', 'nice', 'not significantly overshadowed' and 'receives sunlight'.

Tree canopy and deep soil requirements

In the Victorian Council Planning Schemes, Table 4 of Section 53.24-6.3 highlights the tree canopy cover and deep soil requirements for these apartments. For sites between 1,001 and 1,500 square metres, which is a

(Continued on page 6)



Photo: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/strategies-and-initiatives/future-homes>





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1. Call yourself clever if you can sever
An Italian city's head
And switch the remaining thread
To reveal the vernacular for spectacular.

2. Can you switch one letter of Queensland's AIRLIE BEACH to its immediate predecessor in the alphabet, then 'develop' the new combo to spell two African republics?

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

Quizling Questions

Answers on page 46.

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

Fifth English Corner Launched

第五个英语角启动

Minwen Wu

ON 22 April 2024, the 'Mother Earth Day' and 'World Bilingual Day', Dr Monique Ryan MP for Kooyong and a group of eastsiders launched the Balwyn English Corner (EC), next to the Balwyn Woolworth car park.

This is the third weekly EC at public open spaces in Melbourne's east, after the Box Hill Mall EC (since November 2020) and the EC outside the Glen Waverley Library (since February 2023). There's also an online Zoom EC since July 2021 and a recently started indoor EC at Box Hill Central.

English Corner originated 45 years ago when China embarked on opening-up and reform. Jack Ma, a China's top billionaire, met the Australian Morley family in 1980 at the West Lake EC. The ensuing lifelong friendship is a great example of what EC can achieve with Chinese and Australians coming together. For Melbourne's east, where most of Victoria's nearly half a million Chinese reside, English Corner also brings community conversation and language exchange.

ACF Community Chisholm, led by Liz Reen and David Hudspeth and others, have helped out once

monthly the Box Hill Mall EC since early 2023, providing a rock-solid support to the EC movement. This helps migrants to speak English, but also to be engaged with environment and climate issues, while making genuine community connections.

A similar story can be expected with Balwyn EC. Lynn Frakes, co-convener of Lighter Footprints (LF), and a few LF members were at the launch, looking to assist the new EC. Environment Victoria, Electrify Boroondara and Asian Australian for Climate Solution and others have also shown strong interest.

EC is a great opportunity for immersion in Chinese language (and potentially other languages) for learners, be it Australian born Chinese, Anglo Australians, or recently repatriated Aussies from China who want to keep up their Chinese language skills. That's why Ian Wilmoth, a Chinese language teacher at a local secondary school, was also at the launch.

In his praise of EC in Federal Parliament, Keith Wolahan MP for Menzies spoke of EC's strengths: '... they don't just practice English, they speak about politics, they speak about our community, they speak about our environment, they speak about a better Australia.' This was demonstrated by the people at the Balwyn launch, including Tharini Rouwette, founder of COMPELL (Centre of Multicultural Political Engagement Literacy and Leadership), a Singapore-born Indian-Australian, as well as Gary Chan, a fifth-generation Chinese-Australian and local coordinator for the 2024 NGO International Film Festival to be held in Melbourne.

Thank you, Australia! Thank you, eastsiders!

谢谢您！

Photo by Tan Li



Make sure your voice is heard in the State Government's 'Plan for Victoria'

Eastern Region Group of Councils

HOME is where the heart is – and there is nothing more important than making sure all levels of government plan carefully for our increasing population and where they will live.

In late 2023 the State Government announced a Housing Statement with far-ranging reforms to planning processes and local government roles and the development of a new Plan for Victoria. Engagement has commenced on the Plan and closes at the end of June.

Knox, Maroondah, Manningham, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges are joining forces under the Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) to make sure their communities voices are heard during these consultations. ERG Chair, Knox Mayor Councillor Jude Dwight said the State Government aims to deliver 800,000 new homes over a decade, mainly in existing urban areas. In the Eastern Region alone, our population may grow by half a million residents over 30 years.

Cr Dwight said, 'Growth will put pressure on our transport infrastructure, open spaces, schools, and health and community services. We need to work with the State Government to keep pace with their planned rate of growth and make sure negative impacts are avoided'.

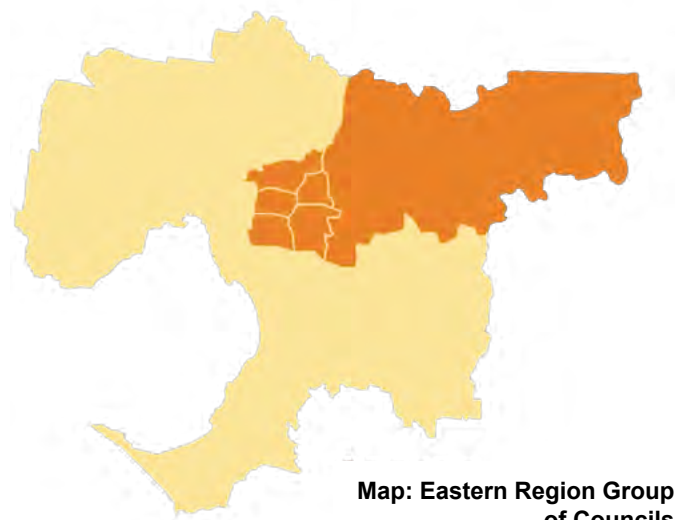
'The potential impacts of the Plan for Victoria on the region are significant. To strengthen our collective voice, the ERG engaged SGS Economics & Planning to provide advice and identify where we should prioritise our efforts to balance the impacts of growth with the things our communities value. This will form part of the ERG councils' submissions to A Plan for Victoria.'

As a region, the ERG has identified four priorities it wants to see addressed in the State's Plan for Victoria:

- Community access and productivity: increase sustainable transport options and reduce car dependency through bus and train network improvements.
- Infrastructure to support growth: fund and deliver drainage, recreation, social and community infrastructure to support sustainable growth and protect amenity and environmental values.
- Our natural assets: maintain and improve quality open space and our urban tree canopy to build climate and community resilience.
- Managing housing growth: leverage major projects and local council expertise to deliver diverse and affordable housing in areas with access to services that are not exposed to flood and climate risk.

Cr Dwight called up their communities to give their partnership and support to ERG in their response to the Plan. 'Our region is very diverse, from the urban areas of Doncaster and Box Hill to the wineries and agricultural land in the Yarra Ranges. That diversity, combined with significant investment in major infrastructure projects, presents opportunities to leverage and improve the liveability for our current and future communities.'

You have the opportunity to help shape the future of our region. Please add your voice so that the Plan for Victoria reflects the views and needs of our region and help to create the communities we all want to be a part of. A Plan for Victoria is now open for you to have your say at www.engage.vic.gov.au/shape-our-victoria



**Map: Eastern Region Group
of Councils**

Urgent Action Needed

for Public Housing Residents Left in the Dark

John Friend-Pereira

A distressing scenario is unfolding at 1-9 Alamein Avenue, Ashburton, demanding swift attention, and revealing a bleak reality for public housing residents. Following a fire in August 2023, four units became uninhabitable. Now only 10 of 36 units are presently occupied.

In a recent response to a parliamentary question from MLC Dr Samantha Ratnam, the Minister for Housing Harriet Shing disclosed plans to relocate tenants ahead of a major development on a prime public housing site. It seems tenants are being quietly moved out one unit at a time, paving the way for redevelopment while the property remains in a continuing state of neglect and remaining residents unaware of any plans for their relocation.

Residents Kris and Karen told their Legislative Council Member, Katherine Copsley about unsettling conditions including unsecured, uninhabited units exploited by squatters, a build-up of rubbish in common areas, broken windows, and neglected grounds. They spoke about genuine concerns residents have for their safety and the lack of information from Homes Victoria.

Since the matter was raised with the Minister in March, eight of the unoccupied units at 1 Alamein Ave had been secured. The remaining 18 units across 3-9 Alamein Ave remain unsecured, rubbish is building up and squatting is happening. The state government has also failed to inform the City of Boroondara which, when contacted, had no knowledge of the plans to redevelop Alamein Ave.

In times of housing crises, the redevelopment of public housing estates demands transparency and immediate steps to rectify problems. Ministerial intervention is essential to ensure Homes Victoria maintains habitable and safe standards until all residents are relocated. The vacant units at Alamein Ave should be secured, and basic accommodation standards for remaining residents maintained.

Images supplied by John Friend-Pereira



Transparency is crucial in Homes Victoria's plans for relocation and redevelopment. Residents must be provided with clear timelines, and Homes Victoria should publish comprehensive plans, including the proposed mix of private and public units. The looming threat of privatisation echoes past redevelopment projects, in particular the nearby Markham estate.

Questions for the Minister for Housing that demand answers are:

- What consultation and information has Homes Victoria provided to remaining residents and the neighbouring community regarding the proposed redevelopment?
- How long will remaining residents have to wait for relocation information?
- What actions will Homes Victoria take to secure unoccupied units and ensure ongoing maintenance for current residents?
- Will the planning process for this redevelopment be subject to the new planning powers announced in the state housing statement?
- What is the proposed mix of public vs. private units in the redevelopment at 1-9 Alamein Ave?

Swift action is imperative to ensure residents' well-being and to address the failure to maintain habitable standards in public housing. As a Greens candidate for the local council, I'm committed to advocating for state government accountability, meaningful community engagement, and progressive representation working with my colleagues in state and federal parliament to tackle these urgent housing challenges and retaining public housing assets for community use.

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



Box Hill Brickworks site

Vincent Mennilli JP and Greg Buchanan

A community campaign has begun to save the Box Hill Brickworks site for parkland. The former quarry and landfill site is off Elgar Road only a couple of streets from Box Hill Central. The site is the last untouched greenfield expanse in the heart of Box Hill. The Suburban Rail Loop Authority now has control over the future planning of Box Hill and has earmarked the Brickworks site for a major housing development and possible extension of Mont Albert Road. The Authority in its recent 'Vision Statement' anticipates that the resident population of Box Hill will almost triple by 2056.

Box Hill has many new high-rise residential towers and more planned. These provide much needed accommodation for Melbourne's growing population - but there is a pressing need for more public open space. The Brickworks site could provide new passive open space in the heart of Box Hill; a permanent green oasis amidst the urban density, with picnic areas, playgrounds, canopy trees, water features, winding trails and recreation areas for everyone to enjoy.

This could become a reality similar to Darebin Parklands in Fairfield and Northcote's All Nations Park. They are just two examples of many around Melbourne, where former quarries and landfill sites have been transformed into vibrant, beautifully landscaped public spaces.

Image supplied by Vincent Mennilli JP and Greg Buchanan



The Box Hill Brickworks ceased operations in 1988, and the landfill was closed in 1999. Environmental audits have deemed the site suitable for recreational open space.

A petition has commenced to advocate for a partnership between the state government and Whitehorse Council to bring this new parkland to reality.

Further information can be obtained on the Facebook page 'Box Hill Brickworks Parkland' and in the petition <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-last-greenfield-site-in-box-hill-for-parkland>

Victoria's Housing Crisis and 'Future Homes'

(Continued from page 1)

standard two-lot consolidation, there must be 50 square metres of canopy cover plus 20% of the site area above 1,000 metres and include at least one tree that has a height of eight plus metres at maturity and minimum canopy diameter at maturity of eight metres. The site must contain deep soil for 7.5% of site area.

For example, a lot size of 1,200 square metres requires 90 square metres of canopy area and at least one medium eight-metre high tree with a minimum canopy diameter of eight metres. There must be provision for 90 square metres of deep soil on the 1,200 square metre site. The remaining 85 to 90+% of the site area is presumably built form and hard surfaces.

Who will benefit from these changes?

There is a housing crisis, but this initiative will only profit developers and do little to aid people currently excluded from home ownership. What will be achieved is the rapid deterioration of local liveability, sustainability, and neighbourhood character.

Community consultation and local government powers over planning matters will be emasculated and third-

party rights to object at VCAT abolished. Also under threat are existing Council policies and strategies relating to liveability, and the natural landscape including Open Space policies, Urban Forest Strategies, and other local tree/vegetation controls.

In conclusion, a question for our State Parliamentarians: What strategies have been implemented to provide a matching increase in public open space to allow residents some respite from these proposed compromised living conditions?

David Berry is a member of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society Inc Committee. To find out more about the Society and their work, please click here: <https://bdtps.wordpress.com/>





The Tragic Tale of Two Trees

Carmel McNaught and Franklin Rosenfeldt

CANOPY trees are vital, now more than ever, for the physical, mental and economic health of our community. Melbourne's tree canopy is decreasing, even in our leafy Eastern suburbs. In this article we present two cases that illustrate the inadequacy of existing processes, laws and penalties for demolition of significant trees in residential areas.

The first case is the removal of an old eucalypt without Council approval, illustrating the inadequacies of existing fines for such unauthorised activity. In the second case, the removal of a 175-year-old, heritage-listed native Bunya Pine, Council approval existed but the entire process was shrouded in secrecy, illustrating the need for greater transparency in approval for cutting trees.

An old eucalypt in Balwyn North

Case 1 involves a substantial eucalyptus tree in Balwyn North, with a base 1.2 metres in diameter. Boroondara Council had given permission for pruning but NOT demolition. Nevertheless, the tree was demolished during the Christmas break in late 2023, presumably in the hope that the fall of this giant would not be noticed! At the same time, several large gumtrees were cut down in the rear of the property, again without council approval.

Fines for unapproved tree removal are low. Boroondara Council's maximum penalty is a few thousand dollars, a trivial item in the budget of a property developer. Several local residents have formed a group (Protect Our Boroondara Parks and Trees, POBPT) and liaised with Council about this unapproved tree demolition, and other similar instances in the past.

We are pleased that Council has decided to prosecute the owners and contractor involved in this case in the Magistrates Court. In addition, a process to update the Tree Protection Local Law is underway. These are positive indications of action but will take time and may not be stringent enough to deter property developers. We have also approached State Members of Parliament and received acknowledgement that this is an issue to be addressed. But the clock is ticking - climate change is increasing, and we cannot afford a leisurely debate and small incremental adjustments.

A heritage listed Bunya Pine in Kew

Case 2 centres on a 175-year-old, heritage-listed, healthy Bunya Pine tree that was a highly visible and impressive icon in Kew. Bunya Pines can live to 600 years of age and are important to indigenous Australian culture. They are also threatened in northern areas of

Australia by dieback through phytophthora, a fungal-like mould in the soil. Demolishing a healthy specimen is especially obnoxious.

One aspect of this tragedy is that Boroondara Council gave approval for the demolition. However, there was no consultation with the local community, and no formal reason given for the demolition approval. When POBPT learned that the demolition was to proceed, a member appealed to the Council's CEO to delay the demolition, but to no avail. On the day of the demolition a group of 50 residents tried to intervene but were pushed back by police. The demolition proceeded and was reported on Channel Seven News that night. This episode's secretive approval process is now to be reviewed by Council.

The message from this case is that it is time to have clear arboreal assessments of any request for cutting down a significant tree, with all documentation being made available for open community consultation. Only then can trust in local Council decisions be rebuilt. Our small band of POBPT members will continue investigating tree removals and campaigning for more appropriate processes and legal consequences for those who wish to remove significant trees in our community.

The authors are both retired professors who want to transfer the skills we learnt in our academic careers into campaigns that support the local community in which we live. We are POBPT members.

Image supplied by Carmel McNaught and Franklin Rosenfeldt



The Bunya Pine

Putting the NATURE into Nature Strips

David Berry

MELBOURNE'S 'liveability' is under threat due to the recent 'Future Homes' state government legislation that fast-tracks higher density apartment development with dilution of local council planning controls.

Other factors threatening neighbourhood character include an accelerated loss of tree canopy in the suburbs, deficiencies in tree control regulation on private land and loss/occupation of open space due to major infrastructure projects including level crossing removals, North East Link and the Suburban Rail Loop.

Declining open space

These urban pressures will mean a decrease in viable and accessible open space per person in metropolitan Melbourne. Apart from our existing parks, what other open spaces could be planted out with trees and vegetation to produce habitat, plant diversity and biolinks (linkages between parks and open spaces) to help improve the natural character of our neighbourhoods?

The answer is the suburban nature strip and there are thousands of kilometres of nature strips in metropolitan Melbourne.

A nature strip is defined as an area of public land between a road and adjacent owned land but does not include the shoulder of the road or a bicycle path, footpath, or shared path. Nature strips are owned and regulated by local councils but maintained by adjacent landowners.

Most commonly, nature strips are planted out with grass that requires regular mowing. A single street tree may be the only 'nod' to biodiversity.



Planting your nature strip

Metropolitan councils manage the street tree programs and have guidelines and permit systems in place to facilitate nature strip plantings. Go to your local government website to find the permit application guidelines for your council.



Images supplied by David Berry

There are many things a local government authority could do to encourage such plantings. These include creating a network of urban biolinks; establishing an education program coupled with revised planting permit requirements to make it easier for residents to opt into planting their nature strip; and initiating a 'Nature Strips for Wildlife' program.

Inducements for residents to plant out their nature strips could include free assessments, advice, and provision of plant vouchers; and annual nature strip sustainability awards for the 'best established' and 'best newly planted' nature strips. Councils could offer one-off rate reductions for residents who apply to have a street tree planted on their nature strip where no tree currently exists. They could also offer ongoing rate reductions for nature strips that have been planted out or those containing two or more suitable street trees.

Benefits of nature strip planting

Planting out Melbourne's nature strips will promote a healthy urban ecology and deliver so many benefits including providing habitat, shade, decreasing ambient temperatures, producing oxygen, removing CO₂, saving water, storing carbon, producing less run-off after heavy rain, reducing the 'heat island' effect and improving neighbourhood character.

And research clearly demonstrates that greening our streetscapes improves the physical, mental, and economic well-being of residents and passers-by. An added bonus is the traffic-calming effect it has on motorists.

David Berry is member of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society Inc Committee. To find out more about the Society and their work, please click here:<https://bdtps.wordpress.com/>

Taking the heat out of the threat to Boroondara's trees

it's up to Council

Ian Hundley

Our current situation

Private properties comprise most of Boroondara – about 75% of the total land area of 6,000 hectares. It is clear, therefore, that for adequate tree cover to be recovered, the tree loss experienced on private properties in the last few decades must be reversed.

However, this loss is continuing apace – trees are being rapidly lost in favour of concrete in the municipality, which estate agents persist in misrepresenting as “leafy and green.”

Last year, Boroondara Council was prompted by adverse publicity surrounding illegal tree removals in Balwyn North, to revise its Tree Protection Local Law. Whilst larger monetary penalties for illegal tree removal and other offences had been available to the Council for inclusion in the Local Law since 2020, the Council had failed to act.

What needs to be done

Council has said it will incorporate these increased penalties into the Local Law. Whilst this is an obvious first step, increased penalties alone will not assist the recovery in canopy tree cover. There are essential initiatives which Council needs to employ for the Local Law to be effective, and which I included in my proposals for the revised Local Law. These include:

- A reduction in the size of any canopy tree which would require a Council permit for removal.

Currently, any tree with a trunk circumference less than 1.1 metres may be removed without a Council permit. However, most trees are smaller than this. Importantly, they also include the less mature trees which should be available to replace older trees. I proposed to Council that trees with a trunk circumference greater than 80 centimetres should in future require Council assessment.

- Protection of the tree's root zone

I have lost count of the number of times I have observed the soil at the foot of trees being scarified or compacted by developers and others, in many cases, it seems, deliberately to destroy the tree. More robust measures to protect the root zone of canopy trees are required, including a redefinition of the area that requires protection during building and related works.

- The pruning of canopy trees needs to be regulated.

The fact that under current arrangements large limbs on canopy trees may be hacked at in the absence of arboreal assessment by Council has precipitated significant losses.

In addition to effective amendment of the Tree Protection Local Law itself, organisational reform is also required within Council.

Each councillor must take ownership of the program to promote the Tree Protection Local Law in their respective wards. Community understanding of the program and of its importance is at rock bottom. Councillors should conduct regular ward meetings to heighten community support and involvement for the recovery of canopy tree cover.

Much greater support is required to assist residents to be the ‘eyes and ears’ for Council to assist in the recovery of canopy tree cover. This should include a legible data base on the Council website to show which trees Council has granted a permit for removal.

To deter illegal tree removal and other offences Council should commence publicising in public media individual cases of offences committed under the Local Law as found in the Magistrates Court.

Council's assessment guidelines should be reviewed and greater priority placed upon environmental loss relative to aesthetics in determining applications for tree removal than is currently the case. The revised assessment guidelines should in future be published on the Council website.

The Council budget for the administration of the Local Law has also been inadequate for many years. In 2022-23 a mere \$260,000 was assigned to the program. To place this in perspective, such funding would provide for about 2.5 full time equivalent staff positions remunerated at the Average Weekly Earning level. However, applications for tree removal alone may be in the order 1,000 per annum. This leaves essential educational, promotional and enforcement activity woefully under-resourced.

The way ahead

Costs associated with the destruction of trees on private properties should be visited on perpetrators and not, as is happening now, on the environment and the residents who live within it. The proposals I have outlined here to reverse the loss of canopy trees on private properties in Boroondara are comfortably doable, and essential to achieve that end.

Image supplied by Ian Hundley

(Right): One of many trees lost from a Belmore Road, Balwyn North, property which I reported to Council in November 2023. Six breaches were identified and infringements issued under the Tree Protection Local Law. Multiple tree replacements were directed by Council in this case.



A call to stop destructive tree removals in Manningham

Cynthia Pilli

THE City of Manningham, like many Victorian local councils have policies and programs for the purpose of protecting trees on private land.

In Manningham, canopy trees are being unceremoniously pushed over and removed with virtual impunity. Council policies, regulations and practice are doing little to discourage the practice of 'moonscaping', whereby canopy trees and other vegetation is removed, commonly in association with subdivision and new residential construction.

This destruction on our Council's watch, on our watch, is sickening. We inherited the gift of a Manningham with substantial canopy tree cover. This is now fast disappearing. In a tug of war for time to slow climate change, to protect this earth. Council consent to substantial canopy tree removal, in many cases without replacement, is negligence beyond measure.

For instance, why is there no vegetation remaining on a site near my residence when, two months ago, it contained several large trees at its boundary?

Why is intentional destruction not met with a please explain from Council representatives? And how did the subdivision proposal for this very large property (estimated at about 1,500 square metres in area) meet Manningham's Neighbourhood Character Objectives; Standard C6 that requires the protection of significant vegetation? Manningham Council has failed its constituents on all these crucial points.

In meeting our future housing needs, we need intelligent planning and effective implementation of policies to protect us from the tyranny of those without any interest in the welfare of our natural environment and the living conditions that remain in Manningham for the generations that will follow.

Images supplied by Cynthia Pilli and Ian Hundley

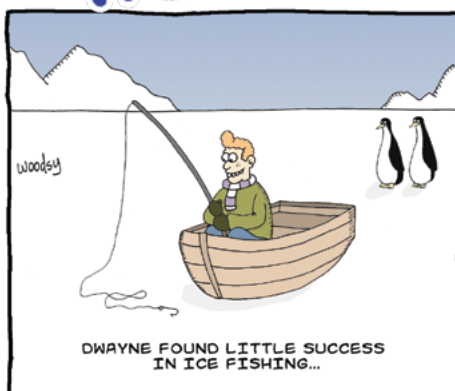


Once a well-treed residential block in Doncaster East, now largely devoid of vegetation following recent demolition.

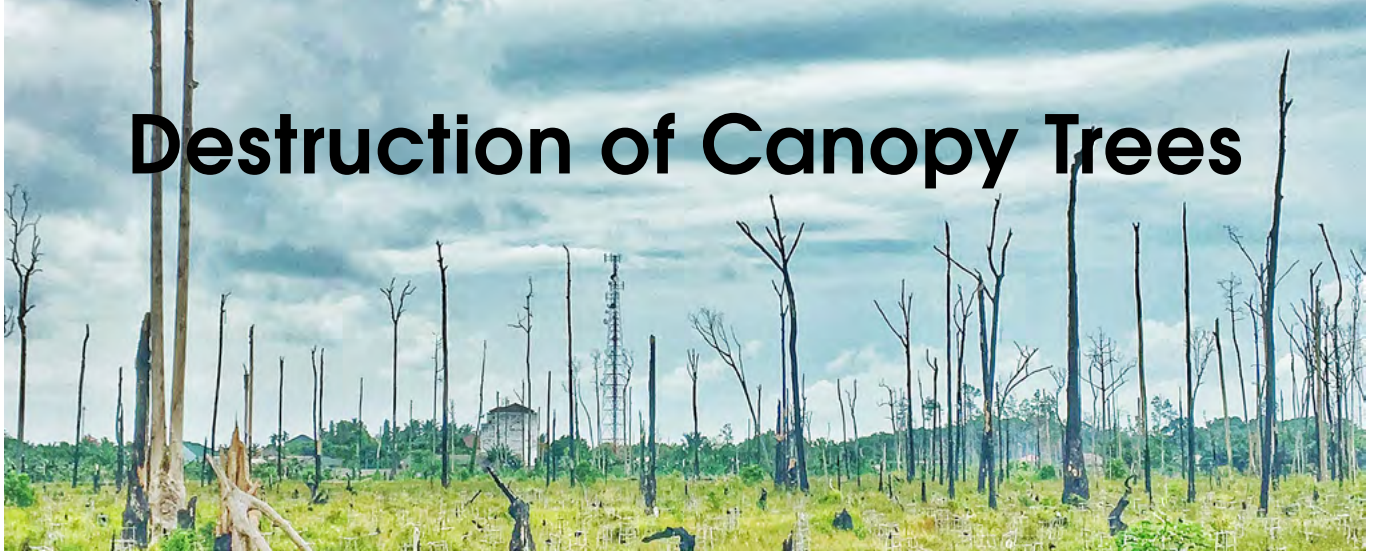


woody

insert brain here



Destruction of Canopy Trees



IN this edition of *Eastsider News* as in many previously, our contributors have written much about the unique role trees play for our personal health and the health of our environment, community and economy.

One contributor writes about the anguish she feels to see a neighbouring block completely denuded of all trees by the property developer. Others write of the deterioration of local livability, sustainability, and neighbourhood character with the loss of trees expected to accompany Victorian Government initiatives such as ‘Future Homes’ and the planning changes associated with the Suburban Rail Loop. Contributors have also written about the role of local government including the need to protect trees as natural assets, the maintenance and improvement of quality open space and our urban tree canopy to build climate and community resilience.

Our writers warn that the situation regarding trees and their preservation will potentially become much worse in the future. Approaches such as fast-tracked approvals under the ‘Future Homes’ initiative to push through 3-storey apartment developments will leave little in the way of open space and very limited space for canopy trees.

While it is essential we respond to the many challenges

confronting our world and adapt to change, we must ensure the chosen solution adopts a longer term view and considers all factors not just the immediate and seemingly economically efficient solution.

As the WWF has pointed out, ‘More and more, we’re turning to new technologies to help us tackle the environmental crisis. But the irony is that the perfect tech already exists, and has done for millions of years, right under our noses – trees.’

It is essential that decision makers at the State and local government become aware of their constituents’ concerns, and the extent and nature of the problem. The voices of their constituents are an importance source of information on other ways to solve these problems.

A suggestion by Cynthia Pilli, concerned by the practice of moonscaping, is that you take a photograph of any such activity in your neighbourhood. Send the photograph to your Councillor requesting action to prevent unnecessary destruction of precious canopy trees in line with existing law. Thank you to David Berry who has prepared a list of contacts in the City of Manningham. This list is available on our website here: <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/protecting-canopy-trees/>

Paul Hamer MP
STATE MEMBER
for BOX HILL

Here To help.



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9898 6606





Environment, climate, sustainability, open space

The Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund

David Berry

THE Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund, created in 2008, has tax-deductibility status and is sponsored and managed by the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society Inc.

The environmental grants program is permanently open to provide financial support for eligible environmental projects within, and linked to, the City of Whitehorse.

The Fund recently approved a \$500 small environmental grant to the newly formed Friends of Wurundjeri Walk as 'start up' funding to cover initial costs for the group to organise park activities including park clean-ups, weeding, mulching, and planting working-bees and environmental monitoring.

Recently the Fund committed a \$750 donation supporting the 'Save Lake Knox' campaign at VCAT and is working with Melbourne Water to support indigenous plant purchases for properties abutting the 'Pipe-Track' link in Nunawading.

Earlier in 2023 the Fund acted as a conduit for tax-deductible donations from members and the community to help support VCAT campaigns for contentious residential development applications in Blackburn and Mitcham.

In October 2022 environmental grants totalling over \$2,000 were awarded to five community organisations for planting and associated activities and all have been completed satisfactorily as of November 2023.

The Fund committee aims to allocate up to \$3,000 annually for worthy environmental programs and campaigns within and beyond the City of Whitehorse.

For further details on the application process please contact David Berry via email: bdtpsociety@gmail.com

Tree Society Members and Friends can directly support these worthy activities by donating directly to the Fund on-line via <http://www.givenow.com.au/cause1518>

(Below left): Friends of Wurundjeri Walk clean-up activity on Clean Up Australia Day this year. The group received start-up funding from the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund.

Image supplied by David Berry





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Book review:

A Brief History of the Earth's Climate – Everyone's Guide to the Science of Climate Change

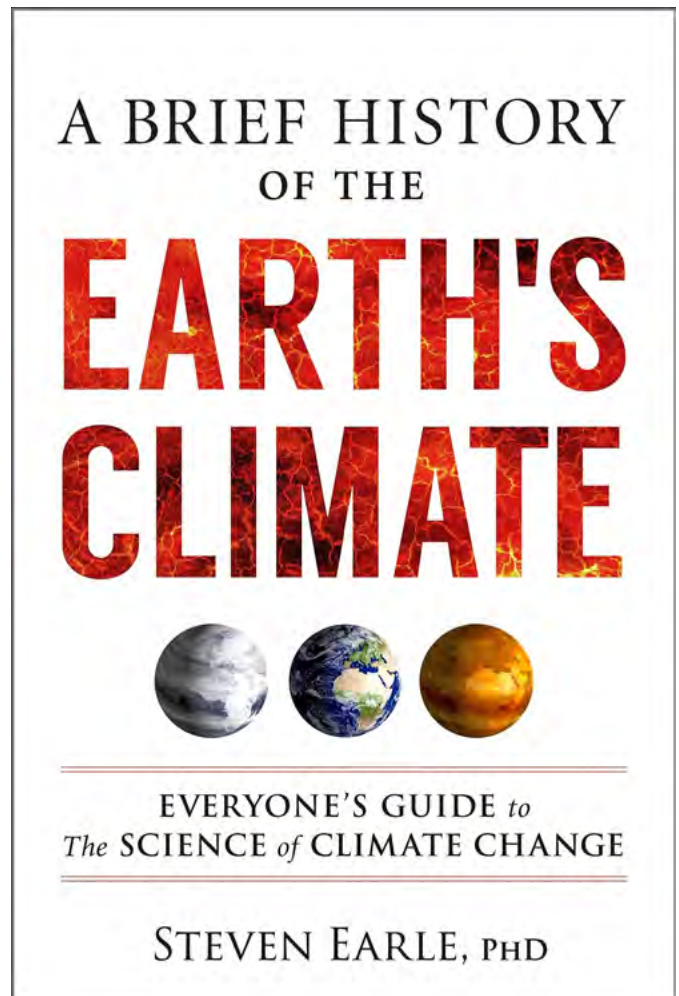
Barbara Fraser

STEVEN Earle's climate book is a perfect beauty: *A Brief History of the Earth's Climate – Everyone's Guide to the Science of Climate Change*. Published in Canada in 2021, 189pp. Invitingly titled, it is truly one for everyone to read because it is science-based and easy to understand.

Earle's rationale is crystal clear. 'It is no exaggeration to call anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change the most serious problem that humans ever faced', (p. xvi). Yes, the current climate crisis is affecting everything and everybody. So, we must all cooperate immediately to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and restore the devastated natural environment.

Earle suggests specific actions we should all take such as avoiding flying, using green-sourced electricity, not eating methane-causing beef, and ending most land-clearing. I would add discussion with others in one or more of your groups. For example, one of my discussion groups is the retirement village where I live.

It is important that we all keep alert to worrying climate developments. This includes the scandal of ineffective Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in our Safeguard Mechanism scheme. Another is the massive energy waste in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Stay tuned for the latest from experts on both.



A cryptic warning: Cave Idus Maritae

Gill Bell

Photo supplied by Gill Bell

THIS Latin phrase, beautifully drawn in chalk on the pavement, appeared at the Canterbury Sports Ground in March this year. Most people, including me, rushing to catch a train or heading for the tennis courts, gave it a puzzled look but thought no more about it. It wasn't until I glanced at the calendar that light dawned. It was 15 March, and the sign was warning us 'Beware the Ides of March'.

The phrase comes from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, when a soothsayer warned Caesar to beware the fifteenth of Mech. He ignored the warning and was assassinated. This marked a turning point in the history of Rome.

I was charmed that this piece of historical trivia had found its way on to our suburban streets. It carried the whiff of intrigue, of dread and of fateful warnings fulfilled. I found it amazing that two millennia later this date still had an impact.



The present-day 15 March passed without incident, but I wonder what further warnings our local Banksy might have for us. Beware the Eve of Hallows, perhaps, when childish monsters roam our streets?

With memories of Shakespeare and Latin from schooldays.

Post-Marshmead reflections

Ivy Sheen

In the March 2024 edition of Eastsider News, a Year 9 student at Methodist Ladies College wrote about her feelings as she headed off to spend several weeks at Marshmead, the school's regional campus bordering the Croajingolong National Park in far East Gippsland. Now, back in Melbourne, she reflects on the experience.



LIFE in the suburbs was all I knew – not just a setting but a background to nearly all my significant childhood memories. But at Marshmead, my dreams of work in environmental policy were forged into something I now felt was attainable.

The sudden abundance of natural space and wildlife at Marshmead after years of suburban life felt like it was encroaching upon my carefully constructed set of rigid values - the pent-up stringency I've come to embrace as my 'comfort zone'. In nature, the weather can't be directed, only predicted. The environment cannot bend to my will – unable to provide the scaffolding that I was confident would allow me to step up into the idealized world of my aspirations. The roles were reversed – nature reigned. Marshmead was a river I had to cross, and I was at the mercy of factors outside of my control. Upon return, the paradigms have shifted... as they say. Small things I've picked up during this time: crumbs of the books I've devoured, slivers of inspiration from the documentaries we've watched, insights of life I've gained enroute; things I've noticed with my eyes and ears, have all taught me invaluable lessons. Nature follows its own system; it forces you to let go of your



Images supplied by Ivy Sheen



shallow ego and pay attention to something much, much bigger than yourself.

I now know, for example, that love isn't necessarily an innate concept – in order to fight for or protect anything, you must first learn to love it. Marshmead has done for me something immeasurably valuable. It has solidified my love for the natural world, shown me the devastating effects of our consumerist system on the planet, and compelled me to step up, not only for nature, but for humanity.

I'm truly thankful to all the dedicated Marshmead staff for this transformative experience. I've cherished the natural wonders, and plan to pursue these interests back at home.

Postscript: Ivy learned to ride a bike at Marshmead and has started a bike riding club with friends around the Kew area. The two ink drawings accompanying this article were created by Ivy.





Photo: Victorian Game Management Authority

IT was only about a decade ago that seeing a Sambar deer in the middle or lower Birrarung (Yarra) Parklands was a novelty. Well, how things have changed! Sambar deer became an increasing environmental problem in Victoria and beyond in the latter part of the 20th century. Some get-rich hopefuls thought deer were the best thing since olive trees and ostriches, but venison supply soon exceeded demand and some farmers simply released their deer into the local countryside. The required high fencing was also easily damaged by falling limbs allowing stock to escape.

These deer have now become a serious threat to the environment and its native wildlife. The extensive bushfires of 2009 may well have driven Sambar deer further down the Yarra Valley and they have been breeding up quickly since then. Yet In their Asian homeland, they are classified as “vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List. Excessive hunting, human population growth and predation have contributed to this. Despite their considerable environmental destruction in Victoria, our State Government still partially protects feral deer by classifying them as a hunting resource under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act.

Mature Sambar stags can weigh over 400kgs and are thus a hazard on our roads. These creatures are usually well aware of your presence and normally discretely disappear into the bush before you actually see them. Occasionally, if you are close to one in thicker bush, it may show its dissatisfaction with your presence by letting out a very loud spine-chilling roar before scuttling off. Caution is recommended, as aggression is possible, particularly if they have young, feel threatened or are cornered.

The pandemic lockdowns assisted their expansion into the Lower Yarra Parklands, as the deer sought peaceful sanctuary in the various deserted golf courses on both sides of the river. More recently, the disruption caused by the massive North East Link works in the Bulleen area has discouraged visitors, so the nearby bushland has become a relatively peaceful retreat for the deer.

Not only are they now occasionally seen along the river as far down as the Collingwood Children's Farm, but their damage to the environment has also become increasingly evident. Some of the billabongs, as well

Suburban deer in our midst

Graeme Daniels

as the river itself, have relatively steep banks which the deer use as escape routes, so several areas are now badly eroded by their hooves, potentially polluting the water. As the billabongs gradually dry out after flooding, the Sambars love wallowing in the muddy edges which are usually heavily pockmarked by their hooves. Dry wallows in some of the grassland areas are also quite evident where their activities are exposing the roots of trees and shrubs. One also comes across the occasional tree where the bark has been stripped by the stags' antlers, potentially killing the tree.

More recently, Parks Victoria rangers have used trail cameras to get an understanding of the actual populations in the parkland areas. One stag that had a broken antler was photographed on both sides of the Birrarung, indicating they cross the river when it suits them.

These deer need to be managed closely before irreparable damage is done to these sensitive areas that are so culturally important to the Wurundjeri people. Away from populated areas, professional sharp shooters are employed for culling. They normally use a drone equipped with a thermal imaging camera to identify where the deer are located and to ensure there are no people in the vicinity. The image resolution is so good that the operator can actually tell whether it is a roo, a wallaby or a deer. Unfortunately, this culling option is not possible in suburbia.

Samples are often taken from culled deer for DNA analysis, so if you come across a dead deer, please report its location to Parks Victoria, as they may wish to take samples to allow scientists to get a fuller understanding of the animal's lineage and movements. You can also help by reporting any deer sightings or evidence of environmental damage they have caused via the www.feralscan.org.au/ website to give government authorities an up-to-date record as to where these feral pests are spreading.

Photo: Graeme Daniels



From Road to New Parkland

The Healesville Freeway Reserve

John Mullahy MP

THE year was 1969. The Beatles' hit *Come Together* was at the top of the Australian charts, Apollo 11 landed on the moon and Gough Whitlam was opposition leader.

It also happened to be the year Premier Henry Bolte released the *Melbourne Transportation Plan*, laying out plans for what would have been the city's longest freeway: the F9. Running from the Monash through Surrey Hills and Box Hill South, the so-called Healesville Freeway was set to slice through Forest Hill and Vermont before continuing to the Yarra Valley.

But as time progressed, plans were scaled back, and land acquired for the project was slowly returned to community use – at least West of Springvale Road. The strip of land between Springvale Road and Boronia Road was reserved for the Healesville Freeway until 2009, when VicRoads formally declared it would no longer be needed for construction.

It's fair to say, though, that over the 50 years since it was set aside, the Healesville Freeway Reserve had become a much-loved strip of open green space in our ever-growing community. When Planning Minister Matthew Guy zoned the Healesville Freeway Reserve for residential development, Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews attended a local rally and promised a Labor Government would Preserve the Reserve.

Fast forward to today. Not only have we made good on our promise, with the entire strip of Healesville Freeway Reserve from Springvale Road to Boronia Road zoned as Public Park. We're going further.

With an investment of more than \$10 million dollars from the State Labor Government, the strip of land will be transformed into 18 MCGs worth of beautiful public park with amenities for all to enjoy.

The Allan Government's upgrades to this open space are a great win for our community and come off



A 1979 map of the proposed Healesville Freeway alignment slicing through Melbourne's East.

the back of long-term advocacy from the Friends of Healesville Freeway Reserve.

The new park will be home to a shared cyclist and pedestrian path from Springvale Road all the way to Boronia Road, and on to the Dandenong Creek Trail connecting with Melbourne's cycling network. For those after some more adrenaline, there'll be a dedicated BMX Pump Track, too.

With new water fountains, benches and improved lighting in high traffic areas – this new green space will be a great spot for fans of exercise. There will be new places for the community to gather, with BBQs, benches and picnic tables installed in the park – alongside playground equipment for younger visitors. Combined with new toilet facilities and improved carparking will make this green space a place to visit and linger, rather than just pass through.

Some of the most significant improvements will be to the green space itself. New trees, understory planting,

(Continued on next page)

**Blackburn South • Burwood East • Forest Hill • Vermont • Vermont South
Glen Waverley • Wheelers Hill**

Hi, I'm John Mullahy MP - a local dad, former small business owner and the State Member for Glen Waverley District. If you need assistance with any Victorian Government or community matters, please get in touch or pop by my office for a chat. I'm here to help.



(03) 9955 2501 @JohnMullahyMP
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2 Brentford Square Forest Hill VIC 3131



From Road to New Parkland (continued)



(Above): The Healesville Freeway Reserve today, stretching eastward from Springvale Road.

the expansion of grasslands and installation of new habitat features will ensure this new park will welcome people and wildlife, too.

So, what happens now? Parks Victoria has been busy finalising designs and choosing a name, with input from stakeholders including the Wurundjeri Woi Worrung Cultural Heritage Corporation.

Construction on major upgrades is set to begin later this year, with completion currently planned for 2025. For updates, I encourage our community to visit the Parks Victoria website.

After more than 60 years, it is so exciting to see this strip of land turned into a green heart for the Forest Hill, Vermont and Vermont South communities. I know this investment will go a long way to preserving our high standards of living as Melbourne continues to grow.

John Mullahy MP is the Labor Member for Glen Waverley District in the Victorian Legislative Assembly. Born and raised in Regional Victoria, John lives locally with his partner and daughter.

Photos supplied by the Office of John Mullahy

(Below): Parks Victoria has been working hard to finalise designs, including concepts for the new sensory garden – one of many areas of new proposed landscaping.



Plastic Pollution The Essentials

The problem:

Plastics are unmanaged.

- We use 1+ million plastic bags every minute
- We've recycled just 9% of the nine billion tons of plastic produced
- By 2050, our oceans will contain more plastics than fish
- Eco-campaigns like the recycle logo are a sham, creating the idea of ecological balance while promoting consumption.

About plastics:

- Plastic does not biodegrade: it breaks into smaller fragments known as microplastics that are difficult to remove from our environment
- The chemicals that make plastic so useful also release toxics into your food, home and body.

Impacts:

Your health:

- Many chemicals used in plastics affect your body at extremely low levels, harming reproduction, changing hormones, predisposing you to ADHD, diabetes, obesity and cancers.

Your world:

- Burned plastic waste creates toxic emissions
- Plastic ends up in our waterways, boosting invasive species and threatening biodiversity.

Take Action

For you:

- Be conscious of how much plastic you purchase
- Avoid makeup with "polypropylene" or "polyethylene" on the ingredients list
- Buy in bulk, using containers from home.

At home:

- Recycle your plastic products responsibly
- Consider using cloth or paper bags instead of plastic
- Ceramic, metal, glass, and wood are all more sustainable to replace items in your kitchen, bathroom and home.

In your community:

- Stop buying bottled water: use a reusable glass or metal bottle instead
- Take your thermos to a coffee shop
- Always take a grocery bag—or grab a box from the store.

EPA and community investigate Blackburn Lake pollution

Environment Protection Victoria

A high-tech investigation involving EPA Victoria and the community has identified possible sources of persistent pollution in Blackburn Lake setting off a campaign of inspections of industrial sites upstream.

EPA Northern Metropolitan Regional Manager Chloe Bennett says the cooperative operation was a response to 40 pollution reports from the public since 2021.

‘Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is a popular community asset, with recreational facilities and habitat for wildlife, but it has been plagued with pollution including sediment and some reports of oils, sewage, and foam,’ Ms Bennett said.

‘EPA installed real-time water quality monitoring gear at locations around the lake, and community members made regular checks on the gear and raised awareness about reporting pollution to EPA,’ she said.

‘While the electronics were reporting acidity levels (pH), dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, algae and ammonium content, the community members could inspect the equipment and report back on aspects like the appearance of the water and any odour they encountered.’

EPA’s Water Sciences Unit worked with regional EPA staff to study the pattern and types of pollution, and whether the pollution was specific to particular days or times, which helped narrow down the list of likely sources.

‘High turbidity suggested building sites, and spikes in acidity pointed to concrete wash-waters,’ Ms Bennett said.

‘We identified nine businesses and inspected all of them over a three-day operation. We’ve dispensed compliance advice to some of them, and there will be more inspections and enforcement action where necessary,’ she said.

‘Combining data from electronic monitoring, reports from the public and observations by EPA field staff and community volunteers allowed us to track pollution back to likely sources and take action.’

EPA reported back to the community on 24 February at the Clean Waterway Expo held in Blackburn Lakes Sanctuary and received positive feedback.

‘EPA and the community members who have done so much to help will be watching Blackburn Lake and monitoring the results of our efforts,’ Ms Bennett said.

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA’s 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or providing details online at <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution>

Photo by Glenys Grant





Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Clean Waterways Expo

Su Dempsey

THE Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Clean Waterways Expo aimed to tell people who live, work, shop, learn, or play within the Blackburn Lake stormwater catchment area to look after their waterways.

It sought to raise awareness of HOW together we, the whole community, can prevent pollution and litter from entering our beautiful Blackburn Lake and our local waterways, and WHY we need to.

We all live in a stormwater catchment somewhere. Do you know which catchment your stormwater drains into and where it ends up?

How to look after our wetlands

The Expo brought together many water and pollution experts. Special guests from EPA and Yarra Valley Water provided a program of well-attended, interesting and informative short presentations throughout the day. The EPA teams, EPA Response vehicle, and their interactive displays demonstrated how they test the stormwater for contaminants of all kinds, how they respond to pollution reports, and how we, the general public need to report incidents quickly, to enable an efficient outcome.

The Yarra Valley Water presentation explained the importance of only allowing the three P's (Pee, Poo and Paper) to enter the sewerage system, which takes water from the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry, but no cooking oils, food scraps, medications and Wet Wipes. These are the main causes of fat burgs, which block the system, and cause sewer overflows into our stormwater

systems and ultimately our waterways.

Melbourne Water had their interactive stormwater catchment model on display throughout the day, which demonstrated quite clearly the difference between stormwater and sewer systems and how stormwater in the drains ends up in our creeks and river systems.

The Blackburn Lake Waterwatch team had samples of real live water bugs for sharp-eyed audience members to search for, try to identify, and find out which aquatic habitat each species prefer. Water bugs need clean healthy water too.

Whitehorse District Scouts provided a free sausage for those attending, but only after they had filled in a pledge to say what they plan to do to improve the quality of the stormwater coming from their homes.

Whitehorse Council staff demonstrated how to minimise waste and dispose of waste properly and provided some great kids activities. Whitehorse Education Program volunteers and officers demonstrated how home rain gardens work. They read a story about the journey of a rain drop, and the audience helped 'Penny the Picnicker' learn how to have a more environmentally friendly visit to the Lake. The venue was 'decorated' with many raindrop messages, thanks to the Ed Program Officers.

The KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA) talked to many attendees about the need to improve the health of KooyongKoot (Gardiners Creek) throughout the

(Continued on next page)



Waterbug search



Talks were held throughout the day in the Visitors Centre.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Clean Waterways Expo (Continued)

whole catchment as it makes its 30km journey to the Yarra River. Blackburn Lake is the headwaters of KooyongKoot. Find out more at <https://kka.org.au/>

And who can forget Roberto, the Connie who chatted to the crowd about why, and how, Wetlands matter, and gave out many of his collectable environmentally-themed swap-cards.

Why to value wetlands

Guided tours of the Blackburn Lake wetlands area showed first-hand how wetlands work, and how important efficient wetlands are for healthy water, biodiversity, and our own mental health and wellbeing. Wetlands can improve water quality by filtering pollutants out of the water, trapping gross litter, controlling flooding and erosion while providing important habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial creatures.

Photos supplied by Su Dempsey

(Right): Raindrop messages, made by the Education Program Officers.

The vegetation in wetlands, rivers and oceans can store up to 50% more carbon than forest trees, providing us with cleaner air and reducing global climate change. Take the Wonderful Wetlands Quiz provided by Melbourne Water to learn more about the importance of wetlands either by scanning the QR Code at the top of this article or going to the Melbourne Water site.

To ensure healthy waterways, it is important ONLY RAIN GOES DOWN THE DRAIN.



Our 'thin skinned homes' are costing us but we have solutions

Julie Mulhauser

AT the start of 2020 I conducted a deep retrofit of my family home. My 1970's brick veneer in Canterbury now achieves 10 stars on the Residential Energy Efficiency Scorecard and consumes only 11% of the energy compared to dual fuel homes.

As a result of my research, I learned many things. Firstly, Australian homes offer extraordinarily little resistance to heat transfer, with rental homes the worst of an already bad bunch. The Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) provides homes with a star rating out of ten based on an estimate of a home's potential (heating and cooling) energy use. The 1.3 million Victorian homes built before 1991 have an average NatHERS of 1.8 stars or 453 MJ/m² annual space conditioning energy. In contrast, a NatHERS 6 star home requires only a quarter of this space conditioning energy. Ninety-seven percent of this energy is used for heating.

I learned that these thermally terrible homes are not only extremely costly to heat and cool, but they

are jeopardising people's health. In fact, Southeast Australia's combination of cold winters and thermally poor housing ('glorified tents') contributes to wintertime excess mortality rates (6.5%) double that of Sweden (3.7%).

South Australia has a similar death rate due to hypothermia as Sweden (3.9 versus 3.3 per 100 000 population). The critical differences are that most deaths in South Australia occurred in elderly women who died inside while most deaths in Sweden occurred outside in the snow in intoxicated middle-aged men.

A 2023 study found the mean average wintertime indoor temperature of Victorian homes is 15.7C. The WHO recommends a minimum of 18C. Eighty-five percent of homes in Victoria studied were below this minimum, while more than one quarter of homes had an average of below 14C.

In view of these statistics, it is not surprising 20% of participants in Sustainability Victoria's Healthy Homes
(Continued on next page)

Our 'thin skinned homes' are costing us (Continued)

project said they felt cold in their homes every day over winter. The same study found that improving the thermal performance of existing homes saved \$10 in avoided health costs for every \$1 in energy cost savings.

The largest negative health effect from living in a cold house is depression and anxiety, followed by worsening of asthma, bronchitis, coronary heart disease, and hypertension. Few people are aware that our Sunburnt Country has a grave issue with cold housing on an enormous scale.

We have solutions

A 2023 study found that '... eliminating cold housing [in Australia] would lead to substantial health gains, reductions in health inequalities, savings in health expenditure, and productivity gains. Cold housing can be addressed through better building standards for new houses, insulation, draught-sealing, efficient heating, and cooling, and/or energy subsidies'.

The nexus between thermally poor housing, individual vulnerability, financial hardship, and poor capacity to change these circumstances is well established - as are the solutions. Health solutions are also climate solutions. In Boroondara 51% of greenhouse gas emissions are from our homes.

Combining retrofitting for building energy efficiency and efficient electrification would result in healthier, safer, and more comfortable homes with less cost to both households and the environment.

Information from trusted sources is key

The current lack of trusted, independent, expert information applies to understanding the nature of the problem of cold housing, its scale and seriousness, and the solutions.



Julie Mulhauser

Photo: Julian Meehan

Yet we know that public education campaigns work. Not only do they give people information from a trusted source, but by personalising health risks they keep the issue current, reshape social norms, and promote understandable solutions.

In November 2019, the COAG meeting of federal, state and territory energy ministers resolved by mid-2021 to deliver information resources and training on energy efficiency, as well as a national approach to ratings and disclosure. Yet in 2024 we still do not have mandatory disclosure at point of sale/lease or minimum thermal standards for rental properties in Victoria. Most people are also unaware of the existence of a Residential Energy Efficiency Scorecard and trained assessors to independently rate the thermal performance of existing homes and advise on upgrades.

The scale of the change required is unprecedented. The problem is bigger than individual households. A systemic response by all three levels of government is urgently required.

Julie Mulhauser is a retired medical specialist and advocate for home energy efficiency and electrification.

HISTORICAL SNIPPETS FROM BOX HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From *The Argus*, 31 August 1938



Mrs Weber, MLA, informed the Box Hill Council at its last meeting that the Public Works Dept. would shortly repair and renovate the Box Hill police station. The department said that it appeared from correspondence that the Council was

not prepared to contribute towards the cost of a new police station which the Council had suggested should be built. The town clerk (Mr. Cole) said that he understood that two additional rooms and a small lobby would be built in brick.

Source: Helen Harris, Archivist BHHS, Newsletter June 2016.



John Nihil, ACF Chisholm

WE know that our climate and our precious natural environment are in crisis. We've seen the unprecedented fires and floods in Australia, and we've read of climate disasters overseas. But every one of us has power to move decision makers towards a safe and sustainable planet.

Collective action is an increasingly frequent and effective way for people to come together to send a message to decision makers in government. It is a clear demonstration that they need to take notice of community demands for change. Collective action also enables people to share knowledge and to provide a supportive network for participants. It is democracy in action.

A recent example of collective action is Rise Up for Climate. This is an Australia wide movement taking peaceful action for the climate during the first half of May. This movement represents a broad coalition of environment groups including the Australian Conservation Foundation, Move Beyond Coal, Get-Up, 350.org and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.

Rise Up for Climate has organised nationwide actions outside Government MP's office to show the power of people who care about our future, in every state capital, in Canberra, and in many local communities. This includes actions outside the offices of the Member for Chisholm, Higgins, and a locally based Labor Senator.

Rise Up for Climate made three demands of our Federal Government representatives:

- No more coal and gas.
- No more handouts to big coal and gas polluters.
- Deliver strong new nature laws that actually protect our wildlife from climate destruction.

You might have read that the government has deferred introducing the revised Environment Protection and

Biodiversity Conservation Act. This new Act is vital to protect our threatened species and the natural places we love. We need the government to introduce this Act in this term of Parliament.

You might also have heard about the proposed Burrup Hub gas export development in the North West of WA, on Murujuga land. If fully developed, this 'climate bomb' project, led by Woodside Energy, would emit 13 times Australia's total annual greenhouse gas emissions, and still be polluting the planet in 2050. The proposed Beetaloo Basin gas fracking development, south of Darwin, is strongly opposed by indigenous owners, graziers and environmental groups because of the potentially massive CO2 and methane emissions and the damage to groundwater. These are just two of many proposed fossil fuel developments in Australia that would significantly increase the risk of climate disasters here and across the planet.

The government is taking important steps to build renewable energy, and all the sustainable jobs and community development that could result. On the other hand, the government cannot allow these new climate-wrecking fossil fuel projects to proceed. We who elect them can be a powerful voice that our representatives can't ignore, to stop new coal and gas projects, and to fast-track clean energy developments and environmental protection.

Your voice matters. By joining in collective action initiatives such as Rise Up for Climate, your voice will be amplified.

To find a Rise Up for Climate action near you, click on this link: <https://www.acf.org.au/rise-up-for-climate-events>

To keep informed of other opportunities to be part of a collective action, click on this link: <https://www.acf.org.au/events> To contact ACF Chisholm, please go here: https://www.acf.org.au/acf_community_chisholm





Community update from John Pesutto MP

As part of a representative democracy the most important part of my job is listening to you and your neighbours and taking your concerns and ideas to Parliament. So, let me update you on what I've been doing and what I have been hearing.

At the end of March, it was my pleasure to host a community forum in Canterbury. Housing, home ownership, the energy transition, state government debt, more socially just and equitable infrastructure spending – these were the issues that unsurprisingly dominated our discussions.

I believe we owe every Victorian a better deal on housing – your rent shouldn't eat your wage and saving capacity; young Victorians should be able to aspire to owning a home in the area they grew up in. We need to transition to renewables but in a way that doesn't subject the most vulnerable in our community to unaffordable energy costs. The endless and oftentimes senseless deficit spending of the Victorian Government over the last 10 years has been financed by our

children's future prosperity and it needs to stop.

It was fantastic to engage with local constituents who are so deeply passionate about our community and our state. Special shout out to the Swinburne Chorale who provided an uplifting soundtrack to our forum from the next room – I particularly enjoyed joining them for a quick sing after.

My Winter community forum will be held in Camberwell on 16 July. I hope to see you there. If you'd like to attend, please scan the QR code to register or contact my office on (03) 9882 4086 or john.pesutto@parliament.vic.gov.au

Recently, it has also been an enormous pleasure to cheer on our local sports teams as the winter sports season kicks off. From the Hawthorn Hockey Club celebrating their 100th year, to attending past players day as part of the ANZAC round for South Yarra Football and Netball Club, and joining the members of the Camberwell Hockey Club for a season start lunch – it is wonderful to see so many in our community getting involved in sport, having a go, and making friends.

A priority of mine has been to focus on engaging and advocating for our local schools. If there is a solution to the

(Continued on page 31)

ADVERTISEMENT



Don't hesitate to
get in touch



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MEMBER FOR **HAWTHORN**

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Authorised by J Pesutto, Suite 1, 197-199 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn VIC 3122.

Save Boroondara's bluestone kerb and channels

George Demetrios

BOROONDARA City Council owns and manages many historic bluestone assets, including original bluestone kerb and channels in streets and pitcher bluestone within laneways.

These bluestone kerb and channels and bluestone laneways are an integral part of the amenity and heritage of Boroondara, giving our streetscapes a distinct aesthetic that plays an important role in forming the municipality's historical identity for residents.

The local community is now fighting Council to preserve the municipality's 19th and early 20th centuries bluestone heritage, which is under threat from Council's recently released Draft Road Materials Policy.

Under Council's proposed Draft Road Materials Policy, there will be no ability for residents to retain Boroondara's original historic bluestone kerb and channels, which stretch back as far as the 1850s. These will be progressively removed and replaced by standardised one pitcher wide gutters, which will have no heritage or aesthetic value.

Residents have already made clear to Council in the past that they want to retain their bluestone heritage, with the residents of Neave Street, Hawthorn East, in 2007, mounting a successful campaign to stop Council implementing a 'one pitcher kerb one pitcher channel' profile in their street, and ultimately preserving their historic 19th century bluestone spoon drains. Boroondara Council is again ignoring the wishes of the local community and is attempting to implement a policy that is neither needed nor wanted.

In response, Boroondara residents have started a petition (<https://www.change.org/p/save-boroondara-s-heritage-bluestone-kerb-channels-and-laneways-30ecb034-d213-4c73-b7f4-3e350f8f8ca3>) calling on Council to undertake a bluestone heritage study, prepared by a qualified heritage expert, to identify, document and protect the aesthetic, social and historical

values of Boroondara's original bluestone kerb and channels and bluestone laneways.

A number of other Councils, including the Melbourne City Council, the Cities of Yarra, Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Bayside, Merri-bek, Whitehorse and Maribyrnong, have already undertaken this approach, conducting bluestone heritage studies that reflect best practice in cultural heritage assessment, using the heritage criteria set out in the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter, which has allowed these Councils to put in place active policies and guidelines that conserve and restore their historic bluestone kerb, channels and laneways.

The preparation of a bluestone heritage study, undertaken by expert heritage consultants, will provide an opportunity that will allow Council, for the first time in its 30-year history, to identify, document and provide protection for Boroondara's historic original bluestone kerb, channels and laneways, that are highly valued by the Boroondara community as existing community assets, linked to the history of our City and its predecessors – the Cities of Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell.

Boroondara Council must hear the voices of the Boroondara community on this important heritage issue, as expressed in the submissions written, the petitions signed, the emails sent and calls made, by residents in response to Council's flawed Draft Road Materials Policy, and take the steps needed to recognise the importance of Boroondara's historically significant bluestone kerb, channels and laneway heritage, by ensuring their future preservation.

Please sign the online petition and help save Boroondara's historic kerb and channels at <https://www.change.org/p/save-boroondara-s-heritage-bluestone-kerb-channels-and-laneways-30ecb034-d213-4c73-b7f4-3e350f8f8ca3>

George Demetrios is Convenor of Save Boroondara's Bluestone Heritage Campaign.



Photo supplied by George Demetrios



Dynamics of Relationships

David Williamson

THE hugely popular reality TV shows exploring the pairing of couples, such as FWW, MAFS, Love Is Blind, Love Island, The Bachelor/Bachelorette inevitably raise the question as to why some couples experience so much conflict whereas others seem so carefree and easy-going

These shows reveal common human behaviours within intimate relationships, including the subtle (or not so subtle) ways we interact with our partner to get our emotional needs met. Current research suggests that how we behave in our adult intimate relationships stems from how our needs were met in childhood by our parents or primary caregivers.

As a Counsellor, and inherently curious about human behaviour, I have a particular interest in Attachment Theory. It is a well-accepted evidence-based approach to understanding the dynamics within intimate relationships, and the ways in which each person seeks to have their emotional needs met. This template, style or 'internal working model' was developed long before we met our partner or spouse and becomes reactivated when in close and intimate relationships.

Have you felt like you and your partner have completely different needs or communication styles? Have you felt like you argue over trivial things, but they evoke such strong emotions? Have you noticed a pattern or cycle to these arguments? These questions relate to how attachment styles may present themselves in a relationship.

If you've wondered what your style may be, there's a link at the end of this post to an attachment quiz. Your result may shed light on your behaviours and triggers in close relationships. You may notice a pattern carried through previous relationships. As they say, knowledge is power and self-awareness can empower us to grow, heal and make changes that enable us to feel more connected and have more satisfying relationships. It can also have a positive impact on parenting, employment, friendships, and overall wellbeing.

Attachment styles - a minute-to-win-it speed outline

Secure – about 50% of adults have this and it develops from a child that has had their needs met by a consistent and predictable parent (or caregiver). They have consistently felt safe, seen, soothed and secure. In adult intimate relationships secure attachment creates safe, healthy, predictable, and long-lasting relationships.

Insecure Avoidant – about 25% of adults have this style and it develops from a child that had a caregiver that was absent, unavailable or incapable of meeting the child's needs so the child learns to turn inwards to meet their needs and self-soothe. In adulthood this can present as keeping others at arm's length and struggling with emotional vulnerability and commitment.

Insecure Anxious – about 20% of adults have this style and it comes from a child that has had an inconsistent or unpredictable caregiver, so the child adapted to overly fixate on the caregiver to have their needs met. In adulthood this can present as having a constant need to connect and be close to a partner and be overly anxious to please others whilst neglecting one's own needs.

Insecure Anxious/Avoidant – about 5% of adults have this style and it develops from a child that had a caregiver that was abusive and neglectful. What the child is reliant on for survival and protection is also dangerous and unpredictable. In adult intimate relationships this may appear as one that is dissociated or "checked-out" of the relationship and may experience strong fight/flight/freeze responses that block intimacy or closeness.

Healing attachment injury/trauma and becoming more securely attached is possible

It's important to recognise that attachment styles aren't a choice and that often our parents or caregivers did the best they could with their own varying capacities, health, self-awareness, and attachment trauma.

If you feel that you could benefit from learning more or healing your attachment trauma, counselling is a safe and confidential space to explore attachment styles. Healing attachment wounds is a journey towards more connected, satisfying, and loving relationships leading towards a more fulfilling life.

David Williamson is a qualified Counsellor with Karinya Counselling, a not for profit, charitable organisation located in Glen Waverley, that offers counselling, support groups, information seminars and coaching. To find out more about

Karinya, go to <https://www.karinyacounselling.com.au/>

To explore your personal attachment style, go to:

<https://quiz.attachmentproject.com/>



Education CHANCES Scholarship Program

THE Education CHANCES Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students aged 12 to 25 who live or study in Boroondara and whose families are experiencing financial hardship.

The Need for Education CHANCES

In Boroondara, 4000 plus young people live below the poverty line. It is essential that these young people be given every opportunity to maximise their potential, achieve their educational goals and fulfill their ambitions.

Although Boroondara is one of the wealthiest municipalities in Victoria, it contains many neighbourhoods with pockets of poverty, in which a high proportion of young people aged 0 to 25 live in households whose income is below the poverty line.

If you are a financially disadvantaged young person attending school in Boroondara, the social divide is clearly visible. It is harder for young people from financially disadvantaged homes to achieve educationally, due to limited resources: inability to buy textbooks, computer supplies and meet the costs of camps and excursions. These situations can restrict the young person's ability to participate in extracurricular, social, or cultural activities, which may lead to social isolation and adversely affect their educational achievements.



Scholarship Applications

Education CHANCES supports qualifying students year on year throughout their secondary and tertiary education, providing long term financial security towards completion of their studies and the pursuit of a meaningful career.

An Education CHANCES scholar receives financial support which can be used to provide school essentials; including textbooks, MYKI cards, computers, IT costs, uniform costs, participation in extracurricular school activities (school sport, outings, events, music lessons, excursions, camps and leadership activities).

Approximately 100 to 130 scholarships are awarded each year. For information about applying for a scholarship, go [here](#).

Contribute to Education CHANCES

Members of the Boroondara community are invited to our inaugural, online, community engagement and fundraising event to be held on Tuesday 7 May. For any questions about Education CHANCES and our work, please contact Sue Felton, Philanthropy & Partnerships Manager at philanthropy@educationchances.org.au or call 0447 800 612 or go to their website at <https://educationchances.org.au/>



BORED in retirement and wanting to enjoy it more? At U3A Ringwood we offer, the retired and the semi-retired in and around Ringwood and Maroondah, a lively spectrum of low cost retirement activities to challenge and engage your mind and body.

Why not make your third age the time of your life? You're never too old to learn something new. We have over 40 classes running every week and cover a wide range of interests including exercise, yoga, wine tasting, chess, 500, history and many more.

Ringwood U3A is located primarily in two central areas with public transport nearby. Our primary location and our office are located in the Parkwood Community Hub building at 35-39 Tortice Drive Ringwood North. We hold most of our larger and activity based classes at Kevin Pratt Pavilion (also known as the Norwood Sporting Club building) located at 58-60 Mullum

Mullum Road, Ringwood. We hold our Line Dancing class at the 4th Ringwood Scout Group Hall located at 17 Mines Road, Ringwood East, Vic (opposite the Karralyka Centre).

We are a small and friendly group and encourage you to check out our website <https://www.u3aringwood.org.au/> or email info@u3aringwood.org.au

Our tutors are very much appreciated and an annual lunch is our way of thanking them for all their hard work and selfless input to running their classes. Shown in this photo are tutors from Armchair Travel, Card Making, Elders and the Law, Current Affairs, Line Dancing and Scrabble.



Photo supplied by Ringwood U3A

Box Hill Prostate Cancer Support Group

Sal Dugan

FABULOUS that the Box Hill Prostate Cancer Support Group (BHPCSG) was one of eight support groups recently awarded a grant by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA). The grants are awarded to help support groups raise awareness of the disease and strengthen the support available to those who live with the condition.

PCFA CEO Anne Savage said the 2024 grants will support initiatives such as public awareness displays and information events that promote the importance of PSA testing and prostate cancer early detection. She added that the PCFA is tremendously proud to be affiliated with one of the few nationwide Support Group Networks that continues to bring men and their partners together in person around the country, improving survivorship outcomes for the men and their families who live with the disease.

Of the eight grants (totalling \$35,000) offered, two were awarded to Victorian groups with the remaining six being distributed to groups in regional centres throughout Australia. The Box Hill PCSG was delighted to be one of the Victorian support groups to accept a grant of \$3,900.

Bert Alesich, who leads the Box Hill PCSG, was first diagnosed in 2011 and received the first of his treatments towards the end of 2012. Treatments carried through into 2013 and although they came with unpleasant side effects, the long-term benefit was

well worth the effort. And Bert adds that continuing improvements mean that those going through treatment for prostate cancer today will experience considerably lesser discomfort than he did.

Bert and all members of the Box Hill PCSG will use their grant to strengthen their ability to raise awareness of the disease by creating brochures for distribution at, for example, the Whitehorse Spring Festival and Bunnings sausage sizzle opportunities. They will purchase a Group specific mobile phone to enable all members to handle calls, rather than using a personal number of one member or another. And they will also create 'business' cards advertising the details of their group for broad distribution.

Most importantly they will encourage men to have a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) test. This is vital, given the earlier the diagnosis, the more easily treated. So men, if you're over 50, or even younger if there's a history of cancer in your family, chat with your GP and just take action. Remember, too, that you are not alone. There are support groups not just in Box Hill, but also throughout the country, to help you and your families come to terms with the condition.

To contact the Box Hill PCSG, go to their website here: <https://prostateboxhill.org/> To find a Support Group in your area, visit <https://www.pcfa.org.au/support/find-a-support-group/> For information and support, go to www.prostate.org.au

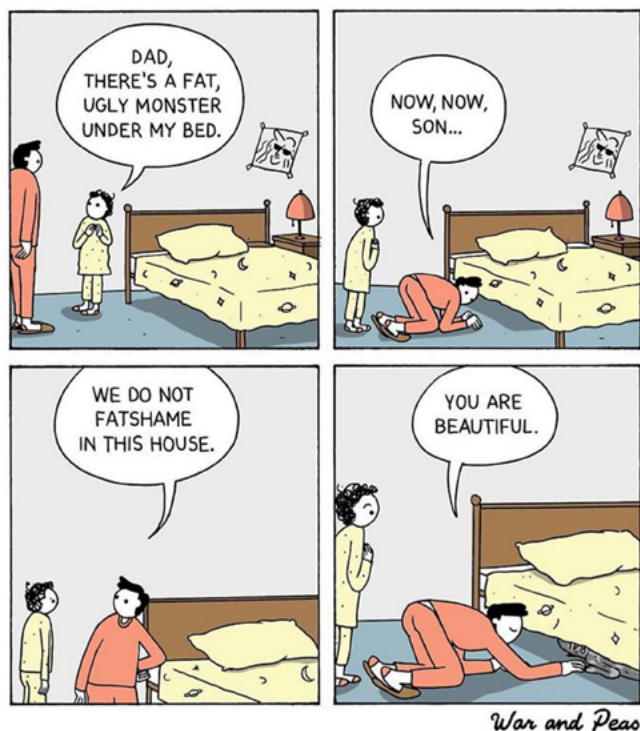


Photo supplied by Box Hill Prostate Cancer Support Group





Flipping the narrative from waste to resources

(Below): Cath and Jennie at their inaugural Spring Community Market, held at the 1st Deepdene Scout Hall October 2023.

Jennie Irving and Cath Krestyn

SUSTAINABILITY! Circular economy! Grassroots action! In a world faced with seemingly intractable environmental challenges, these buzzwords and slogans can seem like a panacea of feel-good rhetoric. Not so for Boroondara Hard Rubbish Rehome (BHRR). These words are some of the key inspirations behind this local sustainability success story.

With membership at an astonishing 10,700+ since local residents Cath Krestyn and Jennie Irving launched the group in September 2022, BHRR is proof that community action at a grassroots level can make a difference – not just in the environmental and resource space, but also at a community and deeper personal level.

‘We live in a resource-rich society where consumption is encouraged as necessary to keep the economy ticking over,’ says Cath. ‘But the earth just doesn’t have the resources to sustain this. It’s excessive, especially in wealthy countries. We have to reconsider our own choices. And start treating our excess as a resource, not waste.’

‘It isn’t easy,’ Jennie agrees. ‘In just two generations, we’ve moved from a culture where thrift was valued and people used their resources very carefully, to literally a “throw away” society. That has to change.’

They see issues of access as part of the root of the problem, but also as a key to its solution. As a private group on Facebook, BHRR can use the social media platform to reach an audience the two co-founders could never have dreamed of. ‘It’s slightly crazy!’, laughs Cath. ‘Humbling. But also pretty brilliant!’ It has empowered people to really feel that they’re making a difference in someone’s life, through gifting resources that they no longer need or want. That creates its own ‘feel good’ glow. And by keeping a resource in circulation, they’re also being part of a circular economy, reducing the need to buy new and avoiding sending perfectly good, usable resources to landfill.’

BHRR allows people to post their own surplus resources, as well as make ‘In Search Of’ (ISO) posts for things they need. Everything in the group is offered for free. BHRR also provides a space for sharing photos of local hard rubbish piles, so that resources can be rescued before they are crushed and sent to landfill. Between the two of them, Cath and Jennie

have diverted over 15 tonnes of resources from landfill since starting BHRR. It’s hard to imagine the extra tonnes that have not ended up as landfill, as a result of resources rescued from hard rubbish piles or rehomed before even hitting the nature strip thanks to the group and its sizable ‘Rehomie’ community.

The co-founders are passionate about creating more than a platform for rehoming ‘free stuff’ and diverting good resources from landfill. ‘We’re able to meet people at their point of need,’ said Jennie. ‘And so many of the resources we’ve rescued have gone to support a huge range of fantastic local groups doing incredible work to support others in the community.’ While they are thrilled at the environmental gains, Cath and Jennie are proudest of the respectful, ethical community of Rehomies that BHRR has nurtured, and of the community links they are forging.

With its catchphrase, ‘Grassroots action, connecting community, sustainable solutions’, BHRR really is walking the talk.

If you’re interested in joining, just search for Boroondara Hard Rubbish Rehome on Facebook and follow the prompts.

Photo supplied by Jennie Irving and Cath Krestyn.



Palms Australia

PALMS Australia is a small not-for-profit international development organisation which aims to reduce global poverty. We recruit, prepare and send skilled Australians overseas to provide valuable skill exchange and mentoring to local staff.

The Palms Australia Executive Director Soraya Kassim visited Melbourne to talk about the work of organisation and to discuss ways to become involved in long term voluntary overseas assignments.

An information session was held at St Mary's Primary School at Oakleigh on 22 April, where volunteer returnees reflected on what they learnt and how central their time with Palms had been in their lives.

Those present had done 2-3 assignments in Samoa, Tanzania and South Africa. Although the contexts were very different their stories were all of gratitude for the relationships they had developed in the process of mutual skills and experience sharing that they had enjoyed.

'It doesn't matter what sector you come from – teaching, nursing and medicine, the trades', said Ms Kassim. 'It is worth making contact with us to express interest in Palms, because we receive new requests all the time and a placement will surely be found.'

To find out more about Palms Australia, go to their website at <https://palms.org.au/> To contact Palms Australia about overseas Global Mission, call 0422 472 567 or send an email to palms@palms.org.au



Photo supplied by Palms Australia

(Above): Palms' Director Soraya Kassim catches up with Palm participants from the development field. L-R: Giuseppe Crupi, Kathy Fewster, Michael & Bing Dalton, Soraya, and Helen Colla.

Schwerkolt Cottage Open House

Sunday 28 July, 12pm-4pm

AUGUST Schwerkolt and his family were not the first settlers in the Mitcham district. They did, however, build one of the first solidly constructed homes in the area: a six-roomed stone cottage that was erected c.1864 and destroyed by bushfire. Fortunately for posterity, Schwerkolt built a second cottage some twenty years after the first. This three-roomed stone structure was restored in 1964. It is one of only a very small number of nineteenth-century stone cottages in metropolitan Melbourne that still stand on their original sites.

As part of Melbourne Open House, come along for a special opportunity to explore inside this stone settler cottage and learn about its construction and history. Tour the Cottage with a guide and walk around the

barn, smithy, smokehouse, cellar and orcharding shed.

See inside the Local History Room with Whitehorse Historical Society and warm up with a Devonshire tea.

The Needlework Tapestry Guild of Victoria will be inside the Museum giving demonstrations. See stunning examples of furniture and wood craft on display by the Melbourne Guild of Fine Woodworking.

Kids can see the Pepperwood Farm doll house inside the Museum and get inspired to create their own fairy house or furniture at craft activity stations.

The Open House is free. Bookings are essential for Cottage tours, which will take place at 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm.

Email arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au to book your place.

Paula Fenwick

Corporate Executive Becomes Amazon Best Seller

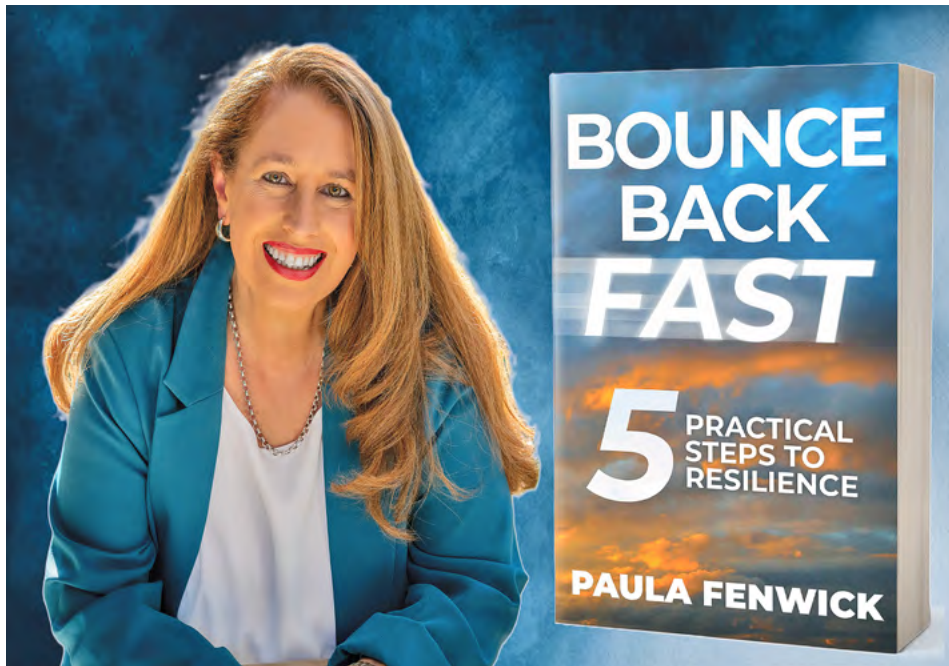


Photo supplied by Paula Fenwick

Overnight Success in 10 Years

NEW author and Kew East resident, Paula Fenwick, started her working life in the corporate world, rapidly climbing the ladder's rungs. However, she left corporate life behind about 10 years ago to devote her time to raising her daughters and start her own Leadership Coaching business while still consulting on various marketing projects. Her ultimate dream was to become an author and a motivational speaker. However, as a single mother with two teenage girls, she had neither the finances nor the headspace to take her coaching business from dream to reality. So, for the time being, she put the dream on the backburner.

When her daughters finished school, Paula returned to the corporate world, saying her story is one of making tough choices, embracing change and growing through life's challenges.

Early in 2023 she realised she had to change, despite having no idea how her future would develop. Through a serendipitous meeting, she connected with the independent publisher Inspirational Book Writers. Trouble was, she was still employed and the internal struggle between pursuing her dream and maintaining her financial security caused her immense personal stress.

However, she took the plunge and left her 30-year corporate career to pursue her dream. No mean feat, given Paula had to confront and overcome all her fears regarding financial security. It was a matter of having faith in

herself, of trusting her own worth and ensuring she was ready for the coming challenges. So, she resigned from her position and began her book writing journey in the middle of October 2023—a momentous step that had been 10 years in the making.

Given Paula had been mulling over her ideas for a decade or so, she managed to complete the book in just one week. Writing it turned out to be a straightforward process, coming straight from the heart, with the words pouring onto the pages effortlessly. However, launching 'Bounce Back Fast – 5 Practical

Steps to Resilience' and introducing it to the world required the culmination of all the experience she had acquired throughout her career. She had to overcome her feelings of vulnerability and present with courage and resilience to publish and publicise the book.

Over the last 10 years, Paula held this book close to her heart. She says that 'it has taken me 10 years to grow into my vision!' Paula has now realised her goal of becoming an author. For her, living from the heart entails aligning our actions with our deepest values, passions, and truths. Through her experiences, Paula discovered that decisions made from the heart not only lead to success but also cultivate a deep sense of fulfillment and authenticity.

To contact Paula Fenwick, please go to her website at <https://paulafenwick.com/> or her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/paula.fenwick.leadership>

BOUNCE BACK FAST
5 PRACTICAL STEPS TO RESILIENCE
PAULA FENWICK

Corporate Leadership Programs
Speaking Engagements
Coaching

I would love to hear from you

Join the
BOUNCE BACK FAST
COMMUNITY

Click on the links below to find me online or scan the QR code to visit my website

Paula
Paula Fenwick

QR Code

paula@paulafenwick.com
www.paulafenwick.com
@paula.fenwick.leadership
@paula-fenwick-resilience
@PaulaFenwick

Scottish Terriers

a dog for all seasons

Manda Appleyard

I am a Scottish Terrier fan and have had Scotties in my life since 1969. Scotties have brought me so much joy in my life, I struggle to understand why the Scottish Terrier has been listed as an endangered species.

There has been a significant global decline in Scottish Terrier numbers. The Scottie was once very popular here in Australia. Everyone at least knew someone that had one of those funny little Scots with the big beard, big eyebrows and huge character.

Since the introduction of designer breeds developed by crossing smaller breeds together, it seems that everyone has forgotten what great family members and mates Scottish Terriers are.

The Scottish Terrier is a big dog in a little body. This compact, short legged, sturdily built terrier of good bone and substance is very intelligent and quite a sensible dog. They mature very quickly and are a lot less destructive than many other breeds.

They are great guard dogs because they don't bark without reason. They have a deep bark which makes them sound like a much bigger dog. The Scottie is a robust breed requiring little or no veterinary intervention, and their versatility is unsurpassed.

They adapt to any environment equally at home from the farmhouse to apartment living. They even make great travel companions and love caravan holidays. They are couch potatoes that suddenly spring to action whenever there is anything a foot.



Photos supplied by Manda Appleyard

The Scottish Terrier is loyal and does not suffer separation anxiety. When left alone they will just laze about and wait for your return.

The Scottish Terrier is hypoallergenic as they do not shed hair. A medium level of grooming is required but a good brush once a week and a trip to the groomers every three

months is all that is required. They are truly worthy of consideration when you are next considering a new addition to your family.

I always say, 'If it isn't a Scottie, it is just a dog...'

Community update from John Pesutto MP (Continued)

problems faced by the world, it starts with education. Education changes lives, families, communities and the world. We are blessed to have so many outstanding schools in our local area. A good education is the most important thing we can bequeath to the next generation, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers, parents and students who all put so much into creating strong and transformative learning communities.

Last May the State Government announced that for the first time it would impose payroll taxes on independent schools because of budget blowouts in Victoria. The

Government sought to justify this by saying that Government Schools had been paying payroll tax for years – this is a creative interpretation of an internal accounting treatment. Nonetheless, let me be clear; if I am Premier in 2026, we will scrap these taxes. Schools are not cash cows, and it is wrong to treat our kids' education as such.

As the Member for Hawthorn, and the alternative Premier of Victoria, I will continue to listen to you and your family, while seeking to fully represent all Victorians and fight for a fair go for everyone in our community.



Line Dancing at Balwyn Evergreen Centre

Diane Falzon

BALWYN Evergreen Centre is a community centre dedicated to ensuring that older individuals stay active, healthy and socially connected. The Centre is launching a new line dancing class aimed at promoting fitness, community, and joy through dance.

Line dancing is a fantastic way for both men and women to stay active while enjoying the camaraderie of a group activity. Led by experienced instructor Joanne Campbell, the class will commence on 1 May and continue every fortnight thereafter. Each class will run for one hour from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Joanne Campbell, the performing arts teacher behind the program, and also an Evergreen volunteer, says, 'Line dancing is not just about moving your feet; it's about connecting with others, enjoying great music, and improving overall wellbeing, coordination, balance, cognitive function and fitness. I can't wait to share the joy of dance with everyone at Balwyn Evergreen Centre.'

Tina Hogarth-Clarke, CEO Balwyn Evergreen Centre, emphasised the importance of introducing activities like line dancing to the community. 'We believe in providing opportunities for our clients to stay physically and mentally active, while fostering a sense of belonging. Line dancing perfectly aligns with our mission of promoting holistic wellbeing and social inclusion. It's an opportunity to laugh, move, and connect with others in a way that lifts the spirit and for our clients to simply have fun.'

For new student, Audrey, 88, this will be her first lesson in line dancing, and she simply cannot wait. 'I fondly recall my brief encounter with line dancing over 25 years ago, a moment that left me captivated and intrigued. I look forward to stretching my legs, enjoying some brain-boosting fun, and immersing myself in the diverse melodies that I adore. I love all sorts of music and the opportunity to meet new friendly faces along the way.'

The benefits of line dancing extend far beyond just exercise. It provides a platform for social interaction, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation, especially in older adults. The rhythmic movements and uplifting music also contribute to stress reduction and overall mental wellbeing.

To encourage participation, Balwyn Evergreen Centre is offering the first class for free. Subsequent sessions are priced at \$15 for those approved under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and \$19 for non-assessed individuals. There are no up-front term fees; Evergreen runs on a simple pay-as-you-go system, ensuring accessibility for all interested participants.

Don't miss this opportunity to pull on your cowboy boots, meet new friends, and reap the benefits of line dancing at Balwyn Evergreen Centre. Join us on 1 May to kick off this exciting new journey towards health and happiness.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.balwynevergreen.org.au/>

(Below): From left to right: Audrey Eastgate, Joan Burnside and Fran Toussaint

Photo supplied by Diane Falzon.





North Box Hill Tennis Club

a club for all abilities and ages

Lynn Heath

Photo supplied by Lynn Heath

NORTH Box Hill Tennis Club is a friendly club catering for players of all levels for social or competition play. The club has six porous courts with four under lights. We embrace diversity and welcome people from all backgrounds and cultures. The club's setting in the beautiful surrounds of Frank Sedgman Reserve is perfect, with no traffic noise to distract classes. Plenty of free parking, plus a comfortable clubhouse with a wide verandah, make it enjoyable for parents, too.

The clubhouse provides disabled access and facilities. A playground is nearby. There is even a convenient bus stop in Station Street that leads to a path that follows the freeway reserve to the club, just a very short walk.

The club offers social tennis at various times plus night and weekend competitions. The club's coach, Ian Peter-Budge, encourages and nurtures his students of all abilities and ages.

North Box Hill Tennis Club's juniors featured in the finals of the ESTA junior competition on 23 and 24 March. Five teams played overall, with four reaching finals. Open Rubbers Section 29 won their grand final in a nail-biting match, where a 7/5 win in the opening doubles and a tie-break in the final singles rubber decided the outcome.

Take the time to visit us at 24 Elizabeth Street, Box Hill North. It's a lovely family friendly environment where everyone is welcome. Also, check us out at <https://play.tennis.com.au/northboxhilltennisclub> The club president, Dallas Newton can be contacted on 0401 990 013 and the secretary, Mark Langdon on 0419 560 506.

Lynn Heath is Past-President and Life Member North Box Hill Tennis Club.

Walking Box Hill

Box Hill Historical Society

THINK you know Box Hill? Here's a way to increase your knowledge. Thanks to a grant from the SRLA's Community Projects Fund, the Box Hill Historical Society has devised three walking tour apps. which can be enjoyed, either from the comfort of your lounge room, or by venturing along the routes detailed. Don't forget to look at the many images available during the walks.

Huge thanks to those who assisted with the research and development of the tours. They included Think Graphic Design, Box Hill Institute for use of a soundproof studio and sound engineer Benito Seguin; Wendy Gare for volunteering her time as narrator; and the secretary and committee for undertaking the research, test-walking the route and checking the drafts. We hope you enjoy the tours.

The three walking tours focus on the social and cultural life of the area from its beginnings. The first walk, Early Box Hill, commences at Pioneer Park, on the corner of Station and Harrow Streets and will take an hour to complete (2kms on sealed paths). The second walk, Civic Box Hill starts and ends at the Box Hill Town Hall in Whitehorse Road. It will take 1 hour (2.34 km on sealed footpath). The third walk, Commercial Box Hill commences and concludes at Pioneer Park on the corner of Station and Harrow Streets. All three walk apps have commentary and images that describe the many aspects of the walk.

To access the app, click here <https://walks.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/index.html>



Bird Photography is Always Popular

Doncaster Camera Club

DONCASTER Camera Club has some very keen and capable bird photographers. This was evident at some of our recent meetings where we had many photos of birds entered in open competitions. Some were taken locally and others from more distant travels.

Bird photography requires much patience and perseverance, some skill and some luck to capture the bird in a pleasing position in its environment. It is always a challenge. But there are a few things to keep in mind which might help improve your bird photography.

Do your research and understand your subject

- Get out at the best time of day – usually early morning or late afternoon
- Mind your camera settings and use a fast shutter speed
- Get as close as possible
- Focus on the eye of the bird – a sharp eye is important
- Consider the background and avoid clutter when possible.
- Good light is always helpful
- Plenty of practice and enjoy yourself.

We are lucky in our local areas in the Eastern Suburbs to have plenty of parks and green areas where we can observe and photograph our beautiful native birds.

Doncaster Camera Club is planning a bird photography outing later this year.

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.

Contact Doncaster Camera Club by email at doncastercameraclub@gmail.com; by Instagram at [doncaster.camera.club](https://www.instagram.com/doncaster.camera.club), or on our Facebook at [doncaster camera club](https://www.facebook.com/doncaster.camera.club) – Melbourne. Phone the President Michael Walker on 0412 252 387 or the Secretary Pam Rixon on 0421 813 531 or by mail to Pam Rixon, Secretary DCC, PO Box 2043 Box Hill North VIC 3129. Our website is at www.doncastercameraclub.org.au



PICTURES (Clockwise from top): Galah by Peter Salter; White Egret by Bill Chan; Corella by Peter Stone; King Parrot by John Wu.

Coming soon – a Photography Competition for *Eastsider News* readers

WE at *Eastsider News* already know what creative writers we have amongst our readership. We now want to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your photographic skills.

We are proud that we have been able to work with the wonderful Doncaster Camera Club since we began way back in September 2020. In each edition since then, they have sent us the most marvellous array of photographs for publication in *Eastsider News*.

They are now planning to run a Photography Competition for the readers of *Eastsider News*.

The subject matter is broad. The main requirement is that photos should be taken within and about Melbourne's Eastern Region including the Cities of Boroondara, Whitehorse, Manningham and Croydon and adjoining areas.



All readers of *Eastsider News* are welcome to enter. Photos must be entered as jpgs and can be taken on your phone or any camera. All judging will be done by Members of Doncaster Camera Club.

The Competition will open in July and run until November. We encourage all you keen photographers to get out there and take some photos in your local area. There will be prizes and the winning entries will be published in the *Eastsider News*.

Further information and entry details will be announced in the July edition of *Eastsider News*. For more information contact doncastercameraclub@gmail.com



Songs From This Town – Mick Pealing and Nick Charles

Mike Daly

WE were lucky enough to see guitar duo Mick Pealing and Nick Charles recently perform songs from this album in a live acoustic set at the Arcobar (that excellent Heatherton live music venue which, sadly, has no equivalent in the Boroondara/Whitehorse area).

Pealing and Charles were members of Stars, a band that originated in the early '70s – the heyday of country rock. They supported touring artists like Linda Ronstadt, the Beach Boys and Joe Cocker, earning a chart hit in 1977 with 'The Mighty Rock'.

But in 1980, after cancer claimed singer/guitarist Andy Durant at just 25, the group disbanded. Later that year Stars vocalist/guitarist Mal Eastick organised a stellar
(Continued on next page)



Songs From This Town – Mick Peeling and Nick Charles (Continued)

Melbourne memorial concert, with ticket profits, plus sales of the double live LP ('The Andy Durant Memorial Concert' – now a collector's item, and I just wish I'd kept mine) going to the Andrew Durant Cancer Research Foundation.

Stars reformed five years ago, with the current line-up comprising Peeling and Charles, plus Roger McLachlan (bass), Erik Chess (drums) and gun blues guitarist Geoff Achison (replacing the recently retired Eastick) plus pedal steel maestro Ed Bates. You can find their current Victorian gigs at starsofficial.com/shows on a bill usually shared with Chain and the Bushwackers.

Nick Charles, of course, is a terrific guitarist and I have several of his solo recordings. While I have fond memories of the old Stars (their 'Last of The Riverboats' is a personal favourite), the new 'Songs

from This Town' album seems like a continuation of that ethos – Americana with a local accent, if you like. Among highlights are killer ballad "Love Is a Gift", the "Heartache in Country" tribute and a Nick Charles vocal-guitar gem, "Wasteland of The Blues", evoking lockdown memories.

You can find the duo's recordings and gigs at <https://peelingcharles.com/> with their respective details at charlesguitar.com and mickpeeling.com – and, for background on the making of the album, go to <https://youtu.be/KrafBhgfNpo>

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

Photo from <https://peelingcharles.com/album/2381564/songs-from-this-town>



A day trip to Kallista

Gill Bell

With thanks to Rob Youl and friends for advice on Victorian flora in the 1960s.

IT was a bright cool day in April 1961, and the green Zephyr stood ready in our Surrey Hills driveway. In the kitchen Mum was preparing a picnic, packing homemade biscuits and fruit cake.

We were about to set off to Kallista in the Dandenongs for our grandparents' 45th wedding anniversary. They had recently moved into a little house nestled amongst the mountain ash. Grandma called their block 'Tiptrees'.

Traffic was light along the Burwood Road, which still had the feel of a country lane. We drove through a landscape of farmlets, with occasional clumps of bush and dark mahogany trees. Near Springvale Road, Dad pointed out Tally Ho, where he and his friend Curly had gone rabbiting during the Depression. Across the road, orchards stretched down the slope in neat rows of peach and cherry trees, while in the distance dreamed the misty blue Dandenongs.

The land became more rural. At Ferntree Gully (a beautiful evocative name) we started climbing. We drove through Belgrave where shops jostled for space in the narrow main street and entered Sherbrooke Forest. Mum wound down the window. 'Smell the bush!' she exclaimed. The fragrant air smelt of peaty soil and eucalyptus leaves. In the understorey, tree ferns



Craig family on roadside picnic late 50s.

stretched out luxuriant green fronds. Through the open window echoed birdsong.

A small crowd was clustered around a tourist bus outside a roadside shop. Traffic stopped expectantly. Bill Onus was about to demonstrate throwing a boomerang. We joined the crowd as Bill himself appeared carrying
(Continued on next page)

A day trip to Kallista (Continued)

several boomerangs. He took a step, and with a powerful sweep of his arm sent a boomerang spinning across the road, skimming the treetops and returning obediently to his hand. The crowd applauded.

It was only 10 minutes to the Kallista picnic ground where the aunts, uncles and cousins were gathering for the celebrations. The family had bought a surprise gift: a cane picnic basket with blue plates and cups strapped in place and two thermoses.

We children jumped out of the car and ran about, intoxicated by the delicious air of the forest. At Dad's command we began collecting twigs for his billy, enclosed in a metal jacket. Dad was proud of this invention, which could easily boil water using only twigs, and would not spark a fire. The scent of woodsmoke drifted in the air, and the voices of the children were lost in the treetops.

A country bakery nearby sent out delicious aromas, but Mum and the aunts had brought sandwiches. Sliced bread was a rarity, and Mum still cut slices from the white loaves which were delivered daily. Dad poured the billy tea and I inhaled the delicious smoky aroma.

Uncle Eddie, as the eldest son, made a little speech and the presentation was made. Grandpa cut the cake with a flourish.

Picnic over, the women gathered up the scraps of greaseproof paper and the picnic plates. They chatted



Photos supplied by Gill Bell

while the men sat watching the children at play. One of the boys produced a football, and the thud of the leather echoed in the forest. The afternoon drifted by. Finally, Grandma and Grandpa said their farewells and drove off to Tiptrees in their little green Fiat.

We said goodbye to our cousins and climbed into the Zephyr. I yawned. I was tired after the fresh air and the excitement of the day. Behind us the calls of children and a tendril of woodsmoke lingered amongst the trees as they linger in my memory six decades on.



Rainbow

A poem by Evie Taylor (Age 8)

*I fly up high right over the Rainbow,
I soar through the shimmering Clouds.
I see the light, I hear the birds,
I imagine touching a Rainbow.
Streams of colours flying through the blue skies,
All around, everywhere.*



Happy 100th birthday, Mr Max Carland



*Photos supplied by Department of
Veterans' Affairs*

ON 31 March 2024, Mr Max Carland, a World War II Veteran and Kew resident, celebrated his 100th birthday. His family marked this magnificent achievement with a small party at his daughter, Lisa's home. His son travelled from Western Australia to be with him on this special occasion

Max was born in Nhill and lived there until he and his wife Loris moved to Kew in 2022 to be closer to their family. From an early age, he had a fascination with and love of planes. He enjoyed spending time building and flying model gliders. He was involved in the local aerodrome and fondly recalls Sir Charles Kingsford Smith landing at Nhill in the 1930's to refuel on route to somewhere else.

He enlisted with the Royal Australian Air Force at the age of 18, giving him the opportunity to serve his country and to further pursue his love of planes. He did basic training at Somers and learnt to fly Tiger Moths in Benalla. He then converted to Wirraways in Deniliquin and finally trained on Kittyhawks in

Mildura. He achieved the rank of Flying Officer and was part of No. 76 Squadron, based on Noemfoor Island off the coast of New Guinea, as well as Borneo and the Philippines.

Immediately the war ended, Max joined the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. He converted to flying Mustangs, a 'pure joy to fly', and patrolled the west coast for illegal ships. After 3 years, Max returned to Australia and joined the family timber and hardware business.

Mr Carland now lives with Loris in an aged care facility. While deteriorating eyesight has affected his capacity to read, he keeps up to date by reading the newspaper every day. He enjoys going on the outings with the aged care facility and he especially enjoys lunch at the Box Hill RSL Club.

Thank you to the Newsroom at the Department of Veterans' Affairs for telling us about this significant occasion and giving us the opportunity to honour this amazing life and member of our community.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is 15 June

ELDER abuse is any act causing harm to an older person by someone known and trusted such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual, including mistreatment and neglect. While elder abuse is vastly under-reported, it is estimated that up to 10% of older people suffer worldwide. The

annual day recognised by the United Nations for raising awareness of elder abuse throughout the world is 15 June. It is a day to say "no" to elder abuse and let older people know they have the right to live without fear and abuse.

To find out more visit Seniors Rights Victoria at <http://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au>

Rotary Hawthorn's first Service to Seniors Award winner – Margot Boyle

Dorothy Gilmour, Rotary Hawthorn

ROTARY Hawthorn has created an Annual Award recognising the contribution of a person who has given outstanding service in a voluntary capacity to older members of our Boroondara community. Last month, we were thrilled to present Margot Boyle as the recipient of the inaugural Rotary Hawthorn Service to Senior's Award.

In presenting the award, President Elect Dorothy Gilmour Dorothy thanked Margot for being so selfless and for making a tangible difference to so many lives in the 21 organisations she had volunteered. Dorothy said Margot was '... the epitome of excellence in volunteering. You have shown yourself to have the biggest heart of love and compassion for people. You strive towards making a difference. Your passion, energy and sense of humour is unparalleled. We respect your spirit of volunteerism immensely.'

Gerard Mansour, the former Commissioner for the Aged and President of Wintringham presented a trophy to Margot. She responded in her own inimitable way by involving the whole room in an unexpected but delightful sing-along before thanking the club for the recognition.

Margot's fun sing-along was 'Fish and Chips and Vinegar', a camp song for kids with rounds. Also known by its silly lyrics 'one bottle of pop' and 'don't throw your junk in my backyard', everyone joined in and had fun taking turns and singing and laughing with this round song.

Cr Lisa Hollingsworth, Mayor Boroondara was also a guest of the club and spoke of Boroondara's ongoing work and respect for the aged in its community.



From top left, President Elect Dorothy Gilmour; President Doug McLean; Mayor of Boroondara, Lisa Hollingsworth, and the recipient of the Service to Seniors award, Margot Boyle.

Photo supplied by Dorothy Gilmour, Rotary Hawthorn



HISTORICAL SNIPPETS FROM BOX HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From *The Argus*, 2 August 1938.

A recommendation from the public works committee that the council press for the erection of a new police station at Box Hill was adopted last night by the Box Hill Council. It was decided to point out to the Chief Secretary (Mr Bailey) that Box Hill residents as taxpayers contributed directly

to Government revenue and should not be required to make any further contribution through the council. At a previous meeting the council received a letter from the Chief Secretary asking what amount it was prepared to contribute towards the cost of a new police station.

Source: Helen Harris,
Archivist BHHS, Newsletter
June 2016.

Meet the Locals: Thomas White

Glenys Grant

THOMAS is a life-long Whitehorse local, having gone to school at Blackburn Lake Primary School and then Box Hill High School. From quite a young age he had a particular passion and interest in the environment and sustainability and wanted to help contribute to planetary health. He currently serves on the Whitehorse Council's Environment and Sustainability Refence Group.

In Year 9, Thomas attended the School for Student Leadership at their Snowy River Campus in Marlo, East Gippsland. This was a government program allowing adolescents to develop their leadership skills, live more independently, and meet other young people from all across Victoria. Thomas views this as a somewhat seminal moment in his leadership journey.

Having returned from the SSL, he decided to learn more about addressing global challenges. He got involved in the United Nations Youth Australia (UNYA), attending their state conference, then their national conference, their Model UN competition (Evatt), and their public speaking competition (Voice). He won the state championships for the latter in 2018 and was placed in the top 5 for the national round.

Thomas also turned his mind towards community volunteering. This included community gardening at the St Thomas Retirement Village, a community youth group at St Thomas the Apostle's Church. At Box Hill High, he took up the multiple opportunities offered including the Student Representative Council, and eventually elected Prefect and Vice-School-Captain.

He also got involved with the Rotary Club of Forest Hill, participating in the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) competition with schoolmate Rose Hensher. The team, acting as representatives for Russia, won at the Rotary District 9810 level, competing against a large number of teams from other public and private schools.

From there they were invited to represent Egypt at the national level at Old Parliament in Canberra. In preparation for this event, they went to the Egyptian Embassy and spent considerable time with the Deputy Head-of-Mission, discussing Egypt's position on many issues.

At that national MUNA competition Rose and Thomas won the Totenhofer Peace Prize. This prestigious award is given to the team that best embodies the spirit of Rotary in terms of advocating for a peaceful world.

At the same time, Thomas also spent a significant amount of time in Germany participating in the Scholarship for Australian-German Student Exchange

(SAGSE), sponsored for a three-month exchange by the Honorary Consulate of Germany in Melbourne. This exchange developed his language skills and fostered a spirit of independence.

Following graduation in 2020, Thomas went on to study a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, and a Bachelor of Commerce at Monash University. He participated in the prestigious Ancora Imparo Leadership Program, and reconnected with the Forest Hill Rotary Club, attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA).

Many of the skills developed across these leadership programs manifested in Thomas's current positions, working as a multicultural youth worker in the city, and an elected representative for the Environment and Social Justice at the Monash Student Association (MSA).

Thomas has recently been successful in being awarded the New Colombo Plan Scholarship, a program that allows for 6-18 months of study, internship, and language training in Asia and the Pacific. He is set to go to the Philippines in September but can't wait to come back to Melbourne's east and give back to the place he grew up.

And we will welcome him back!





Church architecture in Box Hill

Conrad Hamann

THERE are common themes running through Box Hill's many church buildings despite the range of design. Christ Church Mitcham retains its original rural style wooden church as a hall and is typical of the original church buildings of many of Box Hill's churches. St Peter's Nunawading, a brick building rebuilt in Box Hill in 1889 and its wooden successor built in 1910, was an elaborate Gothic style building with a tower and slate roof.

The construction of railway stations (Box Hill 1882) produced nodal suburbs, with the development of business districts, churches and other public buildings around them. Box Hill's earliest surviving church building, the Wesleyan chapel (1856) in Woodhouse Grove was built of local stone and is of a simple design and robust construction including arched windows, not industrially produced.

Wesleyan Chapel was the first local church to attract National Trust classification, followed later by St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Heritage protection and recognition has been slow to expand. St Andrew's was built in a modern Gothic style and was originally the West Melbourne Presbyterian Church. It was relocated and reshaped stone by stone to Box Hill in 1935 under the supervision of Scarborough architects.

In 19th century UK and Australia, the architect Pugin headed a Gothic style revival, notable for its pointed arches. This is visible in the wooden St Peter's (1910), Oxford Hall, Church of Christ and original Christ Church in Mitcham amongst others. Polychrome brickwork was used to emphasise certain features such as in Oxford Hall.

Box Hill Baptist Church's interior and leadlight tracery shows an Art Nouveau influence. The Baptist and the more recent Wesley Church show wider proportions in their naves, while the Church of Christ has distinctive steel framed windows.

Architect Louis Williams was a major influence on Anglican church design with his support of the Gothic revival as in St Peter's, and the use of new materials, including reinforced concrete.

St Peter's has a distinctive, upside-down St Peter's cross on its external east end; St Paul's Lutheran has a large Celtic cross on its external west end; and the living room scale St Phillip's has a contrasting coloured glass cross as a sanctuary window.



Wesleyan Chapel Box Hill

St Andrew's Box Hill is light filled with a hammer beam ceiling and much stained glass in its pointed arch windows, while St Peter's shows similar verticality and light but simpler segmented arch windows. The present St Francis Xavier (Harper 1926) is built in Romanesque style with rounded arch windows, similar to the original Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills (now much altered). St Francis has been modernised with the removal of pinnacles at its 'west' end and the addition of a new porch.

(Continued on page 43)

St Andrew's Box Hill

Photo: Victorian Heritage Database (<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/66754>)



Photos supplied by Rob Wilson

Vermont Reserve Redevelopment



Rob Wilson

THE redeveloped and extended Vermont Reserve oval was officially opened on Monday 15 April, after seven months of work and an investment of \$2.1m. Whitehorse Councillors and staff were in attendance at the opening, along with officials from Vermont Football Club, Vermont Eagles Junior Football Club, Vermont Cricket Club and Vermont Primary School. The ground renewal project included a \$340,000 contribution from the State Government.

The ground redevelopment included:

- An extension of the sporting field of five metres in length and adjustments to width, increasing the sports field area from 13,270m² to 13,800m².
- Safety netting behind both goals to improve protection of the play space and cars from footballs and cricket balls.
- A concrete perimeter footpath to allow for improved useability of the reserve, providing the option for perimeter walkers/runners to stay off the grass.
- Perimeter synthetic grass around the western boundary line to maintain a viable surface in a high use area for the winter season.
- Extended synthetic cricket wicket run ups to reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

The ground was last updated over 30 years ago. Since

then, the surface had not been maintained to satisfactory conditions, due to increased usage. It was closed for training and matches for several weeks during last season. Vermont Reserve was the smallest and narrowest oval out of all of the premier sporting fields in Whitehorse prior to the redevelopment.

The renewal has now maximised the area working within the perimeters of carparks, pavilion, cricket nets, playground and boundaries and now compares favourably to other nearby sporting fields. It is home to over 700 senior and junior players from the Vermont Football Netball Club and over 300 players from the Vermont Cricket Club. The oval and open space is also used by the 765 students from Vermont Primary School, as well as many community members who casually use the ground.

Thank you to Steven Bolt from Evergreen Turf who delivered the oval upgrade project and to Justin Quinn, Sportsfields Coordinator from Whitehorse Council, who managed the project from start to finish. Thanks also to Whitehorse Councillor, Prue Cutts, for all her support pushing and promoting the redevelopment over the past 18 months.

Rob Wilson is Secretary of the Vermont Football Club.

(Below): Representatives from the City of Whitehorse with members of the Vermont Football Netball Club, Vermont Cricket Club and Vermont Primary School.





Sweet and Sour Salad

from Elizabeth Chong's book *Tiny Delights*

In Shanghai, traditionally the people like to have an array of appetisers before any important meal, and sweet and sour dishes are very popular. I first came across this dish some years ago and thought it offered an exciting alternative to traditional vinaigrette salad dressings normally used in Australia at the time.

Ingredients:

½ small continental cucumber
1 cup English cabbage
1 small green capsicum
½ bunch radishes
2 tbs peanut oil

For the Sauce:

Mix together:
¼ tsp salt
1 tsp light soy sauce
¼ tsp sesame oil
1 tbs vinegar
1½ tbs sugar

Preparation:

Half peel the cucumber, slice lengthwise, remove seeds and cut into finger-length strips.

Cut the cabbage into 2.5 cm wedges.

Seed the capsicum and cut into 2.5cm wedges. Top, tail and quarter the radishes, as you would an apple.

Cooking

Heat the oil until it is just beginning to smoke. Stir-fry the cucumber, radishes, cabbage and capsicum for two minutes. Add the sauce, toss to combine well, then chill in the refrigerator before serving.

Elizabeth Chong AM is a Chinese-born Australian celebrity chef, former cooking teacher, author and media and television host and personality. She is known as a pioneer of the industry, the first celebrity chef and promotor of introducing traditional Chinese cuisine to Australia. Thank you, Elizabeth for allowing us to publish your fabulous recipes.



Church architecture in Box Hill (Continued)

Several of Box Hill's more recent churches have been built in a modern idiom. These include the Reformed Church in Watts Street with its flat roof and rectangular windows, the low profile Baptist Church in Elgar Road Surrey Hills, the nearby Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, and St Clare's in Woodhouse Grove, another lower profile building without a spire.

Modern churches of particular note include the former St James' Wattle Park now St Paul's Lutheran. Designed by Chancellor & Patrick from 1962 to 65, St James is a high profile church with a tower and wide light-filled interior with extensive glass windows from floor level.

Also of note is the awarded St Joseph's Chapel Mont Albert North designed by Corrigan & Edmonds. St

Joseph's is a distinctive design with its long ramp entry and balustraded verandah reflecting the idiom of the cream brick houses nearby, and with views of the sports ground to the east, curved walls and a wide interior.

Thank you to the Box Hill Historical Society for allowing us to print this article from their December 2022 newsletter. It records a talk given to the Society by Conrad Hamann architect, architectural historian, heritage architect and local resident. He spoke about the various phases and movements in church design from colonial times to the present day with particular reference to the churches of Box Hill and surrounding areas. Some editorial changes have been made enable publication in Eastsider News.



Sunday 12 May at 2.30pm
The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn

The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn	Conductor: David Keefe
"Musical Landscapes"	2.30pm Sunday, 12 May
<i>Journey with musical images from Borodin, MacDowell, Mussorgsky, Sibelius, and others.</i>	James Tatoulis Auditorium MLC, Barkers Road, Kew
	Entry \$10 at the door

Tuesday 14 May at 10.30am
Camberwell Music Society

Camberwell Music Society is very happy to welcome baritone Kiran Rajasingam and pianist Konrad Olszewski who will present a program of art songs of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

They will present their program on Tuesday, 14 May at 10.30 am at Camberwell Uniting Church, 314 Camberwell Road.

The program will explore stories of love, loss and life through the music of Brahms, Massenet and Vaughan Williams.

Tickets can be bought at the door or on-line at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/1123465/sessions/4182101/sections/2103011/tickets>



Sunday 19 May 2pm to 3.30pm
Box Hill Historical Society – The Australian Government in Box Hill

Venue: Bert Lewis Room (Meeting Room 1), 1st Floor, Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road.

Special Guest Speaker Patrick Ferry will present on the National Archives.

Did you know National Archives of Australia holds fascinating material relating to the Australian government's involvement with Box Hill and neighbouring communities? This presentation will showcase some of its records, including public works drawing, post office records and historical photos. Visitors are most welcome. Admission is via a gold coin donation. Enquiries phone 03 9285 4808.

Eastsider News May 2024

Sun 19 May 2024, 6:30 pm to 11pm
Voices of Kooyong – Council Elections forum

The Victorian local government elections are due to be held in October this year. This is the time we get to decide who will be our local representative for the next four years.

You are invited to attend a public forum at the Elgin Inn, 75 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn.

Voices of Kooyong is holding this forum to encourage community minded people interested in bringing about social change and improving the integrity of governance to stand as an independent candidate. The forum will talk about what is involved in the campaigns, hear from three local councillors about what it means to be a councillor, and outline what is important to you this council election.

Entry is free. Get your tickets here: <https://events.humanitix.com/voices-of-kooyong-council-elections-forum/tickets>

Are you interested in standing as a candidate for Boroondara?

Kew and Hawthorn Independents (two local community groups) have offered to mentor prospective candidates and give them the knowledge, skills, strategy, and connections they need to get elected.

To express interest in candidate mentoring, please register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3X_vyyFMCO_L8UzYyue1ECPTjMN0Pxpm7i6HcdGYw9SVnVg/viewform

Monday 27 May
The Alcove Art Shop is going a little BIZARRE for its annual Winter exhibition

Don't miss out on that something special to cheer up your winter days.

Be the first to see new and quirky work by our talented designers on Opening Night: Monday 27 May 5.30pm to 8pm

We will also be open from Tuesday 28 May to Saturday 8 June. From 10am to 4pm

We would love to see you at Box Hill Community Arts Centre 470 Station Street Box Hill.

Saturday June 5 to Monday June 10
Waverley Model Railway Club – 2024 Exhibition



MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION 2024

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND
BRANDON PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
649 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley
(Opposite Brandon Park Shopping Centre)

Saturday June 8 • 10am – 5pm
Sunday June 9 • 10am – 5pm
Monday June 10 • 10am – 4pm

Layouts, Demonstrations, Trade Stands
Second-Hand Stall
Children's U-Drive

Enquiries: 0409 024 322 – exhibitions@waverleymrc.org.au
Admission: Adults \$13, Children \$6, Family \$32
Waverley Model Railway Club – Men's Shed

You are invited to come to the Waverley Model Railway Club 2024 Exhibition on the King's Birthday weekend, June 8 to 10 to revel in all things wonderful about model railways.

We will be displaying our exhibition layouts, US HO scale layout Whitefish, and our British OO scale layout Genesis, fresh from an upgrade. Also on display will be a number of guest exhibition layouts, with some making their debut and which will definitely turn heads.

There will be modelling displays to demonstrate some of the techniques used in constructing exhibits, and a guest will be one of Australia's preeminent British OO scale modellers. A number of retailers will be present with their latest releases on show.

We will have on display our Children's U-Drive, where the younger generation will be able to try their hand at running a train. As usual, pick up a bargain at our pre-loved train store and drinks and snacks are available at the canteen.

We look forward to seeing you, Brandon Park Community Centre, 649 Ferntree Gully Road Glen Waverley. The exhibition will be open throughout the King's Birthday weekend from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday and from 10am to 4pm on Monday. The cost of entry is Adults \$13, Children (5-16) \$6, Accompanied children under 5 Free, and Family (2 adults + 2 children) \$32.

To find out more about the Waverley Model Railway Club, go to their website at <https://waverleymrc.org.au/>

Eastsider News May 2024

Sunday 16 June
Pioneering waste incineration – A Box Hill story

Sunday 16 June, 2pm to 3.30 pm, at the Bert Lewis Room (Meeting Room 1), 1st Floor, Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road.

Special Guest Speaker Jim Happ will present on waste incineration in Box Hill.

For many years in the early 1900s, municipal waste was sent to a filthy tip, with horrendous impacts on community health. Jim will tell us about the key role Box Hill played in the development of an Australian innovation in waste incineration, allowing the closure of those tips.

Visitors are most welcome. Admission is via a gold coin donation. Enquiries ph: 03 9285 4808.

Wednesday 19 June at 7.30pm
The Macroeconomics of Australia's Energy Transition

Lighter Footprints is delighted to invite you to an evening with Richard Denniss, the Executive Director of [The Australia Institute](#), on Wednesday 19 June at the Balwyn Park Centre, 206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn at 7:30pm.

Richard is an economist, author and public policy commentator. Lighter Footprints has asked Richard to address the big economic challenges associated with the energy transition, including balance of trade, new industries, jobs and relationships with our fossil fuel importing trading partners. Richard will be joined in conversation with Heidi Lee, CEO of [Beyond Zero Emissions](#), an independent think tank focused on the energy transition.

This is a free public meeting and [RSVPs are essential](#).



The Macro Economics of Australia's Energy Transition
JOBS, EXPORTS & NEW INDUSTRIES

Richard Denniss
Executive Director, The Australia Institute
and
Heidi Lee
CEO, Beyond Zero Emissions

Wed, June 19th 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Tuesday 16 July at 7.30pm
Hawthorn Electorate Winter Community Forum – John Pesutto MP

John Pesutto MP invites you to his Winter Community Forum on 16 July in Camberwell. If you'd like to attend, please scan the QR code below to register, or contact his office on (03) 9882 4086 or email john.pesutto@parliament.vic.gov.au





In the next edition

THE deadline for articles for the July edition will be late June 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.

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

Disclaimers

Eastsider News is a means by which people in Whitehorse, Boroondara and adjacent areas including Manningham and Monash 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

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Guidelines for writing articles

Guidelines for writing for *Eastsider News* are on our website at www.eastsidernews.org.au/ All contributions should be emailed to 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. Genoa (A-one)
2. Change E to D and you'll find Liberia/Chad

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

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. Thank you to Chris Gray who puts much effort into the layout of the newspaper.